

**S<sup>+</sup> Nicholas Sevenoaks**  
Growing in the Gospel

***2012-2013***

**9-38**  
**Apprentice  
Scheme**

# **Church Profile and Aims of Apprentices Scheme**

Sevenoaks is located off Junction 5 of the M25, just half an hour south-east of central London by train. St Nicholas, the parish church of Sevenoaks, is situated in the middle of this commuter-belt town. For some years it has had a conservative evangelical ministry. Our aim in all that we do is to see the Lord Jesus honoured. To this end, we have two fundamental commitments – to teach the word and to pray. As we do this, we seek to obey the great commission, making lifelong disciples of the Lord Jesus here in Sevenoaks and beyond.

The church grew rapidly during the 1990s and, in February 2002, the main morning congregation divided to form two new congregations. In January 2006 we launched a new church plant in a local school, and in October 2010 we planted a second congregation in the same school. On Sundays around 800-900 come to our meetings. Being a large church, we encourage people, wherever possible, to be part of a small group – a place to learn, belong and serve. The biggest area of growth has been amongst young families and professionals in their twenties and thirties so that we have large numbers of babies, children and teenagers within the church family.

The Apprenticeship Scheme seeks to enable people to serve God and his people through local church work; to equip individuals for lifelong discipleship and gospel ministry; and to help individuals to explore the possibility of future full-time Word ministry. Whilst the Apprenticeship Scheme is constantly evolving, the following gives a flavour of key elements that will be in place for 2012-2013.

## **Character**

- Apprentices need to be willing servants of God and his people. The scheme incorporates a variety of areas of service within the church, and accountability to members of the staff team for fulfilling them. The range of responsibilities often serves to highlight individual strengths and weaknesses, both of ability and character.
- Apprentices meet one-to-one with a member of the staff team to read the Bible and to pray, in order to be accountable and to be supported in personal holiness and growth.
- Self-discipline is an important part of balancing the different demands of full-time ministry and will undoubtedly be challenged and developed during the placement.
- By their involvement on the church staff team, Apprentices benefit from the personal example of others in full-/part-time ministry.

## **Knowledge**

Apart from the annual 9:38 conference, 'formal' teaching and training is also provided by means of:

- A weekly ministry-training workshop in partnership with like-minded churches in the area. The programme currently includes outlines and themes of Bible books, the use of the Cornhill DVDs on Bible-handling, and sessions on Doctrine, Church History and Ministry issues. Apprentices are also given the opportunity to give talks for feedback in these sessions.
- Termly Staff study days involving the whole staff team at St Nicholas, and occasional extended staff meetings wherein different aspects of church ministry are discussed.
- Apprentices also have further hours of reading timetabled each week to read and prepare for training, and to read up on any topics that catch their attention.

## **Skills**

- Youth and Children's work: Apprentices will be involved on the leadership team of either the 15-19s, 11-14s youth group or Children and Families work.
- Bible studies: Apprentices working with the 11-19s will lead Bible studies within those youth groups.
- Discipleship: Apprentices will be encouraged to meet with smaller groups and individuals to study the Bible and to pray with them, and to encourage and equip them in their faith.
- Evangelism: Apprentices will have the opportunity to be involved in the church's evangelism and help on Christianity Explored courses, and will be encouraged to be committed to their own personal evangelism.
- Organisation and administration: Apprentices will be involved in the planning of termly programmes and houseparties for both youth groups, and have responsibilities within the wider staff team, and will be expected to organise their personal time.
- Practical work: Apprentices will work alongside both the Office Manager and Facilities Manager to assist with tasks around the building and site, and will be asked to assist members of the staff team with other jobs as they arise.
- Speaking publicly: Apprentices will have opportunities to speak within the youth groups, and in local school Christian Unions and Assemblies.

## **Conditions**

We are looking for at least two apprentices for 2012-2013. The post is a one-year post with the possibility of a second year by mutual agreement. Apprentices will work directly under the Associate Minister or the Children and Families worker, as appropriate. CRB clearance will be a condition of appointment. Accommodation will be provided, for which bills and expenses will be paid. An allowance, currently £545 per month (under review), is provided to cover living expenses and an annual book allowance is also paid. The post includes five weeks of holiday, by arrangement with the Associate Minister. These normally include a week at Christmas, a week at Easter and three other weeks at a time of own choosing. Subject to discussion and parish commitments, we encourage Apprentices to maintain links with camps they have helped on in the past.

## **Applications**

**Those wishing to apply should nominate two referees and send a CV and a short testimony to:-**

**Andy Martin,  
9:38 Apprentice Scheme,  
St Nicholas Church Office,  
Rectory Lane,  
Sevenoaks,  
Kent, TN13 1JA  
[andymartin.stnicholas@gmail.com](mailto:andymartin.stnicholas@gmail.com)**

**Interviews will be arranged as and when applications are made.**