

Parish of Finchampstead and California (PFC)

Role Overview:

We are seeking a prayerful, compassionate, and creative Associate Minister to join our parish team, with a heart for pastoral care and a vision for community engagement. This role offers an exciting opportunity to be part of a vibrant and growing Church of England parish, committed to being a visible and welcoming presence in our communities.

The Associate Minister will play a key part in the pastoral and missional life of the parish, with specific responsibility for bereavement support, and pastoral care. There will also be a strong focus on developing creative ways to engage the wider community and building relationships through activities, schools, events, and everyday encounters.

This role has some flexibility to allow the successful applicants own gifts and callings to be explored, for example art or music.

Key Responsibilities:

Pastoral and Bereavement Ministry:

- Provide sensitive and compassionate pastoral care to individuals and families across the parish.
- Work with, and help to train, the wider pastoral care team to ensure regular pastoral visiting and contact, particularly with the elderly, isolated, or vulnerable.
- In time to take a lead in funeral ministry and follow ups etc. (with support from the Rector)
- Shared responsibility for care home ministry with the Rector
- To organise and work alongside pastoral support volunteers to support those who have been bereaved

Community Engagement and Mission:

- Develop and lead initiatives to connect with the local community in imaginative and missional ways. Particularly in Gorse Ride area where the vicarage is located and alongside the Rector in Arborfield Green where the Rectory is located.
- Help build relationships with individuals and families new to the area or new to church life.
- Explore fresh expressions of church or outreach that complement existing ministries.

General Parish and School Involvement:

- Take part in the worshipping and pastoral life of the parish, including Sunday services and midweek gatherings.
- To share in the taking of occasional offices
- To be an active PCC and standing committee member, with a view to leading some PCC subcommittees as the role develops

- To support the Rector in building and maintaining links with local schools: taking occasional assemblies and assisting in school visits etc.
- Participate in seasonal and community events, helping to ensure the church remains a welcoming and active presence in the parish.

Person Specification:

Essential:

- Ordained within the Church of England or a church in communion with it.
- Comfortable with and actively support a community of Christians that is broad and inclusive in worship, churchmanship and theology
- Have a deep spiritual life, be a person who is disciplined in spending time in private prayer, study and personal development. Will take regular quiet days and retreat time
- A strong pastoral heart with experience in bereavement support.
- Ability to preach and lead worship effectively in a range of contexts
- A collaborative spirit and a team-player with a willingness to serve across the breadth of parish life and worshipping traditions
- A desire to be a part of and seek to build community in the Gorse Ride regeneration area, where the vicarage is located
- Confidence and creativity in community engagement and outreach.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Excellent time management and organizational skills.

Desirable:

- A passion for fresh expressions of church or pioneering initiatives.
- A willingness to engage with the life of Deanery and Diocese and work with civic agencies and other local churches
- Experience in and willingness to develop discipleship within the parish in a variety of different ways
- Experience in working with multiple worship centres which whilst distinct in personality and identity form one united Parish

We Offer:

- A very supportive and prayerful church community and leadership team including administrator, director of music and part time children's worker
- A strong ministry team and good volunteer support
- Opportunity to be a vital part of what God is doing in our growing and developing parish

Commented [BM1]: Is this essential rather than desirable? Could we live with it if they didn't have this ability?

- Opportunity to take regular quiet days and retreat time with financial support
- An opportunity to join in with a newly reforming community in Gorse Ride alongside a lovely Vicarage with garden and parking
- Flexibility to make use of your gifting and calling
- Opportunities for continued professional development and training