



Rural Ministry Curacy



The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

An opportunity for a curate to lead mission and ministry in a rural multi-parish benefice context.

Ely Diocese is dominated by rural, multi-parish benefices. Ministry in these contexts remains focussed on service to the whole community. It requires a willingness to take missional risks, to enable lay leaders, and to re-think ways of leading, operating and governing. Strengthening our multi-parish benefices has been identified as a diocesan policy and this curacy is designed to enable the establishment and development of a leadership pipeline.

The Curacy - How it Works

You will be appointed as an assistant curate-in-training to a rural benefice (details below) with an effective and experienced TI.

During your second year you will explore being appointed to a rural benefice in vacancy as 'curate-in-charge'. If appointed, your TI will continue to offer supervision.

During your third year you will be able to explore the option of being appointed as the incumbent of that benefice.



FAQs

What is the housing provision?

A house will be provided with easy access to your initial Title Post. When appointed as 'curate-in-charge' to another benefice, the option of moving to the parsonage house in the benefice will be discussed (or it will be possible for you to remain in your curacy context). If appointed as incumbent, you would then move into the vicarage for that benefice.

Will I definitely be appointed as 'curate-in-charge' of a benefice?

Whilst this is the aim and expectation it is not guaranteed. If you, your TI or the Ordained Ministry Development Officer do not feel you are ready, your curacy will continue unaffected.

Do I have to become the incumbent of the benefice I am appointed to as 'curate-in-charge'?

No. It would need to be mutually discerned by the parish, the diocese, and yourself, that this would be a good step. If it is mutually discerned that this would not be a good thing, you would be able to apply for other posts after you have been signed off.

When would I be signed off?

Provided you have shown good evidence of sufficiently inhabiting the qualities expected for IME2 you would be signed off at the same time as other curates – in January of your third year.

What involvement would my TI have in the benefice where I am 'curate-in-charge'?

Your TI would continue to be your TI but would not be involved in the day to day running of the benefice. Your TI would offer supervision for you to reflect on your ministry. You should continue to draw on their experience and expertise.



The Curacy Context

Title Post: Six Fen Benefice. The parishes of Doddington with Benwick, Wimblington, Manea, Christchurch and Welney

Training Incumbent: Canon Mark Collinson

Tradition: Robed, Central/middle, Common Worship contemporary language with hymns, but with an informal welcoming atmosphere. Open evangelical.

Key Features of Ministry in this Context:

- A multi parish context which does not overwhelm but will provide tools and training for future multi parish ministry.
- A large number of occasional offices, and especially church funerals.
- An emphasis on mission and evangelism within the wider community.
- A focus on developing lay led teams.



Opportunities for involvement in the wider community

Schools: There are five non-church schools in the benefice, all of which are open to receiving more engagement with church. This will involve developing the gifts of laity to build teams, potentially with a paid children's worker.

Industry: The main industry here is farming, which is high profile and politically relevant. A number of farmers come to the churches and we have a (potential) ordinand who is from a farming background. We are looking at whether we can develop a chaplaincy approach to the farming community.

Stakeholder communities: Every village has stakeholder communities whether it be the Parish Council, a running group, the croquet club, uniformed organisations, the Royal British Legion, warm spaces/coffee mornings and food hubs. Deprivation indexes of the parishes vary between 50% and 5% of the most deprived in the country.



About the Training Incumbent

Mark writes, 'as a reflective practitioner with a doctorate in church planting, I am currently continuing my own learning by applying church planting theology and practice to the rural context. I therefore offer a curate a space for theological reflection that helps them become a lifelong theological learner. I have trained curates as a TI and have trained curates and TIs in a diocese. My own ministry has encompassed suburban parish ministry, intercultural diversity and church planting in the Diocese in Europe, residentiary canon in a cathedral, and senior leadership in a diocese. I am married to Sue, who is also a LLM, we are empty-nesters, and have two grown up children. We both like to be physically active and protect time off. My own spirituality is essentially charismatic evangelical, strongly influenced by Benedictine and Ignatian orders. The benefice ministry team consists of three LLMs and one person involved in the discernment process for ordination. This team will build and evolve as we begin to get each PCC functioning missional.'

Housing

- The Parsonage House of St Wendreda, March.
- Ely Diocese prides itself on excellent housing provision for all its clergy.

