



## **Role Description for Associate Minister with responsibility for the discipleship of adults and children, oversight of youth and schools' ministry**

This role is an exciting new appointment with a particular focus on discipleship and also outreach to and discipleship for the many families, who attend our weekly intergenerational service.

Worship, teaching and discipleship, preaching and leading in all services are integral to this role. You will share in high level strategic leadership alongside the Vicar, two other part-time Associate Ministers, a Curate, a Community Engagement Officer and a team of experienced lay people.

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 excellent schools and leisure activities, shops and the river Thames provides a lovely setting for walks.

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

We review our priorities annually and strive to embed eco-church in everything we do.

Our current priorities are:

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.

We have a wide range of service styles across the different Congregations.

### **Sundays at St Mary's Church**

- 8.30 am Said service with Holy Communion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of month  
10.00 am Intergenerational service with Holy Communion twice a month  
Families with preschool aged children are encouraged to come to this service

### **Sundays at St John's Church**

- 8.30 am Said service with Holy Communion on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of month  
4.00 pm The 4 - An informal service that starts with tea. Families with primary school aged children are encouraged to come to this service. Separate teaching is usually provided for children. When appropriate, we remain together

### **Other Services and Groups**

- Midweek Said Communion
- Toddlers' Praise
- Messy Church.
- Connections. Seniors Ministry monthly
- The Way - Youth group with Bible discovery
- Drop in youth group, with some Church links

We do not run a Sunday school. Families are encouraged to learn together. We do however offer separate teaching for adults and children at The 4.

Many of the young families we meet come to church due to the admission policy of the local Church of England school. This is a huge mission opportunity for us. We invite them to the Alpha course, following which some join our active life group network where they can continue with the Bible Course and Prayer Course.

This role will see you responsible for overseeing our eight life groups, supporting and encouraging them in spiritual growth and pastoral care.

### **Outreach and Community**

The Church leads an Easter Sunday sunrise service by the river and a large Act of Remembrance in the town centre in November.

St John's Church hosts the Walton and Hershams Foodbank, we have a church led 'Community Café' running alongside it which provides a variety of practical support as well as a warm welcome and a cup of tea. St John's also hosts 'Play and Chat', a weekly church led breakfast club for parents and toddlers, this initiative has been very busy since it started 18 months ago and has proved to be a great link to families from the surrounding local area and beyond. It also provides us with the potential to invite families into other church led services and activities such as Messy Church, praise parties and other special occasions.

### **Families**

This role is key to our mission among young families who come to the intergenerational morning service and the 4. You will help to lead and develop these services 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 develop discipleship groups for older primary age children to supplement the worship offered on Sundays and to help bridge between the activities offered for children and our youth provision. You will also work closely with the Toddlers' Praise team and the Family Outreach team who lead Play and Chat, Messy Church and an annual holiday club, which seeks to reach out to families on the St John's estate as well as Church families.

### **Youth**

In this role you will oversee the development and running of our youth ministry. There is a regular core of 12 young people meeting weekly on a Monday evening with committed co-leaders. There are opportunities in the Parish and the Deanery to develop the youth work collaborating with other local churches and their young people.

### **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 in Walton-on-Thames, 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 renewable license because it has been designated as a Locally Supported Ministry post.

## Housing

A three-bedroom 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.

