



‘Beyond Boundaries’

Exploring the world of Self-Supporting Ministry

The SSM Research Instrument

Know your SSM Community....

Back in 2011 an important item of research was carried out by the Revd Dr Teresa Morgan. It explored the life, work, calling and utilization of Self-Supporting Ministers in the church.

Since that time two things have happened: we have moved on in our thinking and a new research instrument is available.

Be assured, we have moved on. But not by that much! Nine years on and we still have issues of being ‘undervalued’, yet also ministry as ‘privilege and joy’; of being underutilised, yet contributing very significant amounts of time and effort; and with many diocesan processes being shaped and defined by stipendiary ministry.

This instrument is available to any diocese that may choose to use it. The first was Gloucester and the most recent Exeter. Thus far, nearly a quarter of dioceses have made use of the process or are intending to do so. It is open-access, and each can be adapted to use specific diocesan logos, names and terminology. Additional items (questions) can also be inserted if they are of particular interest.

More than this! Each participating diocese can agree to share data with other participating dioceses. This is data share only. The data is anonymised and cannot be attributed to any individual. This means the building of a significant data set that can be shared across dioceses to inform thinking and aid planning.

This research instrument:

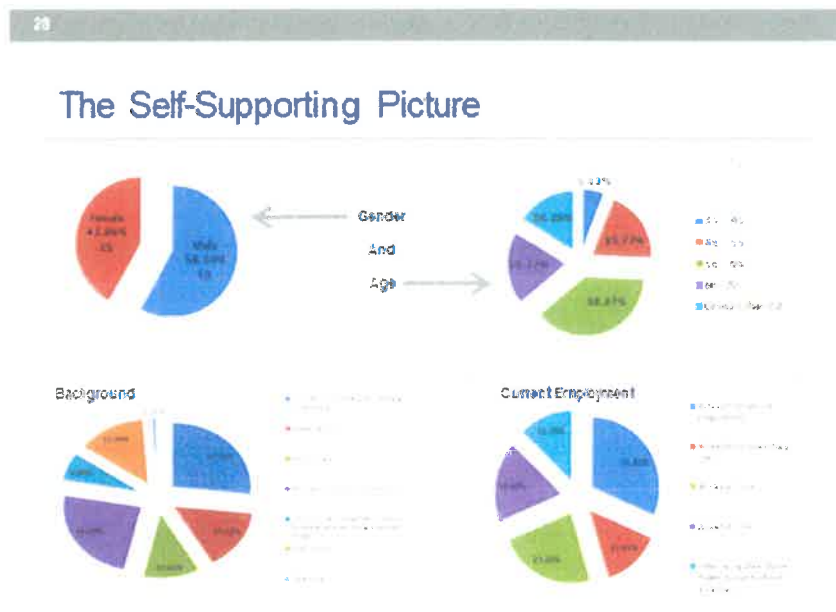
- **Enables you to better understand the attitudes of your SSMs**
- **Gives you a glimpse into the activities of your SSMs**
- **Provides you with ‘voice’ when it comes to shaping diocesan strategy**
- **Supports the identification of development needs and area of process and policy needing attention**

Further Information:

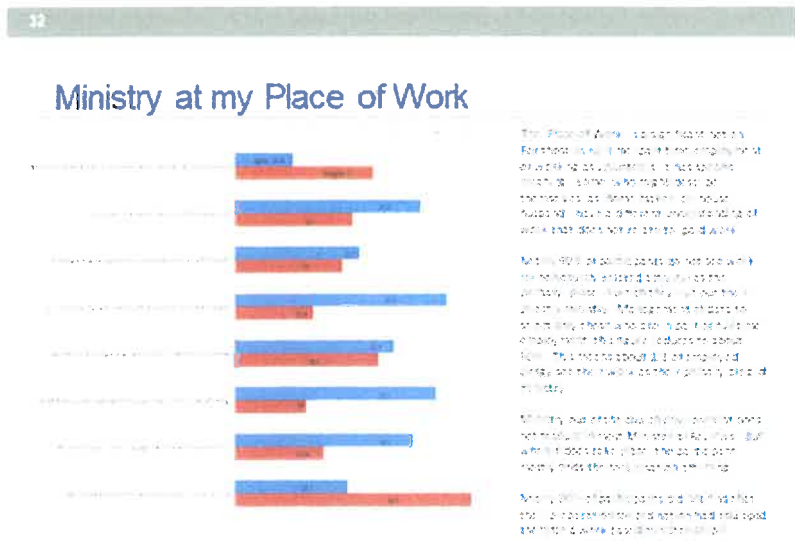
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Two Example Data Slides

The two data slides below have been selected from one diocesan finished report. The first slide provides a high level view of the SSM population, showing gender, age, background and current employment.



This second slide explores the SSMs attitude to seeing their place of work (or life) as a space in which they minister.



The Cost

This is an open-access instrument and the only cost is holding the instrument ‘open’ for the duration of the data gathering. Data gathering takes one or two months and the fee is £50/month.

Please contact Charles Sutton if you would like to discuss the use of this instrument in more detail.

Further Information:

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