

Join our Apprentice Team!

2020-2021



Apprentice Scheme Information

Starting in August 2020, St Ebbe's Church is seeking to appoint up to ten apprentices to be with us for one or two years.

We are a lively, growing, multi-congregation, evangelical, city centre church. We are made up of Oxford University undergraduates and postgraduates, families, young adults, elderly, people affected by homelessness, and those from 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?

St Ebbe's has a passion to see God glorified through reaching out, building up and sending out. The apprentice scheme is a key part of that vision, as we seek to train and build up God's people for a lifetime's service. The various aspects of the scheme aim to do this: training in Christian ministry, particularly teaching God's word, putting this into practice with focussed ministry in a variety of contexts and practical service of the church.

Each apprentice is committed to one main ministry area: e.g. undergraduate ministry, postgraduate ministry, 20-30s ministry, or parish and homeless ministry. This is a context where key skills can be observed, practised and developed. It includes prayer, overseeing a small group Bible study and meeting up one-to-one to read the Bible with younger Christians. A senior staff member will oversee your involvement and meet with you regularly for pastoral care and ministry development. Each of the team is usually also involved in some area of children's and youth ministry (Sunday and mid-week clubs) which gives a breadth to the training and experience of church life, in addition to personal study of God's word.

St Ebbe's hosts the regional Ministry Training Course (see scgp.org.uk), which runs on Tuesdays. All apprentices are part of the course along with around 80 others from the region. With Bible expositions, doctrine and practical ministry, workshops and a detailed Bible overview it's a wonderful complement to the scheme.

As a busy city centre church, we have a full diary and lots of activities taking place week by week. Apprentices serve these very practically, as each week time is given to moving chairs, organising events and generally assisting the smooth running of these events.

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 help some decide whether set-apart gospel ministry is something they might pursue.

The scheme has three goals for each apprentice:

- Our first hope is that the apprenticeship will help these young Christian men and women grow in Christ-like **character**, through many opportunities to listen to God in his word, by 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. There is a real breadth of ministries at St Ebbe's.
- 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 one particular ministry area.
- Benefitting from the South Central Ministry Training Course and sharing with other apprentices across the region.
- Enjoying the unique place that St Ebbe's has in the vibrant and historic University city of Oxford.

Who are we looking for?

- Those who love Christ and are seeking to grow as his disciple.
- Those considering set-apart gospel ministry at some point in the future.
- Those with a passion to serve Christ's church, including in practical tasks.
- Those ideally about to finish a university degree (or equivalent) or have done so in the recent past.
- 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, or another member of staff, including Tim Dossor, who oversees the team. See our staff page on the St Ebbe's website to make contact.
- 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 **Wednesday 4th December 2019**.
- If we like your application, you will be asked to attend an interview. We plan to hold interviews between Friday 6th – Tuesday 10th 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 21st August 2020 and ends on Sunday 16th July 2021 (unless continuing for a second year).
- As an apprentice you are eligible to apply to the Friends of St Ebbe's Trust for a grant of £500 per month towards your living costs whilst working for St Ebbe's Church. We provide

free accommodation for single apprentices (who live in one of the St Ebbe's apprentice houses) and an equivalent level of support to married apprentices.

- We ask that you raise at least £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 2020.
- Holiday is almost always taken during the University holidays: 2 weeks at Christmas and 2 weeks around Easter, plus 1 day a week off. An extra day off is taken twice during the first term and once for the other two terms.
- We will pay for you to attend the 9:38 Ministry Trainee conference in January 2021 and you will also attend the weekly South Central Ministry Training Course.

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