**Application Form for Participants**

**Whalley Abbey**

**Ministry Experience Scheme**

**2024**

Thank you for your interest in the Whalley Abbey Ministry Experience Scheme. This application form is intended to give us a picture of ‘where you are at’ in order to try and establish the right mix of people living in community. There are lots of questions, simply because we want to be certain that you are right for this project, and that this project is right for you. Trying to get as full a picture of you as possible from the outset through these questions is one way of doing that – please answer as honestly as you can. You can type your answers in or write them by hand. Please make sure that you have read all the documentation in the application pack before completing this form.

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| **PERSONAL INFORMATION** | |
| **Full Name** |  |
| **Address** |  |
| **Phone Number** |  |
| **Email address** |  |
| **Date of Birth** |  |
| **Age on 1/3/2023** |  |
| **Are you free to remain and take up employment in the UK with no current immigration restrictions?** |  |

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| **GENERAL** | | |
| **How did you hear about the Whalley Abbey Ministry Experience Scheme?** |  | |
| **Why are you applying to take part in the Scheme? What appeals to you about it?** |  | |
| **CHURCH** | |  |
| **To what church do you currently belong?** | |  |
| **What denomination is it?** | |  |
| **How long have you been there?** | |  |
| **If Anglican, in which Diocese is your church situated?** | |  |

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| **EDUCATION/TRAINING (most recent qualifications first)** | | |
| **Dates (from/to)** | **Name of School/College/University** | **Qualifications** |
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| **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY (most recent positions first)** | | |
| **Dates Employed**  **(from/to)** | **Name & Type of Organisation**  **(including full address)** | **Role Title (plus summary of main responsibilities/**  **achievements, and reason for leaving)** |
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| **SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE** | | |
| **Please outline below any skills you have gained that might help you to undertake the duties outlined in the job description (include any skills and experience you may have gained from voluntary work in which you have been involved, including any roles or responsibilities within a church context.)** | | |
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| **FAITH AND VOCATION** |
| **Please write a personal statement of no more than 500 words about you as a Christian, and any sense of calling you may have. Please use the following questions and the Person Specification (page 5) as a prompt:**   * Describe your journey of becoming and living as a Christian, and what deepening your relationship with God means to you. * Explain how you live out your Christian faith, something of your prayer and worship life, the Christian community to which you belong, and the ministries in which you are currently involved * Describe any sense of what God’s calling on your life might be, including if you are already in the selection process for any lay or ordained ministry |
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| **COMMUNITY LIVING** |
| **Please write a personal statement of no more than 500 words about your experience of living in community, including specific real-life examples. This could be based on living in a family home or student accommodation. Please use the following questions and the Person Specification (page 5) as a prompt**   * What you believe your strengths and weaknesses to be as a housemate * What your friends and family would say your strengths and weaknesses are as a housemate * Your familiarity and engagement with household chores (e.g. cleaning, washing clothes, ironing, gardening etc.) * Your familiarity and skill at cooking * Food particularities, including if you have any food issues, e.g. allergies, dietary requirements * How well you deal with money (especially your ability to live on a small budget) |
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| **OTHER INFORMATION** | |
| **Have you ever lived away from home? If yes, please describe the context** |  |
| **Are there any relationship issues or considerations to be taken into account (family/romantic/friendship?)[[1]](#footnote-2)** |  |
| **Do you have a clean valid driving licence?** |  |
| **Do you have access to a car you would be willing to bring with you and use for ministry?** |  |
| **Do you have access to a bike you would be willing to bring with you and use for ministry?** |  |
| **Do you have any allergies regarding cats or dogs or any severe allergies we should be aware of?** |  |

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| **PERSON SPECIFICATION** |  |
| **EXPERIENCE, PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES and SKILLS** | **ESSENTIAL (E) OR DESIRABLE (D)** |
| Have a living and active Christian faith | E |
| Regularly engaging in personal prayer and worship and belonging to a Christian community | E |
| Be actively involved in Christian ministry in some form | D |
| Have an openness to pursue God’s calling on your life | E |
| Have an interest in exploring future leadership roles. | D |
| Be able to engage in all aspects of living in community with others, and willing to learn from it | E |
| Be robust and resilient enough to think and act independently throughout the year | E |
| Have a desire and ability to learn, and be open to constructive criticism and feedback | E |
| Be able to live on a budget | E |
| Be hard working and diligent | E |
| Be able to operate under the direction and instruction of others | E |
| Be willing to serve, including being ‘on-duty’ at unsociable hours – and demonstrate grace, humility and kindness | E |
| Be good at time keeping and diary management | E |
| Be able to work in a team with an awareness of the skills and strengths that you contribute to it | E |
| Be able to work with people from a variety of backgrounds, different from your own | E |
| Have good interpersonal and communication skills | E |

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| **MINISTRY IN A RETREAT HOUSE** |
| **Being involved in a Centre for Christian Discipleship and Prayer involves encountering people of all faiths and none and at various positions on their faith journey. Our life is focussed on prayer and hospitality, providing space for people to encounter God, whatever that might mean for them. Explain how you feel suited to this role and also how you might be challenged by it.** |
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| **REFERENCES** | | |
| In order to develop the picture of who you are a little further, and to support your application, we will ask three Referees to comment on your suitability for the Whalley Abbey Community Experience. One Referee should be a Church Leader, of a church where you currently belong, or have recently. One should be someone who has lived in a community context with you (family, student accommodation etc.), for at least one year. One should be someone who knows you in a formal context (e.g. a Line Manager, teacher, tutor, youth/Scout/Brownie leader etc.). We may ask for additional Referees if necessary. | | |
| **REFEREES REQUIRED** | **NAME, EMAIL ADDRESS**  **AND PHONE NUMBER** | **HOW LONG HAVE THEY KNOWN YOU?** |
| A Church Leader (current or recent) who is able to comment on your life as a Christian |  |  |
| Someone with whom you have lived, and can comment on the ‘community’ aspect |  |  |
| Someone known in a formal context, e.g. a teacher, tutor, youth/Scout/Brownie leader etc. |  |  |

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| **PERSONAL INTERESTS** |
| **Finally, please tell us about you: your hobbies, interests, hopes and dreams. You can also use this space to tell us anything else you feel we need to know that has not already been covered in this application.** |
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If you have any questions about the Whalley Abbey Ministry Experience Scheme, or need any help regarding the completion of this form, please get in touch with the Director using the contact details below.

**Please return this form to Rev Anna Walker, Director, as soon as possible**

**Email: anna.walker@whalleyabbey.org**

**tel. 07484 118564**

**Post:** Whalley Abbey, The Sands, Whalley, Clitheroe, BB7 9SS

We will notify you in good time as to whether you will be called for an interview.

*Thank you for taking the time to complete this form – every blessing.*

1. Please note that if you are already in a romantic relationship we would need to discuss the implications and boundaries of that for the Whalley Abbey Ministry Experience year. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)