

Estates Ministry Network

Diocese of Oxford



Purpose and Aims of the Oxford Estates Ministry Network

Our Purpose: We aim to resource estate practitioners by providing peer support, sharing best practices, and developing effective strategies for outreach, funding, education, and training throughout the Diocese of Oxford.

Our Key Aims: Discuss, Survey, and Campaign

- **Growing and Promoting Estates' Ministry:**
Explore strategies for expanding and enhancing estates' ministry in the Oxford Diocese. In this context, "estates parishes" are defined as any parish—or part of a parish—facing significant deprivation. This includes traditional social housing estates (with 500 or more homes) and areas of privately rented accommodation characterized by low incomes or dependence on benefits, such as streets with houses of multiple occupation.
- **Identifying Campaign Priorities:**
Determine which changes and needs should be targeted through campaigns. For example, advocating for Lowest Income Community Funding or proposing adjustments at national, diocesan, and local levels regarding funding, vocation identification, and training models.
- **Examining Structural Approaches:**
Investigate how the diocese and its churches approach estate ministry, including whether separate estate-based communities should be developed or if efforts should lean towards fostering more diverse congregations within existing parishes.

Resourcing and Sharing Best Practice

- **Peer Support and Knowledge Sharing:**
Provide a platform for sharing ministry ideas and best practices—discussing what has worked well, understanding challenges, and exploring ways to overcome them.

Resourcing Through Agencies

- **Building a Network:**
Create and maintain a directory of agencies that offer direct involvement, support, or funding for estate ministry, such as Proximity, Trussell Trust, Spurgeon's, CMS, and Church Army.

Health & Wellbeing Support

- **Ministerial Care:**
Highlight and facilitate access to support resources for ministers, both within the diocese and through wider networks.

Theological Think Tank

- **Exploring Practical Theology:**
Engage deeply with the practical theology behind estate ministry—examining the relationship between evangelism and social care and identifying the real needs that ministry should address.

Estates Ministry Specific Topics

- **Focused Initiatives:**
Address key areas such as pioneering new approaches, detached youth work, and effective ministry to children and families