

- *Investment brings new training and support for Interim Ministry.*
- *Data shows accelerating use of IM across 80% of dioceses.*
- *IM Focus and IM Viewpoint – Durham's Interim Change Ministers*

New investment for Interim Ministry

Cranmer Hall and Ripon College Cuddesdon have secured three-year funding from The Church of England RMF Innovations Fund to develop for a new national programme of training and support for Interim Ministry.

Funding will be used to develop a national centre for IM based at Cranmer Hall, St John's College, Durham, and will establish standards of practice and a 'College of IM Practitioners'. The partnership will support training both in person and online in northern and southern provinces.

Revd Helen

Gheorghiu Gould has been appointed to lead the project as its first Director of Interim Ministry Training.

Revd Dr Nick Moore, Warden of Cranmer Hall, said: "We are thrilled at Helen's appointment, she brings a wide experience of interim ministry and a deep spirituality, and is perfectly placed to be an advocate, mentor, and guide for this mode of ministry which is set to become increasingly important for the church. It is wonderful, 10 years after the Church of England made interim ministry possible, to have the prospect of training and support offered nationally. It is exciting to see the national church working with our theological centres of excellence to deliver this."



Revd Dr Harriet Harris MBE, Principal of Ripon College Cuddesdon, commented: "Cuddesdon is proud to be the southern partner with Cranmer in this enterprise, and we look forward to receiving and equipping clergy for the much-needed work of Interim Ministry."

Interim Ministry Vacancies:

Durham: Interim Change Minister – 7-year full-time appointment. Closing: TBC 2026 [Click Here](#)

Liverpool: Interim Team Vicar – 3-year, full-time stipendiary role. Closing: 28 September. [Click Here](#)

Southwell & Nottingham: Interim Mission Associate – 3-year, full-time. Closing: 7 October. [Click Here:](#)

Rochester: Interim Priest-in-charge – 3-year, full-time stipendiary role. Closing: 28 October. [Click Here:](#)

Liverpool: Interim Priest-in-charge dual role – 3-year, full-time stipendiary role. Closing: 1st November. [Click Here](#)

Leeds: Interim Associate Vicar 0.5 stipendiary role. Closing 30th November: [Click Here](#)

Data shows surge in use of IM

New data from appointments in Interim Ministry shows increased use of Interim Ministry across the Church of England, with 80% of dioceses now making IM appointments.

Data shows 255 appointments were advertised between 2018-2026; 90% of these were made since 2021. Since 2023 appointments have been accelerating with 53 in 2025 and even more new IM roles expected in 2026.

Some 55% of appointments were in the Canterbury Province and 40% in the province of York. Significant numbers of appointments have been made in Leeds, Oxford, York, Lincoln, Lichfield, Norwich and Manchester.

More 'hidden' appointments may have been made, because not all IM appointments are advertised. Data is based on recruitment adverts in Church of England Pathways and Church Times.

Uncertainty about parish finance, and the need to make sure posts are sustainable before making a long-term commitment, may be contributing to this increase. But there are also signs that dioceses are making more intentional use of IM as a strategy to manage change, by securing funding for IM posts as part of Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB) programmes.

Innovative use is also emerging from diocesan strategies for 'healthy' parish development, such as in the Diocese of Durham, which has appointed a team of Interim Change Ministers to well-funded 7-year posts.

(See *IM Focus and IM Viewpoint*, Michaelmas 2026)

Subsidised training for IM

A new training programme for Interim Ministry will launch this autumn, offering online and in-person training.

Training for Transition will offer about 28-hours of part-time training, including of webinars on the theory of IM or 'Core Skills'; with a 3-day programme (online and in-person) of practical skills and tools or 'Process skills'. Training will be fully subsidised for the first 12-months. IM Participants will be connected for collaborative learning.

You can find out more at two online sessions:

Welcome to Interim Ministry on Monday October 19th 2-4pm [BOOK](#) and Thursday October 22nd 6-8pm [BOOK](#)

The first skills training webinar, **Managing Change and Transition in Church**, will be in November 2026.

We are exploring **in-person training in February 2027**. Register your interest at interim.ministry@durham.ac.uk

Coming Soon... The IM Resources Hub website and The IM Source Book is moving to Cranmer Hall website. The site address will remain unchanged: www.interimministry.org.uk