## Minster Communities across the Diocese of Leicester

The Minster Community framework is intended to enable every parish, fresh expression and school across the diocese to belong to a Minster Community. Minster Communities are geographical, because this was strongly identified as being important in feedback from parishes and diocesan governance bodies at every stage of the development of the framework.

We are committed to ensuring that parishes have as much say as possible in decisions about their local Minster Community. We recognise that for some parishes their local geography, for example if they are on the edge of our diocese, means that geographical options are limited, while others may have many possibilities.

We are committed to ensuring that all parishes across the diocese have equitable opportunity to have their say about the grouping of parishes that will make up their Minster Community. This means that there needs to be some coordination and “big picture” planning to make sure as far as possible that decisions made by parishes regarding the earlier Minster Communities formed do not detrimentally affect those parishes that come to the process later. We need to avoid a situation where Minster Communities form in a “cookie cutter” way across the diocese, leaving some parishes isolated and with no viable options.

It is the role of the Bishops Leadership Team to oversee the formation of Minster Communities according to these principles. The Shaped By God Steering Group[[1]](#footnote-1) undertakes the detailed work to enable this.

We have looked at some headline data across the whole diocese, and worked out how many Minster Communities are likely to be needed and viable across different areas. We have considered this in light of our collective knowledge and understanding of the parishes and communities we serve across the whole diocese. The decision about the number of Minster Communities in each area is not formulaic, nor based predominantly on one data point alone. It is a decision informed by these pieces of information and it is a decision based on discernment, through discussion and prayer.

*The data used includes:*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Area 1: North East Leicestershire | Whole Diocese |
| Population | 68,501  | 984,968 |
| Total Worshipping Community | 1,292  | 13,364 |
| 2023 Parish Contribution Offers | £369,605  | £3,880,664 |
| Areas of deprivation  | *none in 20% most deprived* |  |

*Further information considered includes:*

* Current pattern of stipendiary ministry across the area
* Number of parishes and churches
* Schools across the area
* Geography of the area and any significant housing developments in
* Current mission across the area

In light of all this, we are working together towards forming 2 Minster Communities across the North East Leicestershire area.

1. Archdeacon of Leicester, Richard Worsfold; Archdeacon of Loughborough, Claire Wood; Director of Parish Transition and Ministry Development, Stuart Burns; Diocesan Programme Manager, Claire Bampton [↑](#footnote-ref-1)