

DIOCESAN INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds

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

2026-27



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.

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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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

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 on the next page.

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** (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.



[National MES website](#)



Gaining experience in young people and children's ministry

Future Youth (FY) is for **18-29 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 the theology and practice of youth and children's ministry. There will be residential and other opportunities to meet with FY participants 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 residential 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](#)



30 or over? No problem! 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, residential and support under the Diocese of Leeds internship umbrella.



[Diocese of Leeds Internship website](#)

FINANCE & ACCOMMODATION

The Intern role is a **volunteer 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. Accommodation may be available through living with a 'host family' at your placement church. Please let us know during the application process if you would like to explore this option.

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 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 Diocesan 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

There will be 3 application rounds for the 2026-27 internship programme: December 2025, April 2026 and June 2026. Please see our [Intern webpage](#) for the application deadline dates.

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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

