

Apprentice Scheme Information

Starting in August 2019, St Ebbe's Church is seeking to appoint up to eight apprentices to be with us for one or two years.

We are a lively, growing, multi-congregation, evangelical, city centre church. We have many students attending from Oxford University, both undergraduates and postgraduates, as part of a far wider church family, including families, young adults, elderly, and outreach to our local parish, one of the most deprived areas of Oxford. As a St Ebbe's apprentice you would get involved in every aspect of our lives together as God's family, as well as concentrating on one or two areas of ministry.

Why do we have an apprentice team?

As a busy city centre church, we have a full diary and lots of activities taking place week by week. Whilst our apprentice team are hugely helpful to us practically - moving chairs, organising events and generally assisting the smooth running of a busy church diary - this is not the primary purpose for building the team.

The practical tasks are only part of a diverse timetable that might include leading in children's Sunday and mid-week clubs, overseeing a small group bible study, meeting up one-to-one to read the bible with younger Christians, studying at the South Central Ministry Training Course (www.southcentralmtc.org) and spending time in personal study of God's word.

Having an apprentice team at St Ebbe's is invaluable, not primarily for us, but for the apprentices! Our hope is that the scheme will be used to strengthen individuals in their identity as Christian men and women, and in their ability to serve Christ in the local church. We pray that as apprentices spend one or two years on the staff team, they will grow in three areas that will equip them to serve the wider church in the future, and may help some decide whether set-apart gospel ministry is something they might pursue.

- Our first hope is that the apprenticeship will help these young Christian men and women grow in Christ-like **character**, through serving practically, by being part of the team and through the personal oversight of their ministry supervisor.
- Secondly, we long that the Lord uses the apprenticeship scheme to help them develop strong gospel **convictions** that will stand them in good stead for a lifetime of service.
- Third, it is so encouraging to see apprentices move on having become more **competent** in teaching God's word, through the opportunities they have had to teach others and the feedback they have received.

What is distinctive about the St Ebbe's Apprenticeship Scheme?

Opportunities to teach the Bible, to share life, to be trained in ministry and be shaped by service are common to most apprentice schemes. However, each scheme is different and coming to be an apprentice at St Ebbe's will give you a distinctive experience in the following ways:

- Being a member of a city centre church with multiple ministries and multiple congregations.
- We seek to offer a rounded apprenticeship, offering equal opportunity for training, practical service, and ministry.
- Being a member of a large apprentice and wider staff team.

- Gaining hands-on experience of a diversity of ministries across the church family whilst focussing on a particular ministry area.
- Benefitting from the South Central Ministry Training Course and sharing with others in apprenticeships in the region.
- Enjoying the unique place that St Ebbe's has in the historic and vibrant city of Oxford.

Who are we looking for?

- Those who love Christ and are seeking to grow as his disciple.
- Those with a passion to serve Christ's church in a variety of ways (including apparently mundane tasks).
- Those considering set-apart gospel ministry at some point in the future and ideally have had opportunity to begin to put that desire into practice in the past, even if in only a small way.
- Those ideally about to finish a university degree (or equivalent) or have done so in the recent past.
- Those who are able to demonstrate that they will be a valuable member of the Apprentice Team.
- Those committed to our Statement of Faith.

What are the next steps?

- Speak to a current or former Apprentice at St Ebbe's if you would like to know what it involves first hand.
- Complete the Application Form (available from <http://stebbes.org/jobs>).
- Return your application to Esther Byrom, Senior Administrator, St Ebbe's Church (esther.byrom@stebbes.org) by **Friday 30th November 2018**.
- If we like your application, you will be asked to attend an interview. We plan to hold interviews on Friday 7th December (if this causes a difficulty for you, please let us know as we may be able to arrange some interviews on another day). We aim to confirm places during January.
- If you miss these times, please still consider applying. We normally don't fill all places immediately as we are far more concerned to have the right people who will benefit from the Apprenticeship than fill all our places quickly.

Some Details:

- The apprentice 'year' starts on Friday 23rd August 2019 and ends on Sunday 19th July 2020 (unless continuing for a second year).
- As an apprentice you will be provided with free accommodation. You will also be eligible to apply to the Friends of St Ebbe's Trust for a grant of £500 per month to cover your other living costs whilst working for St Ebbe's Church.
- We ask that you raise £3,000 towards St Ebbe's costs of your apprenticeship. This is a really helpful way of getting other people involved, supporting and praying for you. You should aim to have a large portion of this in place or promised before starting in August 2018.
- You will get 2 weeks off at Christmas and another 2 weeks around Easter, plus 1 day a week off and an extra day off in each of the 3 terms of the year.
- We will pay for you to attend the 9:38 Ministry Trainee conference in January 2020 and you will also attend the weekly South Central Ministry Training Course.