

The Canterbury Diet for Youth Ministers

The Canterbury Diet principles should be applied to Youth Ministers (paid and voluntary).

NOTE: Where a Youth Minister is an employee of the PCC (or some other Body) employment law will apply, especially in relation to recruitment, employment contracts and related policies.

You are encouraged to attend to these three Golden Threads throughout:

Golden Threads: How are prayer and spiritual practices being developed? How am I learning and reflecting on ministry practice? How are we attending to good relationships and collaborative ministry?
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Youth Ministers are commissioned in their local church by the incumbent, archdeacon or Bishop
Prior to commissioning: the Incumbent and Diocese draw up a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) , the incumbent and Youth Minister draw up a Ministry Agreement , the Youth Minister should seek Spiritual Accompaniment
Youth Ministers are accountable to their local parish/PCC and should participate in regular meetings with their incumbent and report on their ministry to the PCC as agreed in their ministry agreement.
Youth Ministers participate in ministry-specific ministerial development such as Diocesan Networking YM meetings and the Rochester-Canterbury Employed Workers networking days (employed youth ministers only)
Employed Youth Ministers participate in 6-weekly Supervision sessions with the Diocesan Lead Officer for Children and Youth Ministry
Youth Ministers participate in relevant Continuing Ministry Development (CMD) Events At advertised days and times
Every 3 years complete the mandatory disclosure checks and refresher training related to Safeguarding
Commissioning and MoU Review This takes place every 3 years and will be initiated by the Diocesan Lead Officer for Children Youth Ministry, incumbent and PCC
The Review may lead to Re-Commissioning by the incumbent in the local church and will include updating the MoU and ministry agreement

Notes:

1. The word '**diet**' comes from the Greek *diaita*, which means 'way of life.'
2. **Golden Threads** - throughout the *Canterbury Diet* three key questions are attended to at every stage and are crucial for ministerial development through reflective practice:
 - a. How are prayer and spiritual practices being developed?
 - b. How am I learning and reflecting on ministry practice?
 - c. How are we attending to good relationships and collaborative ministry?

3. **The Children and Youth Ministry Team.** This is led by Jen Tobin (Lead Officer for Children and Youth Ministry); on behalf of the bishop, they oversee Youth Ministry in the diocese and are available to provide advice on good practice.
4. **Ministry Agreement.** Prior to commissioning Youth Ministers draw up a ministry agreement with their incumbent; this should be approved by the PCC.
5. **Spiritual Accompaniment/Direction.** The Diocese has a network of experienced Spiritual Accompaniers and Advisors. The point of contact is Revd Dr Susanne Carlsson susannecarlssons@hotmail.co.uk who oversees the network.
6. **Networking YM Meetings.** These are convened by the Diocesan Children and Youth Ministry Team offering advice and support in a learning environment. These are usually in person and take place at least 3 times a year.
7. **National Safeguarding Framework.** Youth Ministers, who are locally recognised lay ministers, should liaise with their parish safeguarding officers to ensure their DBS check and training is current and up to date. They will usually be reminded of this by their parish safeguarding officer in good time.
8. **Continuing Ministerial Development (CMD).** Youth Ministers are encouraged to attend CMD events which are relevant to their ministry context.

Jen Tobin, Lead Officer for Children and Youth Ministry
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