

Charter Practices : A Day of Rest

We believe in the biblical principle of a Sabbath day of rest each week. As those involved in ministry are often working on a Sunday, our children's, youth and family ministers will be expected to take another 24 hour period clear from work.

Jesus taught that the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath (Mark 2:27-28). He also illustrates that the day of rest was to serve people's well-being. In demonstrating mercy and compassion on the Sabbath he shows that it is not a ritualistic demand, but God's loving provision for us to live well (Matthew 12:11-13)

(Start Here) : *Just adopted the charter? It isn't about agreeing with a document, but more about the way the practices become part of our church life together and shape the kind of support we offer to both salaried and volunteer children's and youth ministers. 'Start Here' is a straightforward way of putting the charter in to practice.*

Starting Practice -

- Our employed minister(s) supervisor / line manager regularly checks that they are taking an appropriate amount of time off, including their weekly rest day.

(Developed practice) : *Keen to move things along? Once the starting practices have become embedded, start to add the following when you feel ready.*

Developed Practice -

- We make allowance for rest days to be changed to accommodate special events or training.
- We have established a rota of individuals to be "on call" during the children's, youth, family ministers rest day to deal with any emergencies or pastoral issues that might come up.
- Where the work requires extended hours for our children's, youth or family minister (e.g. a youth weekend away, summer camp) we make provision for time off in lieu. This time recognise that, when away with children or young people, the employed minister is also away overnight and this taken in to consideration when lieu time is granted.
- We have put in place a pattern of rest for extended times of sabbath once a term and a retreat once a year.

(Add your own) : *The starting and developing practices are ideas to get you off and running, we would love you to add your own practices and then share them with us so we can share them with others.*


