



MINISTRY RESEARCH PROJECT



AIMS AND INTRODUCTION

The project is based in the Archdiocese of Liverpool, England, and is delivered in partnership with Liverpool Hope University, Europe's only ecumenical university foundation.

The overall aim of the Ministry Research Project is to improve the understanding and practice of ministry in changing times and to plan more effectively for the future.

The specific aims of the project are:

- to improve the strategic planning and evidence-based decision-making relating to the deployment of the rich resource of permanent deacons;
- to evaluate the Archdiocesan Pastoral Associates Pilot Project which employs a new model of support and formation.

ACTIONS

In addition to using traditional social science methodologies from a theological perspective, such as questionnaire surveys and focus group meetings where topics are discussed and explored by interested parties, a significant methodological innovation for such a ministry research project is the use of geospatial technologies.

Rooted in the science of geography, geospatial technologies allow the integration of many types of data and will provide a more robust evidence base for future decision-making in the Archdiocese of Liverpool.



Combining these two approaches will support evidence-based decision-making and future planning.

In addition to these core research activities related to the permanent diaconate and Pastoral Associates and the production of publications, the project will organise and contribute to a number of academic conferences and practical events.

OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

Based upon the learning from this project a range of accessible resources will be developed that will allow the wider Catholic community to apply this research to their own contexts.

The research findings of the project will be related to the broader strategic questions that the Archdiocese of Liverpool Synod 2020 is asking about the mission of this local church and how it can become more effective in carrying it out.

FUNDING AND PARTNERSHIP

The project is delivered using funding from a Dutch Family Foundation to resource a partnership between the Archdiocese of Liverpool and Liverpool Hope University.

At the university the project is an innovative collaboration between the Department of Geography and Environmental Science in the Faculty of Science and the subject area of Theology, Philosophy and Religious Studies in the School of Humanities.

CONTACT

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