# Deanery Accompanier Role Description

# Purpose of role

Deanery Accompaniers provide a point of connection between deaneries and the diocesan support services, so that:

* deaneries can easily access the support that they want and need
* the support offered is shaped by an understanding of the realities across the diocese

# Tasks involved

* To develop a relationship with the Deanery and the key post holders and other voices within it.
* To develop a deep understanding of the deanery, its aspirations and the challenges it faces.
* To provide an accessible point of contact and bridge to other Diocesan staff and resources
* To provide support and a listening ear to members of the DMPG and to normally attend DMPG meetings.
* To attend as many Deanery Synods as practical.
* To commit to attend Accompanier meetings: in Archdeaconry groups and the annual full meeting.

# Level of commitment

Inevitably, an accompanier will not always be able to attend all the meetings that a deanery holds. The needs and capacity of deaneries vary. Staff will be matched to deaneries taking account of geography, their area of work and workload and the input required by the deanery.

Below is guidance on what meetings are held and what the absolute expectation of the role is:

* DMPGs meet on average 2-4 times a year
* Deanery Synods usually meet a maximum of 3 times a year
* The above meetings can be evening or daytime
* The DBF Deanery Accompanier meetings are in working hours

The requirements of the role are:

* That the accompanier attends enough Deanery Synods and DMPG meetings to keep connected to the deanery and their work – realistically an accompanier will not find themselves able to attend every single meeting, but they need to plan in enough attendance to maintain the reality of the relationship.
* That the accompanier is willing to be named as such to the deanery and sees that as a cross organisational role and so makes connections between the deanery and other diocesan staff.  This is a signposting role: the accompanier is not an expert in everything but can often, during meetings or other contact, suggest with member of the diocesan team might be best able to help.
* That an accompanier prioritises attending the accompanier meetings to pass on feedback and understanding and help ensure that the support services offer matches the reality on the ground.