

Join our Ministry Assistant Team!

2022-2023



Ministry Assistant Scheme Information

Starting in August 2022, St Ebbe's Church is seeking to appoint up to eight Ministry Assistants (MAs) to be with us for one or two years.

We are a lively, diverse, 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 more deprived areas of Oxford. As a St Ebbe's MA 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 a Ministry Assistant team?

St Ebbe's has a passion to see God glorified through reaching out, building up and sending out. The MA 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 Ministry Assistant is committed to one main ministry area: e.g. undergraduate ministry, postgraduate ministry, 20-30s ministry, youth 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 [here](#)), which runs on Tuesdays. All MAs are part of the course along with around 80 others from the region. With Bible expositions, doctrine, 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. MAs serve these very practically, as each week time is given to moving chairs, organising events and generally assisting the smooth running of church life.

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 MAs 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.

What are the goals of the scheme for each Ministry Assistant?

- Our first aim is that the scheme 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 scheme to help them develop strong gospel **convictions** that will stand them in good stead for a lifetime of service.
- Third, we want to develop **competence** in teaching God's word, through the opportunities they have had to teach others and the feedback they have received, as well as a range of other skills which will equip MAs for the future, whether in the church or secular world.

What is distinctive about the St Ebbe's Ministry Assistant Scheme?

Opportunities to teach the Bible, to share life, to be trained in ministry and be shaped by service are common to most MA schemes. However, each scheme is different and serving as an MA 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 experience, offering equal opportunity for training, practical service and ministry.
- Being a member of a large MA 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 MAs, as well as church members, from 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 about to finish a university degree (or equivalent) or have done so in the recent past, or those who have had a few years in the workplace after school.
- Those committed to our Declaration of Faith (see the Application Form).



What are the next steps?

- Speak to a current or former MA (formerly known as Apprentices) 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 Tim Dossor, Minister (Operations), St Ebbe's Church (tim.dossor@stebbes.org) by **Wednesday 8th December 2021**.
- We plan to hold interviews between Friday 10th – Tuesday 15th 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 scheme than fill all our places quickly.

Some further details:

- The MA 'year' starts on Friday 19th August 2022 and ends on Sunday 16th July 2023 (unless continuing for a second year).
- As an MA 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 MAs (who live in one of the St Ebbe's MA houses) and an equivalent level of support to married MAs.
- We ask that you raise at least £3,000 towards St Ebbe's costs of your place on the scheme. 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 2022.
- 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 Maximise conference in January 2023 and you will also attend the weekly South Central Ministry Training Course.