

Pastoral Supervision for Clergy



Pastoral supervision provides a safe and confidential space to be supervised or to 'look over' pastoral ministry with another person who is experienced and trained in this specialised service. Along with spiritual direction and counselling, this is another valuable resource in support of your ministry.

Spiritual direction differs from pastoral supervision. The purpose of spiritual direction is to explore and support your personal spiritual formation and growth, while in pastoral supervision, you explore and enhance your competence in pastoral ministry, reflect theologically, while deepening self-awareness.

During pastoral supervision, line management issues may arise, and these can be discussed when this is appropriate. Occasionally, a supervisor may suggest personal counselling (with another practitioner), where this might be beneficial. Hopefully in time, your supervisor, becomes a person to whom you can turn for personal and the pastoral support of your ministry.

There is a choice between individual pastoral supervision, or meeting in a small group of three to four people. Group learning brings the bonus of mutual learning through hearing of others' difficult or unusual parish situations, and the solutions that result from shared experience and insight. Frequently friendships develop in this confidential and respectful atmosphere, and the cost of the sessions become shared.

In individual pastoral supervision, more time is available to explore your ministry with your supervisor, and the relationship may grow deeper than can develop in a group. The financial cost though, is higher.

The pastoral supervisors (whose contact details are listed below), have undertaken specific training with the Association of Pastoral Supervisors and Educators (APSE). They are also qualified and experienced in their own fields of counselling and psychotherapy supervision.

Our supervisors are well informed and competent to assist you in untangling the psychological inter-personal dynamics that inevitably arise in parish ministry, while you are supported to gain insight and understanding of your own internal responses to parish and other clergy relationships.

Clergy usually meet their supervisors four to six times a year, and because the supervisors are self-employed and pay for their own training and supervision, they charge a fee (which may be negotiable) which can be between £40 - £60 per hour. This is a valid expense to set against tax or to claim as a parish expense, if your church is willing to support you. During the Covid 19 pandemic all pastoral supervision is taking place either by phone or online.

If you would like to explore this service further, please contact one of the Pastoral Supervisors directly. Their details are listed below:

Pastoral Supervisors

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