

# DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



## Ministry Experience Scheme



*Interested in Anglican identity in Europe?  
Looking to discern your vocation in the Church of England?  
Explore the Ministry Experience Scheme (MES) in the Diocese in Europe!*

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## Introduction

The Ministry Experience Scheme (MES) in Europe is designed for young people who desire to discern their vocation in the Church of England. In this Scheme, the Church of England offers an opportunity to:

- explore and deepen your faith,
- discern where and to what God might be calling you,
- spend a year learning about yourself and your faith tradition with a caring support structure,
- acquire life-long skills and formative experiences which will enrich your life, discipleship, and faith.

By investing in young people, the Church hopes that some will discern a vocation to ordained ministry and offer themselves for ordination. The scheme is thus intended to assist with a journey of discernment and prepare participants for the demands of the selection process. This preparation is comprised of three elements:

**Chaplaincy work:** Gain practical experience by working as a pastoral assistant with local chaplaincies that exercise a breadth of ministry. Serve the community and gain leadership skills. You will spend about 70% of your working time working directly in the chaplaincy, under the direction of the chaplain.

**Pastoral mentoring:** Seek personal development through regular meetings with a pastoral advisor. Benefit from reflective accompaniment with experienced mentors. This will take about 15% of your working time.

**Theological training:** Learn through monthly tutorials with reputed academics in centres of academic excellence. Take a study pilgrimage to Jerusalem and participate in the annual Diocesan Synod. Taking the year as a whole this educational element will absorb about 15% of your time.

*"The Ministry Experience Scheme has helped me to think about the ways that the church serves its very diverse members from many different traditions. I have seen how different styles of church are necessary to reach as many people as possible in such a multicultural area. In the last few months, I have seen how important the church is in the work with refugees and have even had the privilege of helping to prepare some for baptism and help them with their continued journey of faith."*

*Ali Speed, 2016-2017 MES participant at Holy Trinity Church, Geneva & La Côte, Switzerland*

## Highlights

End of August 2019 *Induction in Rome, the Eternal City*

November 2019 *Study pilgrimage to Jerusalem for ecumenical, interfaith, and biblical learning*

March 2020 *Study meeting in Brussels or alternative location*

May 2020 *Diocesan Synod in Cologne, Germany*

June 2020 *Debrief in Canterbury, the heart of the Anglican Communion*

(Additionally, you may be encouraged to attend an enquirers' weekend or equivalent in London or in your home Diocese).

You can find out more about the experience of current participants by visiting the Ministry Experience Scheme Journal page on the diocesan website. <https://europe.anglican.org/vocations/>

[cemes-journal](#) Future participants will also be asked to offer their contributions and reflections on this page!

## Particulars

**Available locations:** eleven chaplaincies wish to host participants and we have funding from the Ministry Division for eight people:

- Christ Church, Vienna (Austria)
- Holy Trinity Pro-Cathedral, Brussels (Belgium)
- St Paul's, Tervuren (Belgium)
- The English Church, Ostend - Bruges (Belgium)
- Trinity Anglican Church, Lyon (France)
- St Paul's, Athens (Greece)
- St Mark's Church, Florence (Italy)
- Holy Trinity, Utrecht (The Netherlands)
- Christchurch, Amsterdam (The Netherlands)
- St George's, Barcelona (Spain/Catalonia)
- La Côte Anglican Church, near Geneva (Switzerland)

**Eligibility** To apply for the scheme you need to be between 18-29 and to have successfully completed 'A Levels' or equivalent educational qualifications. Most applicants to MES have already spent some time at university or in further education, but we are also interested to consider exceptional candidates who do not have a tertiary qualification.

**Safeguarding:** The diocese adheres to best practice in safeguarding of children young people and vulnerable adults and ensures that checks and training for its participants and supervisors are carried out. All candidates for appointment will be subject to Enhanced disclosure.

**Outcomes and Accountability:** The primary accountability is to the local Chaplain, and the formal responsibility for the wellbeing of the participants is with the local chaplaincy, overseen by the Chaplain. Progress is assessed through reports in December, April and July, with a view to helping participants reflect throughout the year and plan their next steps. A summary of the reports will be sent to the National Young Vocations Adviser. This feedback will be reviewed by the Ministry Experience Scheme Steering Group.

**Grant:** Participants are paid a grant for the ten months September 2019 to the end of June 2020 of £3500 in three termly installments, usually paid in sterling. The grant is not subject to tax or national insurance.

**Accommodation:** The Chaplaincy covers all accommodation as part of the scheme.

**Additional Expenses:** The Chaplaincy covers all costs and agreed expenses, particularly travel, both on chaplaincy business and to and from training sessions which may take place outside the Chaplaincy. For UK residents to retain UK residence status it is necessary to spend the two weeks after Christmas back in the UK on leave, ensuring that health coverage continues under the EICH scheme. Europe residents must provide their own health insurance.

**Work and leave expectations:** The participants will have one full day off a week and study days as agreed with the local Theological Training Supervisor. There will be two weeks off after Christmas and a week off after Easter. Time will be authorised for necessary visits to Directors of Ordinands or College visits, and by agreement for other needs.

## Jerusalem Pilgrimage

In November 2017 and 2018 the MES participants in the Diocese in Europe took part in a study pilgrimage to Jerusalem and the Holy Land. Accompanied by their mentors, they explored and reflected upon several dimensions of what it may mean to call this land holy: the sites which commemorate fundamental events in the life of Jesus Christ; the importance and difficulties of ongoing Christian presence in the land; the complicated and sometimes competitive interreligious dimensions; the political and social realities in Israel and Palestine today. The pilgrimage formed a key formational experience, as one participant said, "The messiness of the incarnation has become more real for me," and another, "I find myself looking at the Bible in new and different ways." The intention is to organise a similar pilgrimage in 2019.

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## Discernment

We invite you to explore the varied experience of Anglican chaplaincies in continental Europe as you discern! The formational hopes for MES in the Diocese in Europe are rooted in the nine criteria used as part of the process of selection for ordination. We will seek to help you discern your Christian vocation and to form your faith within the context of contemporary Europe.

Reflect on your **Vocation** with the significant support from a well-tuned formational team consisting of chaplains, a pastoral advisor and an educational supervisor. You will benefit from learning about, experiencing and exercising a great variety of ministries expanding your vision of vocation in the church.

Develop **Experience in the Church of England** through an appreciation of the Anglican experience abroad, a break from the norm and a chance to be formed as a disciple of Christ. The continental context provides a colourful ecumenical experience as all of our chaplaincies are part of a broader ecumenical scene, frequently acting as key ecumenical interlocutors with the host churches in Europe. Anglican churches that cater to all churchmanships under one roof are the norm in the Diocese in Europe, where the nearest alternative parish might be several hundred kilometres away! This provides a critical model of the Anglican way and a chance to participate in meaningful ecumenical dialogue. Meanwhile, for European participants seeking experience in the UK context, a placement opportunity in a lively London training parish will round out experience of the Church of England in the UK.

**Spirituality** forms the bedrock of the assignment. The daily office and regular Sunday and weekday Communion services provide the public framework of worship. You are encouraged to keep a private journal for reflection. Weekly supervision with your respective chaplain is necessary and enables you to reflect not only on parish business, but on the spiritual implications of the work you're participating in.

*"I recommend MES to anyone looking for hands-on experience of both the exceptional and mundane aspects of church ministry. By 'exceptional' ministry, I mean opportunities to accompany parishioners through grief, transitions, marriage, and confirmation; opportunities to attend synods and hear how God is moving in the church; opportunities to represent the Anglican church at ecumenical events. But equally important has been the 'mundane' ministry: the ministry of punctuating each day with the office, the ministry of taking meeting minutes, the ministry of washing up after coffee and tea, the ministry of folding orders of service (there is so much folding in the church!). As a young person who has a sense of vocation, it would be tempting to enjoy only exceptional ministry opportunities, but MES offers an additional groundedness. During this year, I will have lived with the mundane as well as the exceptional. Through MES I gained a realistic sense of the life God has called me to live. As a result, I have been able to confidently say "yes" to God and begin interviews with my DDO. It is exciting for me to have clear next steps for my discernment process post-MES, steps which might not have been laid out yet had it not been for this internship."*

*Annie Bolger, 2016-2017 MES participant at St Martha & St Mary's Church, Leuven*

**Faith, Mission and Evangelism** and **Quality of Mind** are important criteria that will show how suited you might be for deployable ministry. The context of the Diocese in Europe chaplaincies is entirely missional: our churches are open and welcoming to all but not proselytising, and all our chaplaincies have large numbers of local members. Interpreting the unique Anglican ecclesial tradition in this context relies on having mature faith, with a careful and sensitive grasp of how to evangelise, and be evangelised to, in unexpected ways.

The regular supervisions with the chaplain and pastoral advisor will give you the occasion to reflect upon the development of **Personality and Character**. You will be given space for growth in self-awareness, brought about by community life and a challenging new context. The MES insistence on consistent reflective practice will sow the seeds a lifetime of careful self-evaluation and heightened self-knowledge. The scheme is also designed to help you learn how to forge excellent working **Relationships** and to understand the issues of transference and projection that are part of pastoral relationships. Cross-cultural communication and friendships will call forth your relational skills and equip you for future work in diverse settings. Living abroad may be quite different from your previous experience, be that work or university, and engaging new ways of relating to others through cultural and linguistic barriers will be integral to the assignment. This will have an immediate impact on your ability to **Collaborate and Exercise Leadership**. In the past, interns in Europe have been asked to lead home groups, work with youth, plan church retreats, observe parochial church council meetings, organise refugee relief and more, furnishing participants with abundant leadership experience.

## Brexit

Brexit has probably crossed your mind as you consider an assignment on the continent! You might be wondering what the future holds for the Anglican churches in Europe. Far from quitting Europe, the enduring presence and activity of the Church of England is expanding in mission and reach here. This is a vital moment for young Anglican people to explore their Christian vocation within the framework of the remarkable ministerial opportunities in continental Europe. Join us in this challenging and rewarding work!





## Contact

To apply, please contact the scheme coordinator:  
Dr Clare Amos

[Clare.amos@europe.anglican.org](mailto:Clare.amos@europe.anglican.org)

Clare lives and works in both Geneva and in the United Kingdom so email is the easiest method of contact. If you wish to speak on the phone, send her an email and she will gladly phone you for a discussion.

Applicants must be between 18-29 and open to discovering their Christian vocation. All applicants are subject to enhanced safe-guarding disclosure, which for European residents involves a police check and the usual safeguarding declaration, administered by our diocesan office in London and is fully compliant with the highest standards of Safer Recruitment.