DIOCESAN INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds

Equipping for the Kingdom of God in life, work and leadership

2027-28









NewWine discipleship year

the ministry experience scheme

WHAT COULD GOD DO WITH A YEAR OF YOUR LIFE?

The Leeds Diocese internship is an amazing opportunity to **experience God at work** in the church today, **go deeper** into the Bible, theology, prayer, and discipleship, and **discover more** of the gifts and skills that God has given you.

As an intern, you will be **placed in a church** to get hands-on ministry experience. You will be part of a **weekly learning community** to equip you as a disciple. You will also have **guidance, support, and prayer** from others around you.

Whatever it is that God may call you to in the future, giving God a year as you serve as an intern will lay the foundations for a life-long adventure of following Jesus.



> Be prepared to be stretched and to grow in ways you might not expect.
> The internship will challenge you, deepen your faith, and teach you a lot about yourself, God, and what it means to serve in a church community – if you are open to that process, it will be an invaluable opportunity. *Past intern*

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

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
- General ministry experience
- Working with those on the margins (homelessness, addiction)

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



“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 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.

LEARNING & TRAINING

Each Monday, all participants of the programme gather together for a day of worship, prayer and teaching in a learning community.

The learning community is a great space to journey together, reflect on the encouragements and challenges of our different placements and share where God is at work in our lives too.

The teaching offers a broad introduction to theology and the Bible alongside a grounding in what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. It is delivered by a variety of leaders and specialists from across the diocese and beyond. Over the course of the year we cover topics like:



- The Bible's big story
- Identity in God
- Helping others to grow in faith
- Spiritual disciplines
- Leadership
- Following Jesus in the 21st century
- Challenging questions

Lots of the learning and 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

As part of our Diocesan Internship Programme, there are a number of streams (listed on the next page) which you may be a part of depending on your age.

Every stream gives the same core opportunities 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.
Do get in touch to talk about which might be the right stream for you.

INTERNSHIP STREAMS

the ministry experience scheme

The **Ministry Experience Scheme** (MES) is a national Church of England scheme for **18-29 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.
MES participants from across the country meet together three times a year.

NewWine discipleship year

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.

It 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.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds
Intern Independent Stream

30 or over? No problem! The **Independent Stream** is for those who are 30-40 years old or who want to explore a different stream for other reasons.
This provides the same opportunities of placements, training and support and also a residential during the year.

FINANCE & ACCOMMODATION

The Intern role is a **voluntary worker 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 programme. Depending on the placement church, accommodation may be available through living with a 'host family'. If you would like to explore this option, please apply as soon as possible.

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. If you meet specific eligibility criteria there may be a bursary available to help meet 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 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, support from the Internship Team and the opportunity to meet with someone from the Diocesan Vocations team to discuss your current journey and future.

RESIDENTIALS

Over the course of the year there will also be different opportunities for deeper learning, worship, and relationship building as part of residentials away and day retreats.



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**

There will be two application rounds for the 2027-28 internship programme: March 2027 and May 2027. Please see our Intern webpage for the application deadline dates.

> 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'?
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> 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*

