

ST CATHERINE'S ARGYLE, EDINBURGH

MINISTRY ASSOCIATE PROGRAMME (MAP)

A first class training in local church leadership

Recruiting now for 2012

If you are interested in applying for the programme, or are looking for more information, please contact the minister Robin Sydserff.

Tel: 0131 667 9344

email: robin@stcaths.org

www.stcaths.org

The Vision Behind the Ministry Associate Programme

At St Catherine’s we are passionate about God’s glory. This is reflected in our four-fold vision to *REACH, BUILD, TRAIN and SEND*.

The Ministry Associate Programme (MAP) is at the heart of this vision. If God is to be glorified and the Church of Jesus Christ built and extended, there is an urgent need for godly leaders – men and women who will serve God and His people, either full-time or in a lay capacity.

The purpose of the MAP is to help to develop the next generation of servant leaders for the Church. The aim is to train and equip our Associates in the many different areas in which they need to grow if they are to be effective and humble servants of Jesus Christ.

Ministry Associate Programmes

Ministry Associate Programmes (or Ministry Training Programmes) are a tried, tested, effective and proven way of equipping people for ministry. They are particularly well established in England, having developed in conjunction with the various regional Gospel Partnerships (see, for example, the South-East Gospel Partnership website (www.segp.org.uk/apprenticeships)). Although currently less common in Scotland, they are likely to play an increasingly important part in training a new generation of gospel workers north of the border.

It’s helpful to think of the programme as part of a bigger process (summarised in the following diagram):



While the Associate Programme is a place for some to ‘test’ their gifts for ministry, the expectation would be that Associates have already evidenced giftedness for ministry and had some experience of ministry (e.g. serving in University CUs, summer camps, youth work etc.)

Having completed the Associate Programme, some will go on to further theological education, some will pursue ordained ministry, others might work for a further year say in a church and then be part of team that leads a church plant, others might go on to serve overseas. Through the Programme, as part of the mentoring role, the 'next step' for the individual will be a regular matter for prayer and discussion.

St Catherine's Argyle Church

A church with a training culture

We are an evangelical church, committed to proclaiming the good news of salvation through Jesus, to the Bible as the Word of God and to the importance of having a living relationship with Jesus. We are located in the centre of Edinburgh, close to the main University campus. We meet on Sundays (9.30am, 11.30am and 6.30pm) and throughout the week in various networks of small groups (e.g. students, postgraduates and young workers, women's Bible studies and all-age house groups). We also run a full children's and youth programme. In all of our meetings the focus is on the Bible being taught and studied because we are convinced that as God's Word is taught, God's voice is heard, God's work is done, and his name is glorified.

St Catherine's Argyle has a long heritage of commitment to training. This commitment recognises the strategic long-term benefits to the wider church, both in this country and overseas, of training the next generation of Christian leaders. We must be ready to send our best people out from St Catherine's into the wider church, in Scotland and beyond.

Staff team

The staff team comprises **Robin Sydserff** (Senior Minister), **Andy Buchan** (Student Worker) and **Fiona MacKenzie** (Administrator). In 2011-12 three Ministry Associates are serving in St Catherine's – **John Torrens**, **Rachel Sloan** and **Andy Robertson**.

Robin was appointed in January 2009. From 2004-2008 he worked for **The Proclamation Trust** in London as Director of Ministry (www.proctrust.org.uk). A key part of Robin's work in London was training, for example, teaching on the Cornhill Training Course, leading training programmes for various churches and groups, and writing training material. Along with David Jackman (formerly President of The Proclamation Trust), Robin is the series editor of the Christian Focus / PT Media *Teaching the Bible* series. Robin was also involved in producing a series of DVD-based training modules on preaching and teaching the different biblical genres (www.proctrust.org.uk/resources). Robin serves on the steering

group of New Word Alive and is chairman of the Scottish Council of UCCF.

Andy Buchan began as Student Worker in September 2009 following two years at St Andrews the Great in Cambridge as a student worker. **Fiona MacKenzie** was appointed Church Administrator in August 2009.

Ministry Associates

Our first two Ministry Associates, **John Torrens** and **Rachel Sloan**, began in August 2010 and **Andy Robertson** joined the team in August 2011. John, Rachel and Andy are all taking the **Cornhill Training Course** in Glasgow. Before starting with us, John and Andy worked as Relay workers with UCCF Scotland, based respectively in Glasgow and Aberdeen. Rachel worked as a primary school teacher in Edinburgh. After completing the Ministry Associate Programme, Rachel will be taking up a post working with women as part of a staff team in a large church in Scotland. John is planning to return to Northern Ireland to pursue training for ordination.

In addition to paid ministry staff we have a number of folk in the congregation working in different spheres of Christian ministry (e.g. Navigators, International Christian College (ICC), Faith Mission, Friends International, Bethany, Cross Reach). We consider every member of our church fellowship as ‘in ministry’ and encourage and equip folk to serve in the life of the local church alongside their day-to-day work.

For a fuller description of the church, see our website at www.stcaths.org.

The Training Programme at St Catherine’s Argyle

The MAP is geared primarily to prepare and equip people for full-time vocational ministry, whether in this country or overseas. It will, however, also be of great value to those who go on to serve God in other capacities, and it will help Associates decide whether full-time Bible teaching ministry is the best way for them to serve God in the long-term.

There are three components to the training programme.



(i) Study component – training through being taught

Core areas

The first component is training through being taught. We consider the following as core areas of instruction:



Internal and external teaching component



While some of this teaching component will be internal, our Associates take The Cornhill Training Course over two years (www.cornhillscotland.org.uk). There are a number of benefits from going outside the church for the taught component, for example dedicated teaching staff, access to wider expertise and the opportunity to network with others.

We also fund our Associates to attend appropriate conferences through the year as part of their ministry development.

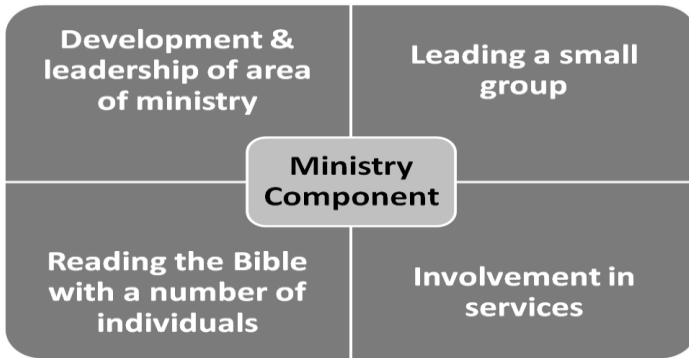
Training with Associates from other churches

As these programmes develop across a number of churches in Edinburgh, we are increasingly looking to work together in offering a networked training component for our Associates.

(ii) Ministry component – training through involvement in Christian ministry

The second component is training through involvement in Christian ministry. The best way to learn how to do Christian ministry is actually to do it in a supportive environment. Our Associates are given a significant amount of hands on experience of some of the key areas of Christian ministry. As they do this they have training and feedback from those experienced in ministry and benefit from working as part of a team.

The ministry an Associate does will depend on their experience and gifts, but normally every Associate will be involved in the following:



▪ ***Development and leadership of an area of ministry***

The ability to be responsible, take the initiative and develop an area of ministry are key to being a Christian leader. We seek to develop these skills in Associates by giving them an area of ministry for which they will be responsible. This will teach them key skills like working with, motivating and leading others, and strategy and judgement in seeing how best to develop initiatives. A wide variety of opportunities are available to Associates to suit different levels of experience or maturity. For example, Rachel Sloan has developed our work with younger teenagers and John Torrens has been responsible for starting up a group for older teenagers. There will be other similar opportunities e.g. working with students, evangelism initiatives in our local area.

▪ ***Leading a small group***

Our vision as a church is that everyone is part of a small group. A well led small group is a great way of building-up Christians in the church. We therefore work hard to ensure that our small groups are led as well as possible. Involvement in

this area will help Associates grow in the vital skill of leading a group and will help them develop as a Bible teacher.

- ***Reading the Bible with a number of individuals***

Working with someone individually is a great way to help a non-Christian understand the gospel, disciple a young Christian or train a potential leader. These are all core skills for anyone seeking to serve God.

- ***Involvement in services***

Our Associates will have a regular part in leading services and occasional opportunities to preach. These opportunities will be in our main church services, in other churches in Edinburgh, and also in various Sheltered Housing Complexes and Nursing Homes around our community.

Most Associates will have additional areas of responsibility, including running evangelistic groups and giving talks in various settings.

There is also the possibility of Associates on the Programme doing some ministry in other churches / organisations in the City, in particular in a situation where a church might not be in a position to fund an Associate themselves.

By the end of their time on the Programme, Associates should be able to engage in some of the most important areas of ministry in a church's life. They will also be much more 'mission and ministry minded' and be seeking in everything they do to serve God in advancing the gospel. If they go on to further theological study, their experience as an Associate will help them get much more out of their time at theological college.

- ***Working as part of a ministry team***

Over and above these specific areas, we want our Associates to be exposed to the nuts and bolts, nitty gritty of day to day church life.

(iii) Practical ministry component – training through doing practical tasks

Associates spend the remainder of their time involved in practical tasks around the church. These include setting up rooms and buildings for meetings, cleaning and performing administrative tasks through the church office. As well as being vital to the smooth running of the church, this enables Associates to grow in three important areas:

- It teaches Associates what is involved in running a church.
- It develops a servant heart.
- It teaches Associates to work as part of a team.

Duration of programme

We are looking for our Associates to be with us full time for two years, although there is some flexibility depending on the circumstances of the individuals.

Funding

Associates will serve on a voluntary basis and will be responsible for their own funding. We encourage Associates to apply to various trusts and organisations to secure funding, for example, The Bonar Trust (www.bonartrust.org), which has a particular focus on funding training initiatives such as the MAP. Details of various Trusts / sources of funding will be made available on application / interview. In 2011 our Associates received the bulk of their funding from The Bonar Trust.

Accommodation

A flat close to the church has been provided for use by our Ministry Associates at a subsidised rent.

The people we're looking for

We are looking for committed Christians, male and female, who:

- are passionate about evangelism;
- are committed to the authority of the Bible and the biblical gospel;
- have the Christian maturity and gifts to be able to teach the Bible in small groups and one-to-one;
- have an eagerness to learn and serve and a willingness to take on a variety of responsibilities and tasks around the church;
- have the desire and ability to work as part of a team, both with other Associates and with the rest of the church staff and congregation.

Associates are normally a mix of new / recent graduates and people who have been working. Many, but not all, become Associates with the intention of staying in full-time Christian ministry or going directly to theological college after completing the programme. Individuals join the Programme to prepare for a variety of different ministries, including leading a church, women's ministry, student work, youth work and cross-cultural ministry.

Mentoring and accountability

Associates will be mentored one-to-one by a member of the congregation and will attend and participate in staff meetings.

Are you interested?

If you are interested in applying for the programme, or are looking for more information, please contact Robin Sydserrff.

Tel: 0131 667 9344

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We will start interviewing candidates in November 2011 and will accept applications until all the places are filled.

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*St Catherine's Argyle Parish Church of Scotland Edinburgh
Registered Scottish Charity SC009379*