



# PLACEMENT PROVIDER PROFILE

**DATE:**

30/05/2024

**PLACEMENT AT:**

Working with Ray Flux and churches in Northwood, at LST

**WEBSITE (if applicable)****SUPERVISOR'S NAME:**

Mr Raymond Flux

**CONTACT NUMBER:**

07831439668

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**DESCRIPTION OF PLACEMENT ORGANISATION AND PROPOSED ROLE:****Background**

Six churches\* in Northwood (some of which accommodate more than one congregation) work largely in isolation in developing their programmes and service to the community. Several of these churches are aging and shrinking in their membership such that staffing their programmes and work is problematic. The demographic in Northwood has changed significantly in recent years and the Christian presence in the town, which once was notable, is now greatly diminished. Greater cooperation between churches in their programmes could significantly increase the offering to the non-Christian community without further stretching resources. Such cooperation may also promote the unity among Christians which the New Testament repeatedly emphasises as a key characteristic of Jesus-centred community life.

\* LST might be regarded as a seventh specialised "church community".

**The proposed work**

1. establishing contacts with the six churches in Northwood (more than ten congregations)
2. gathering information about their regular offerings of service and fellowship to the community as well as special events and celebrations they plan
3. exploring ways to publish this combined programme which makes it accessible and effective for use in the churches and for reaching the community
4. reflective learning about the benefits, difficulties and resistances to undertaking this work.

**Requirements of the student**

The student undertaking this placement would need to be aligned with the vision for this work and its experimental nature. They would need to be energetic and committed, and able to withstand (with support) setbacks and frustrations. Their gifting might be in making contacts and relationships to collect information from the churches, organising and displaying data, promoting events or lines of cooperation between churches, but it would not need to be all of these. Understanding these elements in the whole programme of work would be important. The student would be encouraged to be reflective about the work and to capture what we are learning about the benefits for churches and the community in sharing this information, as well as the barriers and difficulties encountered. Ideally, they would live quite locally.

### Support and benefits to the student

Provided the student engaged was “energetic and committed” they would receive support in whichever aspects of the work they undertook (determined by their interest and gifting) and learning from the whole programme. Minimally this would involve close working with Ray Flux, but also other faculty and community members who may wish to participate. Ray has many years’ experience coaching individuals and teams using reflective action learning approaches. Progress in the programme over the year will be recorded and written up with special reference to aspects of the role and work undertaken by the student. Learning from the year’s work would be directly relevant and transferrable to almost any urban Christian setting in the UK.

### **LOCATION:**

LST and churches in Northwood

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