



ASCENSION
BALHAM

ASSOCIATE VICAR

APPLICATION PACK

@ascensionbalham



The Associate Vicar role is an opportunity for a competent, humble leader to support the Vicar in taking an already flourishing and unique church community through a new season of growth.

This person will be joining a church who are committed to spreading the love of God across the whole breadth of their local community, from young families and professionals lapping up the good life between the Commons, to adult and child refugees and local homeless people.

The Associate Vicar will be joining a staff team with a healthy working culture that is fast-paced, stretching, and fun to be a part of.

The role is initially for 2 years, with the possibility of a further 2 years.



FROM THE VICAR

Thank you for your interest in joining the leadership team at Ascension Balham as Associate Vicar!

This role is ideal for anyone interested in pursuing a calling to senior leadership within a busy and growing church community, who can mentor and grow a large staff team, and who is passionate about spreading the love of God to young families across London.

We are looking for someone who is passionate about Jesus and who wants to join in with all that God is doing at Ascension, and grow and be developed themselves.

I have been vicar of Ascension since September 2013 and am excited by what God is already doing here and what is yet to come. If you'd like to chat informally about the role do not hesitate to contact me on **07835 300001**.

Revd Marcus Gibbs



WHAT THE ROLE OFFERS...

- Be part of a healthy and happy church, which over the past years has doubled in attendance and become a bustling community hub for all kinds of local people.
- Live in a vibrant, green, and attractive area of London.
- A 21st century working environment with up-to-date technology, IT systems, and even a top-notch coffee shop!
- The opportunity to oversee and grow **Bubble Church** at Ascension, a home-grown and hugely successful service for families, little ones, parents and carers.
- Support and friendship from engaged and kind congregations, a strong staff team, committed Church Wardens, and a wise and active PCC.
- Comes with an incumbent status stipend and suitable accommodation.



**Live, work and
experience life in a
busy and modern
part of London.**

WHAT WE EXPECT FROM YOU...

- You will embrace the vision and values of Ascension Church Balham.
- You will work collaboratively and supportively with the vicar.
- You will have experience in line-managing and you'll be a leader who brings out the best in people.
- You are a completer-finisher and a safe pair of hands, who can turn vision and instruction into action with attention to detail bringing others with you along the way.
- You will bring a spiritual maturity and authority.
- You will be thoughtful, intelligent, and calm.
- You will have an excitement and passion around spreading the love of God amongst children and young families through Bubble Church.



BUBBLE CHURCH

**Be excited and
passionate about
ministering to kids
and families.**

FROM A PAST PRIEST

Hi, my name is Luke. For the past three years I've been a curate at Ascension and I want to let you know about some of the things I've really loved about my time here. My prayer is that the right person will read what I've got to share, think "yes please, I want some of that!", and apply.

I've loved working day-by-day in a beautiful church space where people are always passing through. Parish Coffee operates through the week. That means a guaranteed delicious coffee when you arrive in the morning, and guaranteed opportunities every day to get to know so many local people of different ages, backgrounds, and faiths, and share God's love with them.

I've loved the close and caring support I've received from Marcus, our Vicar. He's an extremely wise teacher and he's always had time for me. He's also a great manager of people, and I love the culture of encouragement and working together that he's shaped amongst the staff team.



Speaking of the staff team... they're awesome! We're all very different people but there's a lovely feeling of complementarity and cohesiveness amongst us. We celebrate each other's strengths and we know we can rely on each other.



I've loved being in a place where I've been supported to grow in my priestly calling as a leader and pastor. I've been given opportunities to pioneer new forms of church - from Bubble Church, to sixth-form drop-ins - and I've been pushed beyond my comfort zones. I've learned so much about how to be a leader and I've been given care and support at every stage.

I've loved starting a family here at Ascension. Whenever I ask my three-year-old what he wants to do today, he'll say "I want to go to church!" It's such an excellent place for babies, children, and young people. This is thanks to a fantastic volunteer and staff team, and thanks to our Bubble Church service. I'm so grateful that my family feels like church is their home!

Revd Luke Steven



Parish Coffee, our church café, is a busy hub for the whole community.

OUR SUNDAY SERVICES

9.30am & 4pm - Bubble Church

Bubble Church is a Sunday church service especially for babies, toddlers, and young families. It's a puppet-packed, Jesus-centred, coffee-and-croissant-fueled, 30 minute kids and families adventure every Sunday morning! We launched this service in 2020 and it has been great to see local families meeting with God. We are currently planting Bubble Church in churches across the UK!

10.30am - Morning Worship

For those with children or those who enjoy mixing with a vibrant group of people of all ages, with modern music and a flexible structure. There are separate children's groups provided part-way through. Prayer ministry takes place at the end of every service.

10.30am - Youth Church

Youth Church is our provision for ages 11-18. Younger Youth meet during our Sunday 10.30am service, for fun, food and bible teaching, and Older Youth meet on Monday evenings. We also do regular trips and weekends away throughout the year.



**Support and
friendship from
engaged and kind
congregations.**

HOW TO APPLY

For an informal conversation about the role please contact:
Revd Marcus Gibbs - marcus.gibbs@ascensionbalham.org

To apply please visit:
<http://ctjob.uk/JN11727>

The closing date for applications is: **31 January 2024.**
Interviews will be held on: **19 February 2024.**

As well as ordained applicants, we welcome applications from lay ministers with suitable training and experience.





ASSOCIATE VICAR ROLE DESCRIPTION

Role Background

With the significant growth of Ascension and the Bubble Church Network of churches we are looking to expand our senior leadership with a new role of Associate Vicar. This is a key role in the life of Ascension with specific oversight of our Bubble Church congregations and supporting the vicar in the overall leadership and spiritual oversight of Ascension.

Principal Responsibilities

SPIRITUAL OVERSIGHT: To assist the vicar in providing spiritual oversight of Ascension; regularly preaching, leading services, administering the occasional offices, and presiding in the administration of the sacraments (if ordained).

BUBBLE CHURCH LEAD: To take specific oversight of the Bubble Church services and congregations at Ascension (around 150 people and counting). This will require vision casting, team development, facilitating communication within the team and high-quality line management.

VISION TO ACTION: To support the vicar in holding and implementing the vision of Ascension. This includes setting direction, managing and resolving core issues and translating vision into action.

TEAM DEVELOPMENT & SUPERVISION: To take specific line management responsibility for staff team members and volunteers, helping them develop and flourish in achieving all they are called to be and do at Ascension.

SPECIFIC MINISTRY OVERSIGHT: Depending on the skillset and experience of the Associate Vicar, they will bring oversight for other specific areas of ministry within the church.

General Responsibilities

- Play a full part as a member of the staff team including working collaboratively on shared goals and supporting wider ministries of the church as appropriate
- Manage the finance and administration for the ministry and keep records as appropriate
- Ensure a culture of safeguarding excellence is embedded in all our activities



ASSOCIATE VICAR ROLE DESCRIPTION

Person Specification

- We are looking in the first instance for an ordained colleague but would consider appointing a lay minister to a slightly reshaped role and would encourage a conversation if this is you
- Called to lead a young and growing congregation of families, little ones and parents/carers of little ones
- A self-starter able to work on own initiative, to identify problems and find solutions quickly
- Experienced in line management of staff team members - someone who brings out the best in others
- Excellent with people including strong pastoral experience
- Excellent written and oral communication skills including representing Ascension in other contexts
- Able to prioritise competing demands
- Able to think strategically and anticipate well
- Excellent organisational skills and comfortable within an office environment
- Good with computer packages such as Microsoft Office packages (e.g. Word, Excel, Email)