



ST PHILEMON'S
A GROWING CHURCH, LISTENING TO THE BIBLE, IN THE HEART OF TOXTETH

Church Assistant for 2018-19

St Philemon's is an Anglican church making disciples for Jesus in Liverpool. If you want to grow as Christian and explore paid Christian ministry, this role will give you the opportunity to develop your gifts and experience within a supportive team in an inner-urban, multicultural context.



'What is your vision as a church?'

St Philemon's is a family of about 170 people. Made up of all ages, we are a supernatural mix of very diverse people. But we are united in wanting to be ...

... **a growing church:** We all have our problems, questions and sins we struggle with, but God is at work among us by his Spirit to change us. This change is sometimes scary and often painful, but it is always good – and we're in it together.

... **listening to the Bible:** As the Bible is taught faithfully, God speaks to us; and we have experienced how his word of grace about Jesus is powerful to save and help us. So we are committed to letting the Bible set the agenda for our life together.

... **in the heart of Toxteth:** St Philemon's is not a cruise ship but a lifeboat, with all of us crew members sharing Jesus' saving message with the communities around us. We want to give ourselves to this eternally significant work.



‘What will I be doing?’

It depends on your experience, gifts and interests. But your work is likely to include teaching the Bible, helping in groups, practical administration and connecting with the community. Whoever you are, you will make a big difference.

‘How will you help me develop?’

We want to help Church Assistants as whole people: in convictions, character and competency. The best context for this is a loving church family (1 Timothy 4:15). There will be lots of people here to support and encourage you. You will also be joining a staff team of about six people who meet to pray daily, for training weekly, and for a few days of reflection and planning each year.

Our pastor is Brian Elfick. He is married to Alice and they have three young children. Brian has helped to train about 100 people into long-term, full-time, paid gospel work. If you are a man, you will have weekly 121 meetings with him. If you are a woman, your 121s will be with our Associate Pastor for Women, Alice Cornes.



Church Assistants also attend the North West Partnership Training Scheme for a day a week and meet for monthly Joint Staff meetings with other evangelical churches in Liverpool.



‘What is the area like?’

Toxteth is a mile south of the city centre. Our parish (indicated in yellow) contains about 40,000 people. It is a great area and people are rightly proud to live here. It does, however, face significant social challenges. For instance, it is in the second poorest electoral ward in the UK and has the highest level of single parenthood.

Toxteth is bounded by the Mersey to the West, has culture and shopping to the North, and beautiful parks to the East.

‘Why would I want to come to St Philemon’s especially?’

No matter what you do after, a year or more in Toxteth could be life-changing:



You will learn about people. Our church family consists of the very old, the very young, working-class people, professional people, unemployed people, asylum seekers, those with addictions, etc. Coming here will teach you how to understand, love and disciple us all.

You will learn about ordinary church life. We aren’t big and we aren’t slick. We are just like most

churches in the country. Coming here will give you good information about your gifts, temperament and suitability for further ministry, and useful training too.

You will learn about the gospel. Ephesians talks about the cosmically-amazing thing Jesus is doing in building a church that is made of all kinds of people. Many of us who have moved to Toxteth have found we’ve been learning spiritual lessons we previously had no idea we needed to.

‘What next?’

Work starts on 1 September 2018, for one year in the first instance but longer by mutual agreement. You will receive a gross stipend of £9,000, which we will raise for you. We will also pay for one camp, one conference, and all your ministry expenses. You will have a day off a week, plus 30 days holiday a year.

We appoint as people apply. The best next step is to contact and visit us. Once you are confident that you would like to work here, you can arrange a more formal interview with Brian: brian@stphilemons.co.uk or 07980 910126. Thanks.

