

The MA Programme

EVERY LIFE TRANSFORMED. THROUGH JESUS. FOR GOD'S GLORY.



Our Ministry Assistants Programme aims to equip and inspire the next generation of leaders. We are looking for men and women who want to serve Christ in his church or in wider society.

The Programme

We want to help each person on the programme as you seek to discern your vocational calling, steward your God-given gifts and grow in servant-leadership. We do this through a combination of practical service, formal training and hands-on ministry.

To that end, we offer a rich and varied experience over one or two years, built around three core principles.

Knowledge

Deepening your Biblical knowledge and understanding of core evangelical doctrines in order to develop a robust theological framework for gospel ministry.

Character

Growing in personal holiness and a servant heart in order to develop godliness of character, a sacrificial commitment to others and an acceptance of the cost of gospel ministry.

Skills

Developing core ministry skills (Bible handling, teaching, evangelism, discipling individuals & groups, Biblical counselling & pastoral care etc) in order to develop leadership competencies.

The programme is tailored to each individual, according to your gifting and experience. Ministry opportunities include: children's work, youth work, adult discipleship, music & worship, comms & media. Your role will include the following areas:

Training

Formal training will typically be provided via the Cornhill Training course, although other options are available as an alternative. We would discuss with you what is most appropriate during the application process. The purpose of this training is to give you a grounding in the core principles of:

- **Exegesis:** correctly handling God's word (2 Tim 2:15)
- **Theology:** understanding God and all things in relation to him (Col 15:1-20)
- **Exposition:** teaching God's word to others in short talks and studies (Eph 4:15)

This investment in your Bible handling skills will be supplemented by in-house training and 1:1 mentoring from our experienced staff team here at Saint James – across a broad range of topics including: Biblical patterns of ministry, servant leadership, corporate worship, pastoral care, developing vision & strategy and plenty more.

Personal mentoring is a key part of the MA Programme at Saint James. As well as working in a vibrant team, you will regularly meet with a member of staff (linked to your area of interest) who will encourage you, pray with you and mentor you:

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- In your love for the Lord Jesus Christ (Matt 22:37)
- In personal formation in his image (Rom 8:28-29)
- In leadership and pastoral ministry gifts (2 Tim 1:6)

We are blessed with a diverse and experienced staff team, who bring wisdom and insight from leadership and ministry roles held in a variety of contexts prior to Saint James. We hope this enables us to offer an environment that is unashamedly evangelical, but increasingly diverse in culture and style. Ongoing feedback, prayer and mentoring conversations will be a constant feature of your training and formation, as we work with you to help you discern your areas of gifting, your opportunities for growth and your options for the future.

Ministry

Saint James has the benefit of being a relatively large church with lots of opportunities to serve, grow, initiate and try new things! We have ministries among the young and old; and in Gerrards Cross and Fulmer, we have two very particular ministry contexts. You will be given plenty of opportunities to do pastoral ministry across a number of areas:

- 1:1 Bible study (personal mentoring and discipleship)
- Small group Bible study
- Children's & youth ministry
- Evangelism and community engagement
- Music & worship
- Biblical counselling and pastoral care
- Comms & media

Service

The basic qualification for gospel ministry is godliness. Accordingly, we will want to encourage you to pursue growth in humility and willingness to serve (Mk 10:43). That will include nurturing a healthy devotional life and the essential spiritual disciplines of personal prayer and Bible reading, and spiritual reflection. Teamwork is an important aspect of service and your opportunities to serve practically as part of the team will include:

- Setting-up and packing-down for events and ministries
- Assisting with basic administrative tasks
- Working in a team (Tech, Stewarding, Welcoming etc) with members of the church family

You will probably have lots of questions about the above. That's normal! If you'd like to chat anything through, please get in touch with us. We'd be happy to put you in touch with someone on the team who can answer your questions.

The Church

Saint James Gerrards Cross & Fulmer is a dynamic and growing evangelical church in South Buckinghamshire, passionate about proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are a church family of about 600 adults, with thriving youth and children ministries. In non-Covid times we have six weekly congregations which meet across two locations, in a range of styles from the traditional to the contemporary. The congregation and membership comprises people from a variety of Christian traditions and denominations, united by the Christ-centred, Spirit-empowered, Bible-based teaching and evangelistic outlook of the church. We are concerned about the challenges of our culture, and those facing the Church of England and want to remain faithful to scripture as the revealed word of God.

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We are a parish church seeking to serve our local community. However, the church family is not confined to parish boundaries; the network of relationships through work, leisure and friendships means that the influence of the church family spreads much wider. We have links across greater London, the Diocese of Oxford and further afield in the UK and abroad. We are blessed with a sizeable staff team and excellent facilities. We are committed to evangelism and recognise that we need to equip the whole church to participate effectively in this work.

Funding

We recognise that the circumstances of each applicant will vary. The flexibility of the programme allows some to participate full-time, whilst others work part-time to fund themselves. A means-tested grant is available to help candidates cover their costs for the duration of the programme.

We encourage all applicants to seek to raise funds for the programme through seeking gospel partnership with family members, friends and appropriate grant making bodies but we recognise that this is not always possible to do in its entirety. In itself this is an important aspect of training in relying on God's provision and the joy of gospel partnership (Phil. 4:14-19). We may also be able to assist with the provision of accommodation.

We will work with all successful applicants to make sure that finances are not a hindrance to accepting a place on the programme.

How to Apply

To apply, for the MA Programme, please email office@saintjames.org.uk expressing your interest and asking for an application form. Do also use this email address should you wish to ask any questions or to find out more information. We will then be in touch with regard to next steps, which will usually involve an interview here at Saint James (or virtually, if necessary).

The initial deadline for applications is **31 March 2021**. However, an extension may be granted in extenuating circumstances. We look forward to hearing from you!