

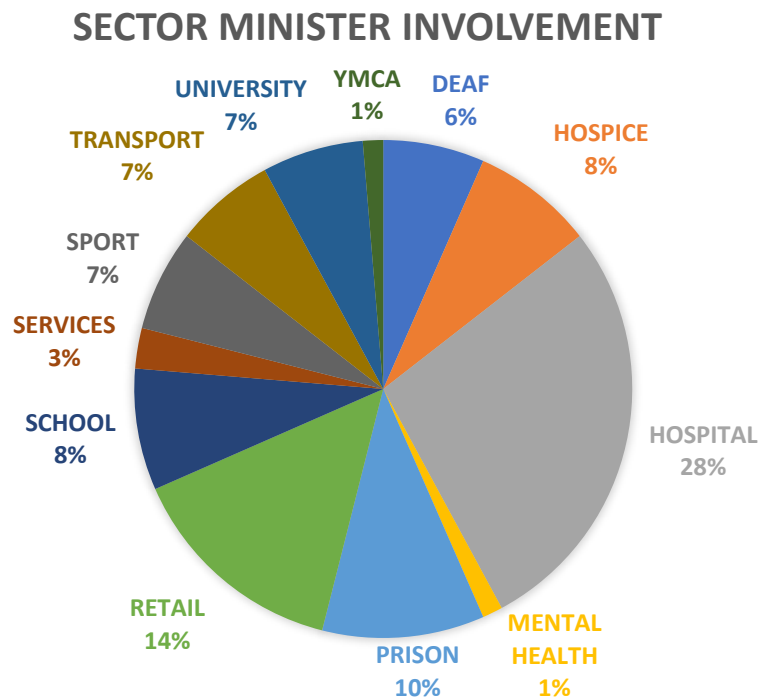
Report on Sector Ministry in the Liverpool Diocese January 2019

General overview of Sector Ministry in the Diocese

After an overhaul of the database, we have located and confirmed 81 Sector Ministry posts in the Liverpool Diocese which are held by 78 people as 3 have 2 posts. In addition, there are 6 further posts that we consider should have a Chaplain assigned. There are a further 8 people who we have as names, but no contact details, giving us a total of nearly 100 people identified as working in some way as Sector Ministers.

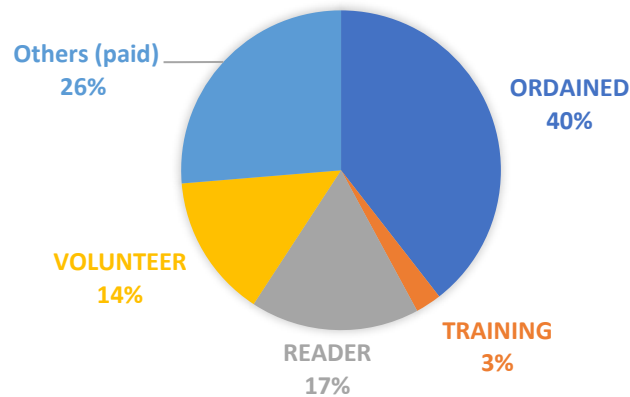
We have defined Sector Ministers as those working as ordained and lay people in institutions outside the parochial structure of the Church of England. In a very few cases, we have people who are not actually members of the Church of England themselves, but are involved in organisations that are. We hope in this way to be as inclusive as possible, offering support to all.

We have discovered previously unknown ministries as people have identified themselves and now have an impressive diversity of sectors which have at least one Chaplain in place.



Sector Ministers are also a very diverse group in that they are composed of ordained, those in training for ordination, lay ministers, full and part-time, and volunteers. At the present time, the proportion of each group is illustrated below, although not all details are known. At present

TYPES OF SECTOR MINISTER



Historically, most Chaplains in institutions were ordained, but there is an increasing tendency for the appointment of lay people, which has implications for the future which will be discussed later.

The full range of institutions covered is shown area by area in the table. There is an uneven distribution of Chaplaincies amongst the Archdeaconries, with most being in Liverpool, followed by Warrington and St Helen's.

Meetings

We have held two meetings of Sector Ministers, one in June 2018 and the most recent one in January 2019. Attendance at both meetings was about 50% of those invited at both events, but at the meeting in January, I received apologies from all but a very few. A small number of Sector Ministers have indicated that they do not wish to meet in a group, but will remain on the mailing list so they are kept in 'the loop'.

The atmosphere at both meetings was very positive and those who attended have indicated that they find such gatherings useful and affirming. They obviously enjoy meeting together and the breaking into institutional groups that occurred at the second meeting seemed to be productive. I have since received several requests for visits and mentoring which I will continue over the next few months.

Results of questionnaire

Prior to the second meeting, a questionnaire was circulated to all on the database, asking about the preferred time and place of meeting, and also what form these meetings should take. Return of the questionnaires was only 50% which was slightly disappointing, and most of the replies came from those who attended the meeting who are more motivated to be engaged.

The preferred place of meeting still appears to be Liverpool and evening or midday are the best times. Most would like to meet twice a year but a significant few more would like to meet more often. At least half would like to meet in institutional groups or locally.

Most would like a varied content to the meetings and welcomed practical discussions, devotional input and prayer.

A very encouraging number were willing to take on placements and offer Taster Days so that people in church can see for themselves what Chaplaincy involves

Emerging issues

From visits, conversations and general observations, the following have been mentioned:

- a) The lack of clarity about who has the Bishop's licence and in what circumstances this is given. In particular Readers do not always seem to have been included in this.

- b) Concerns over imminent retirements of several long-serving Chaplains in major institutions and replacement by ordained clergy (with commensurate loss of pay/benefits)
- c) Concerns about recruiting Church of England Chaplains in general and maintaining their presence in the face of posts such as 'Spiritual Care'
- d) The tension between training Curates for Parish work whilst allowing them the experience of Chaplaincy as a possible career move

Action Points

- a) Discussion with +Paul about licensing arrangements
- b) Meeting with Simon Chesters to look at ways of furthering links with ordinands and ordained to Chaplaincy involvement
- c) Sports Chaplains
- d) Continuing to visit and offer pastoral support to any individual Sector Minister and to experience at first hand their workplace situations

Katy Canty
January 2019