



Supporting God's House 2021 – we need everyone's help!

What are we looking for?

We are looking to spread the load of the practical running of the church and seeking everyone's help to enable this.

As you will know, we do not have any Churchwardens at present, nor do we have Senior Church Stewards for St Paul's or St Timothy's, and we are also challenged in growing the Church Stewards team further at both centres. We are very grateful to those who are supporting, but an increasing burden is falling upon fewer and fewer people. It is our responsibility together as a Church to lighten the load of those covering many roles and to encourage everyone to consider how they might help, whether in one of the 'appointed' roles such as Churchwarden or Steward, or by offering to help in more informal ways. Without this support we will remain in a challenging situation which is difficult to sustain.

How is the Church making things easier for you offer to help?

Our approach is two-fold:

1. We are reducing the workload of 'appointed' roles of Churchwarden, Senior Church Steward, and Church Steward, by
 - re-focusing their roles upon the core responsibilities
 - delegating where possible to other teams / committees, e.g. Centre Management
 - shaping flexible teams, enabling individuals to offer what they can so roles are covered as a team rather than one person;
2. We are seeking everyone's help as one big team, working together, each in our differing ways, so that God's life and mission for the church can flourish and grow, as can God's people.

How can you help?

Your ECC is asking you to prayerfully consider the differing ways in which you can help support the life and mission of the church. This might be to consider one of the 'appointed' roles, or to offer in a more informal, but also important, way of volunteering. For example,

Roles required	Sample description
Prayer / Encourager (for everyone)	Offering the work of the church in prayer, and encouraging people in the life of the church
Churchwarden	Missional Leadership, interface with the Church of England, Legal responsibilities
Senior Church Steward	Missional Leadership, interface with the Methodist church, Co-ordinating team of Church Stewards for St Paul's or St Timothy's
Church Steward	Serving within the team, offering their particular gifts and skills
Church 'on-the-day' volunteer	Helping out in various ways, as and when able, co-ordinated by Church Stewards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • welcoming with a smile • preparing the chapel • leading prayers • tea & coffee (when allowed!) • reading the Scriptures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • operating the laptop / sound / projection • tidying up the chapel • Recording financial offerings

Roles required	Sample description
Church Centre volunteer	<p>Helping out in various ways, as and when able, co-ordinated by Church Centre Manager:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • opening up / closing up for events • light cleaning / tidying up • moving chairs / tables • helping with DIY jobs • being 'on-hand' as required
Committee Member	<p>Serving a committee, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecumenical Church Council (ECC) • Finance • Centre Management (looking after the property and running of the church centre)

We have produced new job descriptions for the roles of Churchwarden, Senior Church Steward, and Church Steward, and these are attached. The skills and range of the roles are such that it is challenging to find all that resting in one person, and for that person to have the energy and time!

Therefore we are seeking to cover the responsibility as a team – very much as we currently do with our Safeguarding and Finance teams. Please do look at the description and think about what you can do – maybe if you feel you can do some of the role but not all of it, then also think, approach and encourage someone else to see if they can do the other parts? The 'volunteer' roles are flexible, enabling you to offer what you can, when you can, whilst being co-ordinated as above.

What about other roles?

We recognise the importance of the wide variety of roles in the life of the church, not least amongst children and young persons, and safeguarding, as examples. Here our focus is in seeking to appoint people to key formal and practical roles, as well as more generally to encourage everyone to find a way in which they can offer help. Anyone wanting to volunteer for one of these other roles should speak to the appropriate leader / co-ordinator.

What should I do next?

- Pray, pray, and pray. For yourself, for others, for the Church.
- Reflect on the life and activities of the church, and ask yourself:
 - Who does that? Who gets things ready? Who tidies away? Who is responsible for that?
 - Could I help with that?
- Ask God for help in discerning what might be right for you
- Speak to one of the ministers or stewards about opportunities to offer help
- Pray, pray, and pray.

Finally, thank you for taking time to read through this, and exploring ways in which you might offer to help. Thank you for all the time and energy you have given to the life of the church and the service of God over the years. Thank you for being people of hope, trusting in God, for all that is yet to come in the life and mission of the Dorcan Church. We have yet to get through the additional challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, but we will, and we will best do that together. Every blessing.

Andrew, on behalf of the ECC team

March 2021