

Policy on Visiting Clergy/Ministers

Background

Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure, Canon C 8 (2) (a) provides an important exception to the general rule that a minister may not minister without the bishop's authorisation. It permits a minister to exercise ministry on an irregular basis at the specific invitation of the incumbent without seeking the bishop's permission. The incumbent must be satisfied that the minister is "of good life and standing and otherwise qualified under this Canon."

Failure to make the appropriate enquiries to ensure that someone is of good life and standing is therefore a significant breach of the Canons and could be the subject of disciplinary proceedings.

Policy

If an incumbent or Priest-in-Charge wishes to invite a guest preacher to speak, who does not hold any form of Salisbury Diocesan licence, **and the incumbent or priest-in-charge will be present in the service** there is no need to ask permission from the Diocesan Bishop.

For all other invitations to those not listed as being licensed on the Salisbury Diocesan Directory the incumbent or P-i-C needs to contact the Bishop's Office to seek permission prior to the service or event it is hoped they will engage in. The Bishop's Chaplain will need to check their status with their bishop before the proposal can be confirmed.

In the case of an ecumenical colleague, it would be necessary to check their standing with the appropriate district chair or moderator. And, to complete the picture, a priest from overseas would need permission from the Archbishop of Canterbury but only where that person will be taking a service alone (not just preaching) without any other licensed clergy from the 'home' parish present.

These rules will also apply to the Cathedral.

One such example would be: when inviting a lay person, priest or Bishop to lead worship, who is not listed on Salisbury's Diocesan Directory as having a licence or Permission to Officiate.

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