



The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

ELY DIOCESE

Ministry Experience Scheme

Information pack



INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in the Ely Diocese Ministry Experience Scheme (EDMES). As a Diocese we are committed to the vision of a Church that is growing younger and more diverse. We are also passionate about equipping everyone for mission and ministry inside and outside the church and are thrilled to be able to offer a fully funded year for a group of young adults to **explore who they are called to be** and **discover what they might be called to do**. Ely Diocese has run a Ministry Experience Scheme in the past, but this is a reimaged version of the scheme that we are really excited about. There are three foundational elements that make up the year. These are **Living in Community**, **Serving the Local Church** and **Teaching**. These key elements will be explained in more detail below.

BACKGROUND

The Church of England Ministry Experience scheme has been running for almost 10 years in Dioceses around the country with over 100 young adults taking part each year. As part of the Scheme there are opportunities to gather together with other participants on other schemes at the MES national conference.

Following a break, due to Covid pandemic, we are delighted to be able to restart the Ministry Experience Scheme and in Ely Diocese we have space for up to 4 people. The year is set up in such a way that it could help you in discerning a call to ministry and leadership in the Church either in a lay role such as youth leader, children and families leader or to ordained ministry. However, the year is not just for those who are exploring a vocational call to ministry, it will equip those who join for a life long journey of discipleship wherever that may be.



Previously EDMES was based in Cambridge but the scheme has relocated to the north western part of the Diocese in Yaxley Deanery on the edge of Peterborough. EDMES participants will serve in the Fletton and Stanground group of churches. This is an area of real missional opportunity, but also an area of deprivation, and one of the reasons we have based the scheme here is so that participants will have a well-rounded experience of ministry and also being able to make a positive impact to the local church in this area.

SERVING THE LOCAL CHURCH

Serving the local church is where you will spend most of your time, and this will give you a great experience of ministry within the church and mission to the local community. The Fletton and Stanground team, is led by Andrew and Carol who are both ordained, as well as other lay leaders.



Ministry on Sundays will range from assisting with children and youth groups, planning and leading intercessions and over time maybe leading the service, preaching and giving talks. Part of the week will also be spent preparing for Sundays, helping with administration and organisation.

During the week there will be a range of missional and ministry opportunities. There are five local schools with opportunities to lead collective worship, assisting with the RE curriculum and supporting any schools groups.

There is also a toddler group organised by the church which provides space to speak with parents and run activities for the toddlers.

One day a week will be spent at the Community Café, which is run from one of the churches, serving the local community through the café; this will include helping in the kitchen and with customers. This is a real missional initiative and provides a great space to share the Gospel in words and service.

There are range of other ministry opportunities that are available and the timetable for the week will be worked out with you so that you can bring your gifts and skills, but also learn and try new areas of ministry as well. There are a host of meetings and committees that you will be involved in to really experience what goes into making vibrant ministry happen. You will also have the opportunity to meet with other clergy and churches across the deanery.

TEACHING

Whilst being involved in serving the local church will give you a great experience of ministry in the church, we also want to invest in your learning and understanding. So, for one day a week we will gather together for a day of teaching. The teaching will range from basic discipleship, learning how to read the Bible and developing holy habits and spiritual disciplines, to some deeper theology and apologetics as well as learning about leadership, team dynamics and some really practical skills like public speaking and looking after your own wellbeing.



We are aware that some people come with prior learning but we don't make assumptions and endeavour to make sure that teaching is accessible and relevant. The teaching programme will be adjusted over the year based on who is taking part, and even if you have studied theology at depth already. It can be helpful to reflect again, especially in light of the role you will have on the scheme. You will also have a mentor, who is someone that can help you reflect on what you are learning and experiencing in ministry.

We are really blessed to have some gifted and passionate clergy and lay leaders in the diocese who will be involved in delivering the teaching programme.

LIVING IN COMMUNITY

The accommodation for Ely Diocese Ministry Experience Scheme is a recently renovated vicarage that has been converted into a house of multiple occupancy. This means that there are communal areas such as kitchen and living rooms, but you will also get your own private space; a room with a bed, desk and wardrobe which other people in the house will not have access to. It is really important that you feel safe where you live and can come home from busy days and have a space where you can relax.

We don't want the house to simply be a building that you share with others on the scheme, we want it to be your home for the year. We are also aware that living with other people can be challenging so we will help the house community to form, with regular facilitated house meetings and encouraging all those living together to develop a rhythm of prayer and worship together. The house also has a larger room that is attached, but separate from the rest of the house. This will be the space where the teaching days will happen, but also give you a space to work from during the week. This will hopefully mean you have separate work and home areas which we feel is important to help with a good balance and for your wellbeing.

As a member of the household you will also be responsible for cleaning the house and keeping the garden in a good state.

PRACTICAL QUESTIONS

When does the year start and end?

The welcome Sunday is 10th September 2023 so we expect you to move in the day before and settle in. There is an induction week starting on 11th September. The year will end with a commissioning service on Sunday 7th July 2024.

How is the year funded?

The year is fully funded by Ely Diocese and The Ministry Experience Scheme, this means it does not cost you anything. You will also receive **£75 per week** to cover the cost of food, and incidental spending.

Am I an employee?

No. During your first week you will draw up a role description with your line manager, this will have agreed roles and responsibilities but you are not an employee, you are legally classed as a volunteer worker.

Can I take holidays through the year?

Yes of course, however these will need to be agreed in advance and normally within the school holidays when teaching days will not be running and there is often a different rhythm to the church.

Can I do more than one year?

We are exploring what a second year scheme might look like and would be happy to talk this through with you throughout the year

What if things aren't going well?

We have a good set up of pastoral support and different people in the scheme that you can talk to depending on if the issues are with the teaching, placement, community living or personal. We would encourage you to talk to someone as soon as possible so we can find the best way to help you.

Is this only for those exploring ordination?

No. If you're exploring ordination then great, but we want to equip young adults to be disciples and leaders, to whatever God might be calling them

Is there a deadline on applications?

We have no set dates, but will interview as applications are received. There are 4 spaces available, so once we these are full we are not able to offer more places.

NEXT STEPS

If you still have questions about Ely Diocese Ministry Experience Scheme please email our scheme coordinator mike.kelly@elydiocese.org

If you would like to make an application:

Please download and complete the application form from the Diocese website. In line with safer recruitment and safeguarding you will also need to download and complete the confidential disclosure form.

Please email both the completed application and confidential disclosure to: vocations@elydiocese.org

Once applications are received you will be informed about whether you will be interviewed. Any offer of placement on the scheme is subject to satisfactory references, right to work checks and an enhanced DBS certificate.