

## Pastoral Committee report for Synod meeting March 2022

Pastoral committee continues to encourage and care for the churches of the synod and their leaders, whilst being careful to keep within the **deployment** target for the number of stipendiary ministers in the SW Synod (the end of year target for 2022 is 21 fulltime equivalent ministers).

Current ministry is as follows:

Swindon & Wiltshire	5 FTE ministers
Bristol	5 FTE
Somerset	5.25 FTE
Devon South & East	1.45 (plus 1.7 currently on the vacancy list)
North Devon, Plymouth & Cornwall	3.3 FTE
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22.2 FTE</b>

(There are three ministers due to retire in 2022, 2.5 FTE )

Churches are moving from the twentieth century model of a minister in “pastoral charge” of a church or small group of churches, towards a model of team-working, use of varied gifts and shared leadership with elders. To help this shift of understanding the part-time Rural Missioner post based in South Devon has been redeveloped as a full time **Transition Minister for Devon and Cornwall**: the post holder is still Revd Aiyana Gardner-Houghton.

Additionally, Revd David Pattie has had 25% of his time released from the Bath Churches, to serve as **Somerset Transition Minister**.

Revd Stephen Newell took up his half-time role as **Bristol Transition Minister** on February 1<sup>st</sup> 2022.

Each of these Transition Ministers will liaise with the Synod Pastoral Advisors to identify churches who would like to develop new ideas for worship, outreach, nurture and service.

If any church would like to talk to the Transition Minister about what they can offer, they can contact them directly, or through their SPA.

The post of **Minister for Cranbrook** will be advertised soon and will be open to URC, Anglican and Methodist candidates. Pastoral committee had hoped that if a URC minister was appointed it might be possible to engage this person in a Special Category Ministry post, to avoid the complications of being employed by the Diocese of Exeter. Sadly, the Ministries Department at Church House has not consented to a Special Category Ministry post for Cranbrook.

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