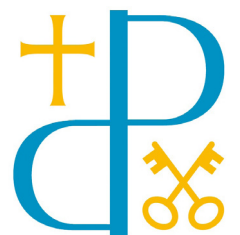


The Ministry Experience Scheme

Join the Peterborough Team

2025-26



The Diocese of
Peterborough

**ARE YOU
READY
FOR AN
ADVENTURE?**



humankind

be both



A year of ministry experience

The Peterborough Diocese **Ministry Experience Scheme** is a voluntary, flexible and action-packed internship year.

You'll receive:

- A weekly allowance of £157
- A wide range of ministry experience
- Theological development
- Practical training
- 1:1 mentoring support

It runs from the start of September through to the summer.

Training & Development Days



At the heart of this year is an investment in you.

That's why as part of the year you'll receive free access to:

- Monthly Development Days with our partner organisations
- A launch residential and a mid-year retreat
- An optional theological development track with readings, discussion and theological reflection
- Line management and supervision
- Regular 1:1 meetings with a spiritual mentor
- A vocation advisor to guide discernment of your calling



Practical experience

Join us in growing faith from generation to generation (Psalm 145:4).

Explore a wide range of ministries, including...

1. Children's, Youth and School's work

You'll experience a bit of everything, from toddler groups to youth clubs, assemblies to residential.

2. Worship and preaching

You'll get to observe, participate and lead in a variety of worship contexts, including public speaking training and opportunities to have a go.

3. Serving in the community

There will be lots of opportunities to roll up your sleeves as you serve people in your local community.

4. Small group discipleship

You'll be invited to join a small group as you grow in your faith, with opportunities to take a lead in discipling other people.

5. Innovate and pioneer

Work alongside others to create missional events and activities for parishes and deaneries.



Gaining experience in young people and children's ministry

For anyone who is exploring a calling to children's & youth ministry, specific training and opportunities are available. Enquire on application.

We'll work with you to create a balanced programme that helps you to experience a wide range of ministries, including opportunities to explore worship and mission in a variety of church traditions.

Meet the team



Rev'd Haydon Spenceley, Director of Vocation & Formation

Hi, I'm Haydon. I lead the Vocation & Formation Team. We encourage people to explore new ways to serve and minister, and train and equip them as they step out in faith. I'm also the Diocesan Director of Ordinands, which involves supporting people as they explore ordained ministry. I'm Club Chaplain to Northampton Town FC and regularly accused of not praying hard enough for them!

Ruth Alexander, Youth Vocation Advisor

My name is Ruth Alexander and I am the Student and Young Adults Mission Leader for St Giles Church in Northampton. I have recently been appointed as a Young Vocations Officer for Peterborough Diocese. I'm passionate about discipleship and helping people to journey in the ministry role that God has for them in the church. It is exciting to see this new generation rising up – the church really does have a bright future as we invest in younger generations.



Rev'd Jenny Paddison, Young Vocation Advisor

Hi, I'm Jenny. It has been so exciting being involved with the Ministry Experience Scheme over the past few years; initially as a mentor and now as a Young Vocation Advisor. Throughout my ordained life I have been in educational chaplaincy because I find huge joy working with young adults and seeing their faith deepen. Having once been a church intern myself, I totally recommend this MES and very much hope to meet and work with you.



Louise Skinner, Team Administrator

Hi, I'm Louise, the Team Administrator for the Mission & Development and Children & Youth teams. I feel incredibly blessed to be living out my faith journey at work! I also enjoy helping at youth events and other outreach activities. I love cycling and I have a greyhound called Cecil!





How does it work?

The Peterborough Diocese scheme is part of the national Church of England Ministry Experience Scheme. The programme runs from September until July.

We are aware that each person's circumstances are unique and we want to be as flexible as possible to adapt to your needs. For example you may wish to work some hours alongside the year to earn income and we fully support you in that.

We encourage all participants to enjoy one full 'Sabbath' day every week and take regular time-off.

Each person's schedule is different and works around the placement church's mission and ministry in the local community. Flexible working, including evenings and weekends, will be required in all placements.

Accommodation...

Accommodation for the year can sometimes be provided. Every participant's situation is unique, we will do our best to support you. Please enquire on application

The Ministry Experience Scheme is voluntary. You are not obligated to fulfil any prescribed hours. We think you'll get the most out of the year with a regular, sustainable, weekly pattern. We will work with you to create a manageable schedule that helps you grow in faith and enjoy the year.

Key dates 2025/26

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 5PM, 29TH JUNE

KEY DATES (TBC)

8-10 SEPTEMBER	LAUNCH RESIDENTIAL
29 NOVEMBER	EXPLORE (DIOCESAN VOCATIONS DAY)
11-13 MAY (TBC)	MID-YEAR RETREAT
12-14 JUNE (TBC)	ORIGIN YOUNG ADULTS' WEEKEND AWAY
6 JULY	END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

DEVELOPMENT DAYS ARE USUALLY ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH.



Get in touch

Ready?

Visit [MES - Peterborough](#) to apply.

Got questions?

Web: [Peterborough Diocese MES](#)

Email: haydon.spenceley@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Hi, I'm the Peterborough Diocese MES Coordinator. If you have any questions at all or would like to arrange an informal conversation, then email or call me for a chat.

Rev'd Haydon Spenceley



Phone: 01604 887059

Find us: Bouverie Court, 6, The Lakes,
Bedford Road,
Northampton NN4 7YD.

FAQ

Do I get paid?

As long as the Ministry Experience Scheme is the main focus of your year, then all participants aged 18-30 are eligible for a grant which provides a weekly allowance of £157 for 52 weeks of the year.

Do I pay tax on the weekly allowance?

MES participants are volunteers, so the weekly allowance is not taxable. Under the National Minimum Wage Act 1998 (section 44), whilst voluntary workers can't receive payment for their work, they can receive 'some or all of their subsistence and/or accommodation'.

How is it funded?

The national church, Peterborough Diocese and each local placement all contribute towards the costs of the scheme.

What age can I apply?

The minimum age is 18, there is no upper age limit. Participants that are age 18-30 are eligible for funding (and the weekly allowance). We have also had several self-funded participants that are aged 30-60.

Is it just for people that are considering ordination?

No. Whilst lots of our MES participants have gone on to train for ordained ministry in the Church of England, many have trained in other church ministries (such as children's and youth work) or a variety of other careers.

Is accommodation provided?

We try our best to provide accommodation but this is not always possible. Every participant's situation is unique, we will always do our best to support you. Please enquire on application.

Can I stay in my current church?

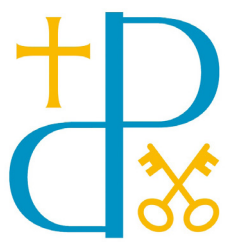
It is sometimes possible for MES participants use their 'home' church as their placement. It requires the full support of the church leadership and sufficient local funding to be available.

Will I need a DBS?

Yes, all MES participants are required to go through the Enhanced DBS process and complete the required Church of England Safeguarding Training. The Peterborough Diocese MES Team will guide you through this.

Can I join from a different diocese / denomination?

Yes to both. We often have participants join us in Peterborough from dioceses all over the UK. The Ministry Experience Scheme is part of the Church of England, but accepts applications from Christians from a wide variety of backgrounds.



The Diocese of
Peterborough