

Job Description for Members of the Whalley Abbey Community

Purpose of Role

A one-year volunteer programme in which you offer 'a year or two in God's time' to be part of a religious community dedicated to prayer, hospitality and training in discipleship.

Inspired by the Cistercian tradition of the site, you will be involved in a daily pattern of prayer, study and manual work designed to help you grow in your relationship with God.

Main Elements of Role

- Maintaining a rhythm of worship and prayer, with daily hours of prayer and participation in the regular celebration of the Eucharist.
- Study and mentoring – engaging in study, training and mentoring in faith, developing your gifts and being equipped for future ministry. Each member is encouraged to have a spiritual director/companion outside of the Abbey community.
- Ministry of hospitality to visitors – helping to receive guests, look after their needs and provide a listening ear.
- Manual work – contributing to the work of the house on a rota basis, including the practical running of the programme and everyday tasks such as cleaning, housekeeping, serving and catering, and event duties as needed .
- Evening and night time cover – members of the resident community will take turns to be on call as requested in case of emergency whenever guests are resident.

You will be encouraged to make a distinctive contribution according to your gifts, skills and interests to enhance the life of the community and the Abbey. Living in community provides an opportunity for personal growth and enrichment through our availability to others, and it is expected that you will actively engage in the social element of community life.

Terms and Conditions

The programme will usually run for 12 months with an option to extend if both parties agree.

The programme is aimed at adults over 21 – but is open to the right applicants aged 18 and over.

Accommodation will be provided on site.

An allowance of £330 per month will be paid. Food will be provided. When there are no guests to cater for, you will be expected to prepare your own meals.

Time off – one fixed day a week and an extra day off each month, plus 4 weeks annual leave. Annual leave would not be taken on major Christian festivals.

An enhanced DBS check will be required for all community members.

Start date: Rolling

Support will be provided to develop a package of learning and training that will be tailored to each candidate's needs. This will include funding for job related training.