

Role of the Curate at St Paul's Anglican Church

The term "Curate" (as found in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer) has historically meant the incumbent of a benefice; that is, the person licensed by the diocesan Bishop to the "cure of souls." At St. Paul's, the Curate is the junior member of the staff clergy team (akin to an assistant pastor). The Curate serves for a term no longer than three years.

The office of the Curate at St. Paul's provides comprehensive training and equipment (not unlike an apprenticeship or medical residency) in a dynamic Church and School setting.

It is understood that the Curate is to be lawfully obedient to the diocesan Bishop and to the Rector. As a member of the Clergy team, the Curate will be called to worship, preach, teach, and offer pastoral care to the Parish and its members, and execute other ministries that are assigned by the Rector.

Character of the Curate

- Devout follower of Christ
- Desires to be "diligent in prayers, and in reading of the Holy Scriptures, and in such studies as help to the knowledge of the same" (BCP)
- Person of integrity and lawfully obedient to Rector
- Follows the moral teaching of the Scripture
- Organized, punctual, reliable, and manages-time well.
- Driven to learn and gain education (Teachable)
- Presentable, polite, and well-groomed
- Character in accordance to 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Acts 6:3
- Can articulate their sense of call by God into ordained ministry
- Heart for evangelism and discipleship, outgoing and approachable
- Can work in a team setting, alongside other clergy, teachers, and lay leaders

The focus ministries for the Curate are:

1. Worship

Sundays, Midweek

- Regularly celebrating, preaching, or otherwise assisting at Sunday services, as well as any mid-week and special services
- Presiding or assisting at baptisms, weddings, and funerals as required
- Providing oversight to the acolyte ministry and caring for Church property.

2. Pastoral Care & Parish Life

- Organizing regular parish events and visits for persons of all ages ; cultivates a sense of ownership in the care of various institutional events and facilities.
- Vestry: (preparing Curate report, participating as non-voting observer)

- Church Teaching: Occasional teaching within the Adult Education time as well as other bible study opportunities as directed.

3. Assisting the Rector

- The curate is appointed by and is accountable to the Rector, and extends and supports the Rector's ministry in the parish, community, and diocese.
- Under the Rector's supervision and authority, the curate shares in the responsibilities of pastoral care, faith formation, and administration of the Sacraments.
- Consulting regularly with the rector, reflecting on the changing needs of the congregation, its context and culture, and how the congregation can grow in numbers, service, and spirituality.
- The curate works with other school and volunteer staff, exercising lead responsibility in tasks and areas assigned by the Rector.

Additional responsibilities

- Attending diocesan synod as a voting member of the House of Clergy
- An annual ministry review will be conducted with the Rector.
- Diocesan responsibilities as requested by the Bishop (and approved by Rector)
- Guarding the Faith under the direction of the Bishop and Rector
- Keeping healthy vocational and family boundaries and schedules
- Ministry within the wider REC and Anglican church community with Rector's consent