

Preaching and Church Placements

Preaching Opportunities

As a student at London Seminary, you are likely to have increasing opportunities to preach at different churches on Sundays. Approaches from churches which are looking for preachers often come to the Seminary. As churches get to know you, they will also begin to approach you directly.

The Seminary receives many requests from churches to supply preachers for Sunday (and sometimes midweek) ministry, which we consider carefully. You may be asked to take some such preaching engagements. It is a privilege to serve the church as a visiting preacher. It broadens your experience and fosters links with the wider church in the UK. It is also a valuable opportunity to gain experience of preaching and leading a service. Students often find that churches they visit will maintain an interest in, and support them in prayer during and after their time at seminary. It is through preaching as a visitor that many students make their first contact with the church to which they are eventually called.

Please be careful though not to take on too many preaching engagements, especially during term-time, as this will impair your ability to make the most of your studies here – time which you are unlikely to be able to repeat in the future. We suggest that you take on very little, if any, preaching in the first term of your first year. Subsequently, we advise you to limit yourself to preaching on no more than two Sundays in a month during term-time.

We hope that students will soon be able to place a brief personal profile on a secure part of the London Seminary website, to which church officers will have access, to enable them to contact students as potential preachers and pastors. In return, students will have access to the profiles of the churches which are using the website in this way.

Church Placements

Church placements will run for three weeks during the Spring term. The dates for the current year are given on p. 3 of the student handbook. More information about the workings of the scheme will be provided in the autumn term.

Summer Vacation

The summer vacation, between the years of the course, is an opportunity to engage in a sustained period of practical work in Gospel ministry (for example mission work, student work, or working with a local church). You might also consider writing up a piece of in-depth research on a relevant subject. Vacations are also a useful time for consolidating your studies from the previous term, particularly in biblical languages. Give this some thought beforehand, so as to discuss during the summer term, with the Principal or Vice-Principal, how you plan to spend the vacation (including some rest and relaxation!).