



## **Curacy Placement – Information and Process**

The curacy provides different opportunities for the curates' growth in formation, development, experience and knowledge. One of these opportunities is a placement in a different church/chaplaincy context to their curacy setting. There are two main drivers for this – the needs of the curate and opportunities arising from different contexts.

### **Placement**

#### **Aims**

- Address, if any gap in Formation Criteria/Qualities, any developmental needs of the curate or practical ministerial omissions in the primary training context – e.g. occasional offices, civic engagement.
- Offer the opportunity to explore future ministerial contexts – e.g. chaplaincy, rural ministry.
- Enhance their portfolio of ministerial experience in preparation for future posts.
- Provide a new environment that offers different church approaches/traditions for theological reflection - e.g. holding a mirror to the primary training context.
- Generally broaden the curate's experience and encourage them in their ability to minister and serve in different settings.

#### **Plan**

Placements can be an important part of the formational process for a curate and it may be that the initial conversation is between the curate and Training Incumbent. Often the curate and TI will have a good idea about the kind of placement that is being sought and may, as a result, make some inquiries. It would be good to make the Adviser for Curacy aware and consult them if necessary. The Adviser for Curacy will need to agree that the suggested placements' impact and benefit is worthwhile for the curate during their curacy.

Conversations may involve different parties depending on the primary reason for the placement – curate, TI, placement supervisor and Adviser for Curacy and, if relevant, key diocesan colleagues. Involvement of others is important so that the wellbeing and healthy work boundaries of the curate are supported and the expectations of the curate from their training context are realistic. The third year of curacy is, for some, a year of transition even if a curate is staying in their current context, and the curate's absence for the placement can help both curate and context with the transition.



## When

There is not a definite time when a placement takes place but the suggestion is that they are more likely to happen during the third year of the curacy. If this is the case then a conversation would take place with the curate and TI in the Autumn of their third year.

## Shape

The placement may take a number of different shapes, depending on the primary reasons for the placement and its context. For example, a school or chaplaincy placement may be shorter than a parish placement due to the particular contexts own shape of working practice. Similarly, the shape of the placement in terms of its relationship to the curates' training context may, for particular reasons, be full-time or part-time in nature. Depending on the placement, a suggestion of 4-8 weeks would give substantial time for engagement or a shorter time if creating more of a portfolio of experience. Some SSMs are unable to do a block / full-time placement due to other responsibilities, in which case another shape which reflects the amount of time they would normally give to ministry is possible.

## Questions

The following are some suggested questions that may help as curate and TI discuss a potential placement:

- What are the reasons for a placement?
- What are the hopeful outcomes of the placement?
- What would be the best shape and content of the placement?
- Who would be the placements' Supervisor (who would write a report)?
- What dates would work best for the curate, TI, training parish and placement context?
- Are there any financial implications involved?
- How will the placement be explained to the PCC and members of the training parish?
- What impact may it have for the training parish, and how might these be managed?
- What impact may it have on any significant others' connected with the curate?
- Anything else that needs to be considered?

It is the hope that a placement will be a positive experience of learning and growth, laying further ministerial foundations for the future.

With prayers and thanks,

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