

Hatfield Ministry Experience Scheme – testimonials from the 2019-20 team



Hi, I'm Joseph, I'm an ordinand starting training at the College of the Resurrection Mirfield, in September 2020. My time with the HMES was a fantastic and unique opportunity to get a practical and immersive experience of ministry. I thoroughly appreciated my dual post style experience, working at the University of Hertfordshire and St John's, Hatfield.

I really appreciated the support, wisdom and guidance that the scheme offered. As well as giving me time to discern vocation with God, I felt valued and trusted to utilise my skills in practically supporting the day to day ministry. It was the perfect opportunity to prepare for BAP and grow in Christian ministry.

Moreover, the opportunity to serve in two missional contexts was inspiring. I loved the unique pioneering environments which taught me so much about making new disciples while empowering current disciples to flourish. It taught me a great deal about what church is and can be, broadening my perspective and deepening my relationship with God.

A lasting impact was largely the fantastic and supportive team I worked with. Through these positive Christian friendships, I was gifted with a new Church family who will continue to inspire, pray for and support me through my ministry. I recommend it as a unique, grounding, and outstanding opportunity for anyone discerning any variety of Christian ministry.

This year has surprised me in every possible way. I wasn't expecting it be such a fantastic experience, but also such a learning curve. When I went into this with St John's I just assumed we'd go in launch a new service and that would be it, but it was so much more than that. I really got to know a church full of incredible people and I got to work with some incredible children and get to know them and have the freedom to create a kids work programme that was tailored to them. Something that I cannot wait to expand over the next year.

For me this year has seen significant mental health problems and I can't get over how loved and held I've been by the team at St John's. They met me where I was and supported me so that I could carry on my work at St John's and that's something I really wasn't expecting. They also continuously prayed for me and pointed me to scripture or just reminded me they were holding me in their prayers. They got alongside me and in doing so allowed me to stay working in a place I loved



If I'm really honest I think it's just helped open doors to a vocation that I wouldn't have expected myself to go into before this year. It's helped me understand what it's like to work for and with a church and where my gifting could be, but also to try out areas I never thought would be my gifting.

Hannah



Having struggled to know what God was calling me to, I joined the Ministry Experience Scheme to see if he was calling me to Church ministry. I had always thought that God was calling me to work for his Church but, I just didn't know if it was something that I was able to do.

My year on the Ministry Experience Scheme was a year of growing and learning so much about God, about leadership and about myself. This year will teach you so much practically of what it's like to be part of the leadership of a Church, and as you lead and trust him, you'll grow so much spiritually.

A major part of my ministry on the course was being part of a team setting up a new evening service, whilst also working with the existing morning congregation. As these two services are different expressions of Church, it allowed me to deepen my understanding of Christianity, by immersing myself in a different way of doing Church. Another part of my ministry was being able to be part of the Chaplaincy team at the University of Hertfordshire, where you learn how to do ministry in a secular environment.

The experience and investment that I have received this year has been incredible, and absolutely vital in my journey of understanding what God's calling me to.

James