

TERMS USED IN PASTORAL RE-ORGANISATION

Pastoral reorganisation	Creating, dissolving, or altering the boundaries of a parish or a benefice or establishing, dissolving or altering a team ministry or plurality.
Cure of souls	“Cure” means “care”. Basically the care of souls in a particular area.
Incumbent	A priest who can be either a Vicar or Rector who holds responsibility for the cure of souls in a benefice. This is a freehold office.
Priest in Charge	A priest given charge of a benefice by licence of the Diocesan Bishop. A priest in charge does not own the freehold of the benefice.
Benefice	The office to which an Incumbent is appointed. This is not a geographical area and can include one or more parishes.
Parish	The basic geographical unit over which an Incumbent has cure of souls. There may be several parishes in the area of one benefice.
Freehold	A priest’s complete and unrestricted “ownership” of the office of Incumbent of a benefice.
Parish Church	A consecrated building in a parish in which, subject to Canon Law, the statutory services must be held. Parishioners have a right to be married, baptised etc in the parish church.
Chapel of Ease	A consecrated church that is not a parish church. In order for a church to be a chapel of ease there must be a parish church within the same parish.
Patron	The person or body with the right to present a priest to be Incumbent of a benefice. The patron may be a private individual or a corporation. Many benefices are in the patronage of the Diocesan Bishop.
Presentation	The act of a Patron presenting a priest to the Diocesan Bishop for the appointment of Incumbent to a benefice.
Suspension of Presentation	A period during which the patron cannot present a priest to be Incumbent. The Diocesan Bishop can licence a priest in charge to the benefice with the consent of the Diocesan Pastoral Committee and following local consultation. Suspensions of presentation are used to increase flexibility when pastoral re-organisation or a change of parsonage

house are being considered. Suspension periods cannot exceed five years but can be renewed.

Diocesan Pastoral and Mission Committee

Statutory Committee established by the Pastoral Measure to review the arrangement for pastoral supervision in the Diocese and to make recommendations to the Diocesan Bishop.

District Church Councils

If a parish includes more than one place of worship legal processes exist whereby individual councils may be set up for the districts in which each place of worship is situated to exercise functions delegated to it by the PCC. Certain functions and responsibilities cannot be delegated to District Church Councils. The parish priest will be a member of the DCCs

Joint PCC

Where a benefice comprises two or more parishes legal processes exist whereby the PCCs of the individual parishes can form a joint PCC to act in the benefice as a whole in such matters as the individual PCCs together decide.

Plurality

The holding of two or more separate benefices by one Incumbent who then has the freehold of all the benefices. A plurality relates only to an Incumbent – not a priest in charge, who may hold the benefices under licence.

Team Ministry

A form of ministry in which a team of clergy and possibly lay people share the pastoral care of a benefice. A Team should include a minimum of 1 Team Rector (who will head the team) and 2 Team Vicars

Group Ministry

A formal arrangement in which clergy of two or more separate benefices assist each other in pastoral care across the area of all the benefices in the group.