



**St John the Evangelist
Bridge Street
Derby DE1 1DY**



Hello, I'm Cath Hollywell your new curate and I'm delighted to be coming to St John's. I feel very privileged to be able to serve my curacy with Elaine and to learn, work and worship with you, the members of the congregation as well as the wider community.

I'm originally from Merseyside and have lived in London, Lancashire, York and Manchester. I trained and worked as a drama therapist in the early nineties and lived in L'Arche, an inclusive Christian community for people with learning difficulties in Liverpool.

I've also worked in secondary education as a drama teacher in Wigan and Manchester (where I was an assistant head teacher) involved in using drama and theatre to promote and enable peace-making with individuals, groups and families.

A turning point came for me as a result of my involvement in Continuing Indaba (a project organised by the Anglican Communion to discover *if* and *how* 'unity in our diversity' was possible between Anglicans of very different traditions) which took a group of us from Derby Diocese to the Dioceses of New York and India.

I live in Spondon with my husband Julian (who is vicar of St Werburgh's and Rural Dean) and our 16 year old daughter Lily who is at NCN studying A' levels and our 2 dogs, (a retired greyhound and mad corgi.)

What congregations can do to help train a Curate

A Curate is deployed to a training parish for two reasons:

1. There is a minister suitable to act as a Training Priest;
2. The parish itself is healthy and able to provide a variety and range of opportunities for the Curate.

Alongside these features, a training parish has to pay the expenses of a Curate in full, and to allow the Curate and Training Priest to spend time out of the parish as part of their development.

As well as this, there are other things that a congregation can do that will play a vitally important part in helping to train a curate.

1. **Tell Them When They've Got it Right.** Affirm and encourage your Curate. Tell them why it worked and how it helped (be as clear and specific as you can). If you have more negative feedback, offer it to the Training Priest who can decide what best to do with it.
2. **Try New Ideas.** A Curate should come with lots of new ideas. Some sound mad and are in fact brilliant. Some sound really challenging, but will transform the life of the church. Some are just bad ideas. You won't know which are the brilliant and transformational ideas unless you try them!

3. **Share your Jobs and Wisdom.** A Curate needs to do things. Please give them a chance to do things, even if that is normally your role. And share the wisdom you have accrued from the ministries that you are involved in.
4. **Be Generous with your Time.** Both the Curate and the Training Priest will need your patience as they take on new roles. Support them in this.
5. **Value Mistakes.** Mistakes are vital to learning. If your Curate never makes a mistake they will never learn! Mistakes are important things, and should be valued.
6. **Learn with your Curate.** Having someone in training is a chance for the whole church to reflect and learn from one another, from the things that you do together, and from the Spirit of God calling us out and on.
7. **Pray.** Do this regularly. Pray for the Curate, their family, the Training Priest, and for one another. God has many gifts to give us and many lessons to teach us. Pray that we all might be open to receiving and learning.

Thank you, on behalf of the Diocese and the whole Church of God, for all you will contribute to the training of this Curate.

A Prayer for Curacy

God of all wisdom,
whose Son, Jesus Christ, calls us to be his disciples;
form and teach us through the places
and people to whom you call us,
help us to learn from one other and from you,
that we may grow in discipleship, serve your Church,
and ever be renewed as ministers of your Kingdom;
we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,
our Teacher, Shepherd and Lord. Amen.

Ten 'Top Tips' for Supporting a Curate

1. Pray for Cath and for her family.
2. Don't expect Cath to know your name - each time you meet her begin by telling her who you are.
3. Offer information to Cath and her family – they are new to the church and to the area.
4. Invite Cath and her family to your home, but not just in the first week!
5. Respect Cath's day off – which is a Monday.
6. Take risks in ministry with Cath.
7. Be ready to learn yourself, as an individual and as part of the congregation.
8. Don't compare Cath to anyone else. She is Cath, that's who God made her to be.
9. Allow Cath to show you new things – she brings a whole host of riches to share.
10. Enjoy having Cath as your curate. Her time with you is limited.

**Why not put this leaflet with your Bible
or in the place that you pray to remind you
to pray regularly for Cath and her family?**