

## **Reader training – the Summer Placement**

### **Guidance for students and placement incumbents**

#### **Aims of the Summer Placement**

1. to develop your understanding further of the nature and importance of parishes' context for their ministry and mission:
  - to develop skills of observation and understanding of a church context \*
  - to develop skills of observation and understanding of a church's life \*\*
  - to appreciate the differences in context between these parishes and your own and their significance
  - to subsequently apply this understanding in your own context.
  
2. to strengthen reflective practice:
  - to learn to make appropriate links between a church's context and relevant theology (and other appropriate disciplines)
  - to gain familiarity with using the Pastoral Cycle, and appreciation of the benefits of doing so.
  
3. to reinforce ministry skills from Year 1:
  - in leading worship
  - in preaching
  - in facilitating adult learningand prepare for ministry skills in Year 2:
  - in understanding local ministry and mission
  - in pastoral care
  
4. to gain experience, under supervision, of some of the roles of the public minister

\* e.g. geographical, social, cultural, demographic, historical

\*\* including the church's theology, spirituality, history, and patterns of relationship, ministry and mission

This is achieved by:

- A placement during the summer between Year 1 and Year 2 of training (i.e. between June and August 2018), in a nearby parish (or group of parishes).
- This parish(es) should contrast to your own in context, and be close enough to be able to travel there easily on a frequent basis.
- The total duration of the placement shouldn't be less than 60 hours. It is up to you (in liaison with the placement incumbent) whether you do this in a concentrated period of a month or spread it out over a longer period.

In the new year, the SWMTC training team will discuss with you possibilities for placements. You will then choose a suitable location in consultation with the Director of Lay Education and the appropriate incumbent.

*What you need to do on the placement:*

a) Observe

- Worship – Sunday worship on at least 4 separate Sundays, including a range of styles of service
- Mission engagement – at least 2 events, of contrasting nature, in which the church engages with its community.
- Church life and community life – the features of each.

b) Discuss

- with the congregation(s) – including their understanding of their church and its contexts, and how they think a Reader's ministry fits into this
- with the incumbent – planning your programme; gaining feedback on your input during the placement; discussing the nature of the parishes and their context; reflecting on all of this, using a journal as a tool. This to include a progress review at the mid-way point, and a final review on the experiences gained
- with others engaged in ministry – as much of the above as appropriate.

c) Do

- Preaching – 1 sermon
- Leading worship – 1 formal service
- Adult learning – lead 1 informal meeting for study and discussion, *or* 1 informal act of worship, and collaborate with other people in the preparation
- Pastoral visits – accompany the incumbent (or another minister) on 4 pastoral visits of contrasting nature (e.g. general pastoral care, pre- and post-funeral visits, visiting the housebound or the sick)
- General unaccompanied visits – if appropriate and in liaison with the incumbent
- Solicit feedback – from the incumbent and the congregation.

d) Reflect and write

- Keep a simple log of each activity you attend or engage in
- Record brief journal notes on each activity, noting particularly your observations and initial connections you make with prior learning
- Write a series of four longer journal reflections through the placement (e.g. weekly), one each on the following topics: i) the context of the parishes' ministry and mission; ii) the expressions of prayer in the parishes, and how prayer is or could be growing; iii) the extent of discipleship in the parishes, and how this is or could be growing; iv) how the churches are 'serving the people of Devon', and how this is or could be growing. (These reflections are not for assessment.)

## *After the placement*

### The student -

- Following the placement you will be required to write a 1,400-word reflection. This will include a theological reflection (of 500 words each) on two of the four topics on which you have written longer journal reflections during the placement; a 200-word comment on your experience of doing this theological reflection; and a 200-word appraisal of your experiences on the Summer Placement as a whole. This will constitute a formative assessment for the Foundations in Reflective Practice module. The deadline will be *Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019*.
- You will subsequently be required to write a 2,500-word theological reflection related to the placement. This forms the Summative assessment for the Foundations in Reflective Practice module (TMM1447). The provisional deadline is *Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019*.

### The placement incumbent (or other minister) -

- The incumbent will write a report on a *pro forma* provided, detailing their perceptions of the student's engagement with the placement, the activities in which they participated, and the student's reflections.
- The report will go to the Director of Lay Education and the student.

## **What the Placement Incumbent needs to do**

1. Liaise with the student to arrange the placement.
2. Meet with the student in advance of the placement to agree a provisional programme.
3. Make the student welcome on the placement, and ensure that the congregations know who the student is and why they are there.
4. Ensure, in liaison with the student, that the placement programme is such that the placement aims and activities can be met.
5. Meet with the student periodically through the placement to discuss and reflect on their observations and learning. This should include a mid-way review and a final review.
6. Following the placement write a report as detailed above.

NB. If it is considered helpful, the incumbent and/or the student may request a three-way meeting with a facilitator (chosen by SWMTC) present. If there are serious concerns about the student's conduct on the placement, the Director of Lay Education should be contacted directly.

*Learning outcomes:*

- the Reader in Training understands something of the opportunities for and challenges of mission in the placement church's context, and the appropriateness (or not) of the church's mission strategy
- the Reader in Training makes connections between his/her theological understandings, the context of the placement, and the realities of ministerial work.
- the Reader in Training has been able to prepare an effective sermon for a new context, and to consider the experience of preaching and leading worship in that context (also the feedback received)
- the Reader in Training has been able to prepare and lead an informal act of worship or meeting for study and discussion, reflect on a collaborative approach to the preparation and consider the possibilities for learning in that setting
- the Reader in Training understands the nature of different sorts of pastoral care which takes place in the parish

DC July 2018