

Associate Minister for Adult Discipleship at St George's Leeds

BACKGROUND PAPER NOV 2026

Role

This is a new role, funded for 5 years by Faith in the North's serial planting fund. The Associate Minister will join St George's senior leadership team, with particular responsibility for adult discipleship, leadership development, and developing a planting network. The aim is to release capacity for further and accelerated church planting from St George's, and to help support and embed planting culture within the Diocese of Leeds. The full grant application is available on request. After 5 years, we hope the Associate Minister might lead a church plant, but alternatively the role could simply end.





St George's Church

St George's is an evangelical charismatic Anglican church. We have a strategic city centre location, next to Leeds General Infirmary and the University of Leeds. We gather people from across Leeds and the surrounding area, including the universities in Leeds. Our main services are Sundays at 10.30am and 18.30 and usual Sunday attendance is about 300 adults and 60 children/young people, with new people trying church every week. St George's has people from many different nationalities, including a significant Farsi Speaking Community. In 2025 we baptised 62 people, and in 2026 we have baptised 44 so far. Our vision is to preach Jesus, make disciples, serve the city and send out leaders. Our website (where you can also find our latest Annual Report) gives a good snapshot of what is going on: www.stgs.org.uk

Resource Church and planting network

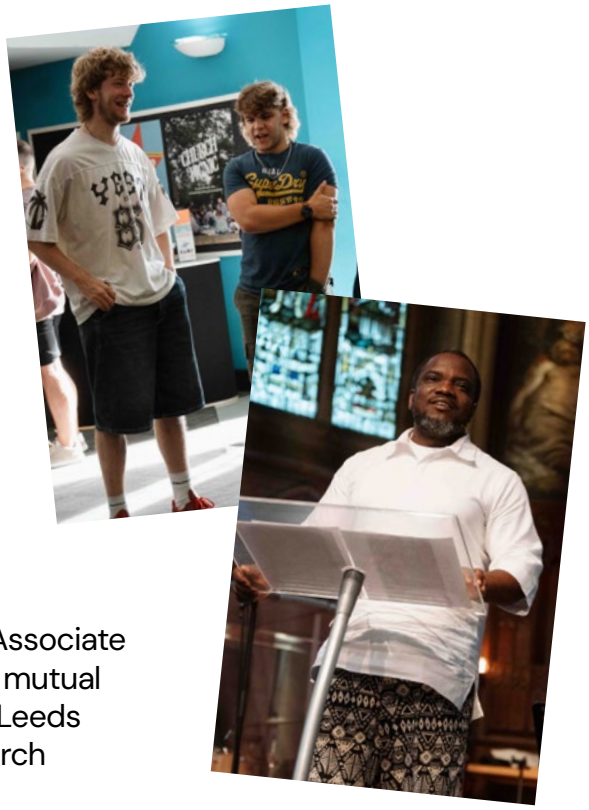
St George's was designated as a Resource Church for the Diocese of Leeds in 2017. This means we give away resources strategically to bless our city, including church planting.

St George's has sent 3 church planting teams for significant parish revitalisations, using the model of a planting curate becoming the vicar of the church plant: St Paul's Ireland Wood in 2018 (now preparing to plant themselves), St Peter's Bramley in 2022, and St Luke's Swarcliffe in 2026. All three are thriving, growing, and blessing their local communities.



We are currently recruiting for a planting curate to lead our next church plant, which we hope will be in South Leeds.

St George's has also sent small teams to support church plants led by other Leeds churches: 6 people to St Paul's Shadwell in 2019, 3 people to St Philips Osmondthorpe in 2022, 6 people to St Andrew's Morley in 2026. St George's has co-hosted the Plant Course three times with St Hild Centre for Church Planting, including most recently in 2026 for the 3 Leeds church plants, and regularly hosts the Multiply North conference.



There are substantial informal connections with St George's previous church plants, and other churches that form part of the diocesan SDF and DIP programmes. The Associate Minister will build on these to create a network of ongoing mutual support and encouragement. They will also work with the Leeds Diocesan Barnabas Programme Team to help develop church planting plans which support the diocesan vision.

St George's Team



St George's is part of a team of 3 churches: St George's, Holy Trinity Boar Lane (HTBL), and St Augustine's Wrangthorn. Holy Trinity is our midweek church connecting faith and work, reaching city centre workers in Leeds. St Augustine's Wrangthorn is a local parish church, and the base for Church@ Hyde Park Corner, which reaches out to unchurched students.

The team is overseen by our Team Rector, Lizzy Woolf, and each church has a Team Vicar (Eve Ridgeway for St George's, Josh Lees for HTBL, James Cawdell for Wrangthorn). Across the team, we currently have 15 other members of staff (most part time), 3 interns, and a vacancy for a planting curate. The whole staff team meets together weekly for mutual encouragement and prayer. Most of our operations team work across the whole team, supporting all three churches, but ministry staff focus on one church. At St George's we have 4 ministry staff, line managed by Eve Ridgeway, who work together collaboratively, each holding responsibility for an area of ministry (worship, students, youth, children and families). A key focus is equipping our many volunteers who serve on Sundays and throughout the week.

Adult discipleship and leadership development



Currently adult discipleship centres around our Sunday services and small groups, with some additional courses, training, and mentoring. We develop leaders mainly through our volunteer teams serving in various ministry areas, and by inviting and supporting people to take part in our services (reading, praying, squad preaching, co-leading etc).

We have identified the creative resourcing of adult discipleship and leadership development as a key area for development in our church life.

We currently have 22 lay led adult small groups. These are focused on community and discipleship, and the majority of pastoral care also takes place informally through these groups. Leaders are supported by resources and a termly meeting, and the groups are hugely appreciated. There are separate groups for students and Farsi speakers. We would like to invest more in our current leaders, start new groups, and increase the proportion of the congregation who are members of a small group.

The Leeds Diocesan Intern Programme was developed at St George's, and is now run centrally. We aim to have 2-3 interns each academic year (often St George's students who stay for a year after graduating). They have weekly input, serve in a ministry area at St George's, and are hosted by a congregation member, all with the aim of growing as disciples and leaders. 3 of our 4 ministry staff were previously interns.

Recent examples of additional courses and training over the past couple of years include: Thinking with Faith sessions looking at the creeds, neurodiversity, climate care and interfaith, 'Deeply Formed Life' for young adults, prayer ministry training, baptism preparation, weekends away for various groups, and small group sessions on money and giving. There is significant scope to develop this area of church life.





