

Article for Cathedral newsletter.....or whatever is most suitable!

Placement in a time of COVID – a whole new experience

1. Please indicate the candidate's initial hopes and expectations of the placement

- *The main goal is to experience, appreciate and understand worship in a Cathedral setting in a majestic and awe-inspiring building with a large, trained choir.*
- *Learn how to sing Evensong*

This was the start of the text in my placement application form written so many months ago. At a time when it seemed impossible to imagine that we would possibly still be locked down and locked out. How wrong I was!!

I was very excited to be coming to the Cathedral for my final year placement. In second year, I had been based in St Cuthbert's Colinton and they had the unenviable task of taking on someone who would best be described as 'liturgically limited'. However, they more than rose to the challenge and by the time I left I had gained a whole new vocabulary, had got to grips with robes and was ready for the next challenge.

I love worship and all kinds of music and I would have to say that the choir was a huge draw. My bottom lip was more than quivering when I realised that I would be limited to humming behind a checked face mask. And no Christmas carols, or Advent Service..... 😞

However, I would have to say that my experience, despite the COVID enforced limitations, has been very positive. I have enjoyed the variety; tackling an online Service of the Word (although I could not feel my feet after recording it!), contributing to the intercessions, the silence and peace of the 8 o'clock service and preaching in a pulpit higher than anything I have ever experienced. It was great to join Morning and Evening Prayer online occasionally and then to spend time interviewing a variety of people who had experienced this on Zoom. These conversations were incredibly enriching and encouraging. People have come to the cathedral from so many different places and yet we found things in common, from other churches attended to a shared love of Walter Brueggemann's writings.

Thank you to all of you for welcoming me warmly and encouraging me when I was involved in the services. Thank you especially to Marion who, as my supervisor has kept me on the right track and been a great support in these challenging times.

I am sure that our paths will cross again. Not least because I am going to have to come back and learn to sing Evensong.