Team Curates

The Revd Yunghee Koh was the first curate to be appointed as a team curate rather than to St Marys. Her working pattern for the first 18 months of her curacy was to be based at St Mary's under the supervision of the Rector, but to participate and support worship in the other churches of the team two Sundays a month.

From Christmas 2018 she became curate with special responsibility for St Johns until September 2019 when the new Team Vicar at St John's was appointed.

She will now spend the majority of her time at St Mary's but is the first port of call to cover holidays and other absence in the team until she completes her curacy unless another church in the team falls vacant, at which point I would expect her to take on a similar roll there to the one she did for St Johns.

The principle behind having team curates is that they are team assets and team liabilities. Team curates will be based at the church which their training incumbent is based at and will add value there, but it should be noted that curates, especially in their deacon year take up more time than they are able to contribute and only become an asset once ordained priest and as they mature in their ministry. The primary role of any curate is to learn how to be and be formed into a priest. They are not an extra pair of hands, although generally they become a valuable asset as they develop. Training a curate should be seen primarily as a service to the wider church which may bring some benefits to the training parish.

Seeing curates as a team resource means that the placement of curates should not always be with the team Rector, but that any Team Vicar may approach the Team Rector about the possibility of having a curate. Curates will always have a single, designated training incumbent in the team. The PCC should make the final decision about applying for a curate.

Principles around the deployment of Team Curates

Curates are here being trained as a service to the wider church. The guiding principle behind their deployment must be their development and well-being as ministers in the church.

Applications for a curate are agreed with the Team Rector in the first instance and then by the PCC with due regard to the resources they will require.

A team curate will be based at a particular church in the team under the supervision of the incumbent of that church, who overseas and agrees their deployment.

Team curates are expected to take a share in leading occasional offices across the team and to be regularly involved in Evensong at St Mary's.

After their Deacon year they should expect to be the first port of call to cover holidays in churches across the team and they should be regularly involved in worship across the churches of the team, preaching and leadings worship as they develop. They exact balance of time in their home church and in team churches may vary as their experience grows and in accordance with their needs.

Team Curates should support projects and ministry across the team and should take the opportunity to learn from all the incumbents in the team.

As curates grow in experience and develop, they are also ideal candidates to take over ministering to churches in the team during a vacancy. Any arrangement will need to be agreed with the team Rector and the Bishop of Kingston in consultation with the Training Incumbent and the Curate.