



Taking our next steps towards:
 - deeper faith in Christ,
 - welcome and belonging
 - shining God's light.



Walton-on-Thames St Mary's and St John's

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Role Description for Associate Minister with particular responsibility for the Discipleship of adults and children, oversight of youth ministry and schools' ministry

This role is an exciting new appointment with a particular focus on streamlining our outreach and discipleship to the many couples and children who come along to the church through a weekly Intergenerational service started post-Covid.

You will share in worship leading and in high level strategic leadership with the Vicar, two Associate Ministers, a Curate, a Community Engagement officer and a team of experienced lay people.

The parish of Walton on Thames has a population of 26,000 people, with an unusually high number of young families. It is a 25 minute train journey to London. The town is well provided with schools and leisure activities, and the river Thames provides a lovely setting for walks.

Our Vision is:

“Taking our next steps towards deeper faith in Christ, welcome and belonging and shining God’s light in our local community.”

This gives us a springboard for action in three key areas. We review our priorities annually.

Our Five priorities for the year ahead

1. Building our discipleship and worship including:
 - a. Refreshing worship and discipleship for youth and older primary children.
 - b. Pursuing investigation into removing pews at St Mary’s
2. Building up our church community and surrounding everything we do with prayer.
3. Building our links with the local community especially around St John’s church.
4. Building a strong team of lay, ordained, paid and unpaid ministry based on people’s gifts.
5. Generous giving linked to our purpose undergirding all we do.

Embedding Eco-church in everything we do.

Worship

The church has a wide range of service styles. There are six regular congregations across our two church sites. These are weekly:

9am	St Mary’s	Traditional, reflective with Holy Communion
10.15am	St Mary’s hall	Intergenerational seeker service
10.30am	St John’s	Community focussed, Morning Praise with Communion monthly
7.00pm	St Mary’s	Contemporary worship with sermon and discussion
Thursday morning	St Mary’s	Said Communion
Friday morning	St John’s	Toddler Praise

...and Monthly:

Messy church Saturday once a month

‘Together at 10’ - Joint Service for all in St Mary’s church

‘The 4’ – service at St John’s for families with older children

There is a weekly Youth Group on Monday nights and a monthly Seniors group on Saturday mornings.

We run no Sunday schools at present. We encourage families to learn together. Many of them come due to the Admissions policy of the local Church of England school. This is a huge mission opportunity for us. We invite them to the Alpha course, which God has used powerfully over the last twenty five years. We then invite them to the Bible course and Prayer course and many have found a lasting faith and have “stuck” with the church.

Outreach and community involvement

The church has regular involvement in civic services, annual town-wide events and three local primary schools. St John’s church hosts the Food bank and we have a weekly Community café running alongside this to provide a service for the community. A weekly Breakfast club for parents and toddlers has been over-subscribed since it started 18 months ago. This could feed into Messy church.

The Associate Minister Role

Worship, Teaching and Discipleship

Preaching and leading in all services are integral to this role. You will oversee the eight Life Groups, supporting and encouraging them in spiritual growth and pastoral care.

Families

Your role is key to the mission among young families who come to the Intergenerational service. You will lead and develop this service with a team, spend time with families encouraging them in making faith a vital part of their family life and encouraging adults to take their own spiritual growth seriously. You will also take part in the monthly ‘Together at 10’ and ‘The 4’ Services for all. You will develop discipleship groups for older primary age children to supplement the worship offered on Sundays.

You will work closely with the Toddler Praise team, the Family Outreach team who lead Messy Church and an annual Holiday club, which reach out to families on the St John’s Estate.

Youth

You will oversee the refreshing of the Youth ministry. The Youth minister left post in March 2023. There is a regular core of 12 young people meeting weekly and there are three committed co-leaders. There is a real opportunity to develop the Youth work which has diminished since before Covid.

Schools ministry

You will oversee the thriving ministry to three local Primary schools both in Assemblies and school visits. There is a new secondary school with whom links could be made.

Person Specification

- Passionate about God; a contagious, mature Christian with a story to tell about your life and walk with Jesus.
- A heart to bring adults, youth and children to a lasting faith. A self-starter able to build a team of lay people.
- Eager to learn and grow in your strategic leadership abilities alongside the incumbent and work with the Leadership Team, while also taking on significant leadership responsibility.
- An excellent, confident communicator who can connect with a wide range of people at different stages of their discipleship journeys.
- Mission-minded and adaptable.
- A sense of humour, good pastoral skills and a range of life experience would be valuable.
- Experience with working in a secular or church context with children and young people is essential.
- Experience of implementing a safeguarding policy
- We will consider an ordained person or lay person with relevant Theological training.
- We would consider part-time working or job-sharing.
- The post is subject to a three-year license, due to the fact that it has been designated as a Locally Supported Ministry post, which is renewable.

Housing

A three-bedroom parish house in the parish is available as part of the employment agreed package.

Terms and conditions of Employment

For an Ordained person, the stipend for an Associate Minister is set by the Diocese of Guildford, subject to annual increments in accordance with Diocesan policy and is payable through the Diocesan payroll. The Associate Minister's pension is also within the Diocesan Clergy Scheme. This post is subject to Enhanced DBS clearance