

Time to experience something else!

During curacy it is important to recognise that through all the ministry that lies ahead of us there will be new and different things to experience, a placement in another context in these formative years gives a taster of what other ministries can look like, as well as broadening our experience; and refreshing our feelings about, and developing our practice where we are already ministering. So, what should a curate expect:

Aims and objectives

A placement is intended to give the opportunity for spending time and working in a place and/or type of ministry that is different from that found in the home parish. This in turn allows for further reflection on your ministerial abilities to be able to be made from a wider perspective.

How long for?

A placement should last for the equivalent of six weeks full-time (this is thirty-six days, allowing one day off a week). Part-time and self-supporting curates should do 6 weeks pro-rata, so if, for instance, a working agreement states 7 sessions per week, the placement period is for 6 weeks of 7 sessions, or their equivalent.

For everyone their placement should generally take place during the second half of curacy.

The precise timetable of the placement will need to be negotiated with the people and institutions with which the curate will be working. However, there is a range of options for the actual amounts of time allotted to the placement. It would be possible to undertake the whole placement full time over a period of six consecutive weeks: or six full weeks taken non-consecutively over a longer period: or a greater number of periods of less than a week's duration taken in consecutive weeks, although it is preferable that each period is not less than three days so that the maximum overall duration of the placement would not exceed ten weeks. It is important that Sundays should be included in the process. Please note that as with all curate training events, duties in the home parish should be adjusted in order to allow the curate to participate fully in the activities on placement, including the possibility that their day off may be re-arranged for its duration.

Where, what and costs!

Placements should normally be focused within the Diocese and at a convenient travelling distance from the curate's home. Consideration must be given beforehand if expenses are likely to be involved, and appropriate agreement arrived at as to how these will be met. Where necessary an individual's expenses on placement may be covered by some of their Continuing Ministerial Development (CMD) budget, in conjunction with contributions from the training parish and personal funds. If an application is to be made to the CMD budget this must be done before the placement is agreed.

Notwithstanding the above, certain parts of the placement may need to be undertaken elsewhere. If this is the case, it will need to

be negotiated before the placement begins and arrangements made accordingly.

The intention of the placement, as outlined above, is that curates should broaden the base of their ministerial experience by working somewhere different from their home parish. This could include a variety of different parochial situations, such as people working in urban areas going to rural parishes or vice versa. It could also include curates gaining some experience of sector ministry, including higher education, hospital or prison chaplaincy, or industrial mission. Consideration could be given to curates swapping parishes, providing all parties are agreed and the swap adequately fulfils both curates' learning requirements.

It is the curate's responsibility to negotiate the placement in consultation with their TI and the IME2 Officer.

Why and how!

As with all training it is vital that the learning aims, and the process involved in the placement be embodied in a contract / working / learning agreement. This will be created through a process of discussion between the curate, their TI and the person with whom they will be working on the placement. When agreed it should be sent to the IME2 Officer. Proposals for placements can be discussed with the IME2 Officer at any time but at the latest by Christmas of the 2nd year and the details finalised appropriately. A standard agreement form is provided.

Reflective Practice

The curate and the person responsible for supervising them on the placement are encouraged to discuss and reflect upon the

placement experience at its completion. The curate will also be required to produce a written piece (of no more than 2000 words) reflecting what has been learnt, how their ministry has been informed, and what they will take forward into their future ministry. Within 6 weeks of the end of a placement, a placement report should be sent to the Vocations and Training Administrator for review by the IME2 Officer.

