

# DIOCESAN INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Leeds

Equipping for the kingdom of God in  
life, work and leadership  
2025-26



# EXPERIENCE RISK-TAKING, CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AND DEDICATED KINGDOM SERVICE.

What could God do in your life if you gave a year to grow as a disciple of Jesus?

The Leeds Diocese internship scheme runs from September 2025 until July 2026 and is an amazing opportunity to:

- experience God at work in the church today
- go deeper into the Bible, theology, prayer, and discipleship
- discover more of the gifts and skills that God has given to you.

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Colossians 2: 6,7



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This has given me the space to invest more in my relationship with God.

It's challenged me to step outside of my comfort zone, explore gifts I didn't know I had and grow in those areas I am passionate about.

I have felt incredibly supported and encouraged in my calling and walk with Jesus.

*Jess, Past intern*

# PLACEMENTS

A significant part of your week is spent serving in a Christian community.

Depending upon your particular gifts and sense of calling, we will work with you to find the best placement which will stretch you and provide opportunities for you to serve in different ways. You will gain experience that can go on your CV for wherever you end up working in the future, inside or outside the church.

There are opportunities to explore different types of ministry across the diversity of the diocese. Every placement is different, but some of the areas you could serve in include:

- Children
- Youth
- Administration
- Worship
- Operations management
- Creative communications & design
- Finance
- Students
- Outreach
- Working with those on the margins (homeless, addiction)

There may also be opportunities for short term placements during your year.



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I would recommend this to anyone who wants to deepen their understanding of the Bible, the Church and what serving means as a Christian, but also anyone who wants to discover more about themselves, their value and identity in Christ.

*Past intern*

# EXAMPLES OF PREVIOUS PLACEMENTS

Want to gain a **broad of experience** of church life? Over the year you could gain hands-on experience of the outreach, mission and behind-the-scenes work a church does. This could involve leading prayers, helping with the foodbank or Warm Welcome space, engaging with international students, supporting an Alpha course, providing tech and social media support or taking on responsibility for part of one of the services.



Interested in **working with young people**? Serving alongside gifted Children and Youth workers, you could gain experience of planning, creating, safeguarding, and leading fun activities with children and youth, in the church and the wider community. This could include toddler groups, youth work, school assemblies and seasonal missional events around Christmas and Easter.

Do you have a **heart for worship**? You could serve alongside experienced worship leaders to hone your music, creative and leadership skills, enabling people to worship in a range of services and activities from all-age, student and small formal services through to contemporary carols. You would also learn about the key work behind the scenes so worship is accessible for all.



One of our interns was keen to develop his finance skills so spent half his internship supporting the Diocesan Finance team, from data inputting and analysis, to report writing and even co-writing and producing the Diocese Parish Share video. The rest of the time, he served in an inner city church, helping across a range of ministries.

# TRAINING

Each week, all participants of the Diocese of Leeds programme gather together for a day of worship, prayer and teaching in a learning community. The aim is to give a broad introduction to theology and the Bible alongside a grounding in what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. The teaching is delivered by a variety of leaders and specialists from across the diocese and beyond.

It also gives space to reflect together on the encouragements and challenges of placements and where God is at work personally too.

Over the course of the year the teaching covers topics such as:



- How to read the Bible
- Spiritual disciplines
- Identity in God
- Leadership
- Worship and prayer
- Following Jesus in the 21st Century
- Challenging questions

Lots of the training also happens on the ground as you serve in different ministries, trying out new things, taking on responsibilities and seeing God at work in you and through you.

## DIFFERENT STREAMS

The Leeds Internship Programme is an umbrella that coordinates a number of different internship streams which are listed overleaf.

Every stream gives the opportunity to grow as a disciple, to serve in a placement and to receive weekly teaching as part of a larger group of interns.

We want to help you find the right internship that works for you and gives you the opportunity to serve, grow and discover more of what God has for you and is calling you to whatever your age, background or tradition. So **do get in touch** to talk about which might be the right stream for you.

# INTERNSHIP STREAMS



The **Ministry Experience Scheme** (MES) is a national Church of England scheme for **18-30 year olds** who want to explore their vocation and discover what it is like to serve in a church across a wide variety of ministries. This could be in a cathedral or small church plant, in a rural or inner city context.

MES participants from across the country meet together three times a year.



[National MES website](#)



**Future Youth** (FY) is for **18-30 year olds** with a heart for young people and/or children's ministry. Placements focus on serving and leading children and young people. Church of England online training will be provided fortnightly and focuses on theology and practice of youth and children's ministry.

There will be residentials and other opportunities to meet with other FY interns from across the country.



[National Future Youth website](#)



The **New Wine Discipleship Year** (NWDY) is for **18-29 year olds** who want to give a year of their lives to grow as disciples in the power of the Spirit.

NWDY includes two residentials away with other NWDY hubs (including one abroad) and opportunities to serve at national New Wine conferences including New Wine in the summer.



[National NWDY website](#)



Diocese of Leeds

Intern Independent Stream

The **Independent Stream** is for those who are over 30 years old or who want to explore a different stream for other reasons.

This provides the same opportunities of placements, training, residentials and support under the Leeds internship umbrella.



[Diocese of Leeds Internship website](#)

# FINANCE & ACCOMMODATION

The Intern role is a volunteer role which carries with it no employment status.

In order to be able to fully take part in the experience your training costs will be paid for - there is no financial cost to participate in the program. Accommodation can be provided for you either in a community house or staying with a family in the parish where your placement is. Your utility bills, internet and a TV licence will be provided.

You will be responsible for funding your daily living expenses. This may be through a part-time job alongside your internship or gifts from others. There will be a bursary available should anyone be unable to meet their daily subsistence needs.

## A TYPICAL WEEK & SUPPORT



A typical internship week includes:

- Three or four days serving in your placement (including Sunday).
- A day of training.
- One or two days available to get a part-time job to help towards your living expenses.
- A day of rest.

You will be supported by a placement supervisor and be part of an amazing team serving the church and learning from one another. You will also have a mentor and support from the Internship Team. You will have the opportunity to meet with someone from the Diocese Vocations team to discuss your journey, current and future.

## RESIDENTIALS

Over the course of the year there will also be different opportunities provided for residential weekends away and day retreats for deeper learning, worship, and relationship building.



# WHAT NEXT?

If you have any questions, would like some further information or would like to be sent an application form, please contact our Internship Coordinator Katharine Greathead at: [katharine.greathead@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:katharine.greathead@leeds.anglican.org)



This programme offers an amazing opportunity to give a year to grow as a disciple of Jesus. You do not need to be 'sorted' to participate – it is for anyone with a hunger to grow in their faith. Doing an internship grounded my faith for the long-term and I saw God at work in so many ways. Who knows what could happen if you step out and give God a year of what Mary Oliver calls 'your one wild and precious life'?

If you would like to explore more about what doing an internship could look like for you we would love to hear from you.

*Rev Simon Walters, Intern Lead*

