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**Role description for Associate Vicar**

**St Mary’s** is a lively, local evangelical church, serving and reaching our busy community and beyond. We are one of the top 200 churches in the country with our attendance figures, and looking to grow especially in our children and young adults’ ministry and attendance.

We are missionally ambitious, looking to grow our younger age profile and go deeper with God through Word and Spirit. We have a dynamic staff and lay team and committed lay leadership. We have a deep and rich tradition of outreach. We seek to equip to share faith in new and creative ways. We have a strong tradition of teaching and discipleship, outreach and sending out to live for Jesus, sustained and empowered by the Spirit.

**Role summary**

The Associate Vicar will be released into evangelism and discipleship, particularly with those aged 18 – 40, and will be someone open to new ways of developing disciples. They will be gifted in evangelism and ready to pioneer and help new Christians to grow in their faith. They will help to develop a church culture of invitation. Through their preaching and teaching they will help adults to come to a mature faith in Jesus Christ.

The Associate will be ordained and work and share with the Vicar the responsibility for the overall leadership and direction of the church, the support and training of volunteers and the oversight of the staff team. The person appointed to this role will be:

* Ready to commit themselves fully to the vision of St Mary’s Church
* Rooted in the evangelical tradition with a love of scripture, and a heart to share Jesus, empowered by His Spirit
* Looking to share faith in creative and innovative ways
* Courageous, compassionate, and wholehearted in serving and living for God, mature in their relationship with Jesus, and confident in sharing their faith for life in Him
* Collaborative in working with a staff team of 14, including the curate and vicar
* Resilient, walking with humility, integrity and closely with God, shaped by a life of prayer
* Whole hearted in working for people to come to faith in Jesus and grow as disciples
* Ordained Anglican and qualified with a recognised theological and ministry qualification
* Familiar with organisational structures and able to think strategically
* A good communicator

Essentially, although a key part of the church leadership, the Associate will be freed up from some key structural responsibilities, and will be given space to engage in mission in a highly supportive and highly accountable way to share faith and to grow disciples. We seek to equip and nurture disciples to ‘Make a difference wherever we are as we share faith for life in Jesus’.

We look for our shared life to be around **five values**:

 Worshipping God

  Growing disciples



 Connecting community



 Serving the world



 Flourishing in sharing faith in Jesus

**Responsibilities and challenges**

The Associate will:

* Be released to develop discipleship and outreach, helping to lead a large staff team and team of volunteers.
* Build upon a strong foundation of Bible teaching and preaching and communicating to a wide variety of groups and four + congregations Sunday by Sunday
* Take a lead and visible role in leading outreach and evangelism, especially to people aged 18 - 40
* Be part of our staff team and part of the chaplaincy team in Woodchurch C of E High School
* Pioneer new ways to grow disciples in faith, especially with adults, linking with our 0-18s work and with a particular responsibility for young adults and families
* Work with the Vicar in developing discipleship and teaching resources
* Work alongside the clergy team taking a lead in occasional offices and follow-up
* Work alongside the vicar taking care of a large pastoral responsibility, working with a good staff team and volunteers
* Play a full part in deanery and diocesan life

 **Key tasks and qualities**

The Associate Vicar will:

* Have maturity in their expression of faith and confidence in the gospel
* Help to lead and manage teams
* Help with line management of staff
* Help to run enquirers’ and Christian basics courses eg Start and Alpha
* Shape preaching and leading programmes over all our services and new and emerging gatherings
* Help to develop equipping programmes for sharing faith
* Take risks and be open to new ways of working
* Work collegiately with the Vicar in leading change and growth
* Be positive and resilient, acting with integrity, serving with humility
* Be inspiring and engaging