

Appendix 3

Criteria for a training parish

As far as the Church of England is concerned there has been unease in recent years that the 'training parish' is such by virtue of its size and need for an extra pair of clergy hands. By contrast, almost any parish might be deemed suitable to be a 'training parish' at a particular time if it met certain criteria:

1. That it is of sufficient size, e.g. includes a range of socio-economic settings, so as to generate a sufficiently wide and demanding experience of ministry.
2. That the parish has to offer a good model of ministry, attentive to its responsibility for the wider community, and shows evidence of strategic theological thinking for its future development.
3. That the parish has the space and stability in order to undertake training at a particular juncture.
4. That a suitable incumbent has been in place for a minimum of a year so as to be able to appreciate the history and dynamics of the parish and church community.
5. That the parish can demonstrate an ability to function collaboratively in respect of its lay leaders, so that the shared exercise of ministry in the local church would be enlarged, not diminished, by the presence of a curate or trainee minister.