

Emmanuel Church and Guildford Diocese seeks a title curate with a passion for evangelism.

To know Christ better and make Him better known

Emmanuel is a large version of a medium sized church (ER 350) poised on the edge of an exciting time of growth and renewal. Our new vicar Thom Jee was licensed in July 2022, with a brief to lead the church to go deeper in prayer, to connect further with our local community, and to reach the large number of students and young families surrounding our church. We are looking for a high-capacity curate with significant ministry experience who can help mobilise the church in evangelism through their leadership, teaching, prayer, and practice.

Emmanuel Church

Our Archdeacon Paul Davies describes Emmanuel as ‘one of the warmest and welcoming Christian churches I’ve known, blessed with high quality leadership over an extended period and a superb staff team.’ We have benefitted from many decades of consistent, gospel-centred and compassionate leadership, which have left a church family who are deeply united, with a bedrock of trust, and who deeply value our loving relationships and our commitment to each other.

We are a church of the Word, committed to the authority of the bible and to the central place of preaching Jesus from all of scripture. Under Thom’s leadership, we are also on a journey of renewal, seeking to grow in ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit, and depending on prayer and God’s presence in all we do.

In the years before Thom’s arrival we have expressed our priorities as:

- Going deeper in Prayer
- Growing as Disciples
- Getting better at sharing our faith
- Getting to know each other better

We see huge opportunities in stepping out to reach the students and young families in our parish, growing younger and larger. We are currently refreshing our vision and values in Thom’s first few months in post, and we anticipate a strong focus on evangelism and reaching our community with the gospel in the next few years. We currently have a staff team of 10 but anticipate hiring additional staff in summer 2023 as we prepare for growth.

Local Community

Stoughton is a parish of 12 000 people in north Guildford, which is 21% under 18, 22% 18-29, and 25% 30-44. It is residential, with most of the housing immediately surrounding the church being young families, and a Uni of Surrey Hall of Residence and student housing around the edges of the parish. Stoughton itself has a handful of shops and restaurants, but is close to the Royal Surrey County Hospital and the University of Surrey, with easy access into Guildford Town Centre. We have a curate’s house near the junior school, a short walk from the church.

The church complex functions as a hub for the community, with a preschool and coffee shop onsite, several rooms that are hired out and different groups meeting in the church each day. We work closely with our excellent infant and junior school, while our youth worker spends much of her time in our local CofE Secondary School. We currently see around 60 teenagers from the school join our evangelistic Youth Club every Thursday.

Training Incumbent

Thom is a Word and Spirit evangelical, shaped particularly by time with UCCF, Soul Survivor, and New Wine. Before Emmanuel, he served a four year curacy with Paul Harcourt, the National Leader of New Wine. Thom is halfway through a Doctorate of Ministry with Asbury Seminary, looking at church planting in a post-secular culture. He's passionate about preaching Jesus from all of scripture, mobilising the church to reach the community with the gospel, and contending in prayer for the next move of the Holy Spirit. He has a track record of planting new communities and leading into growth, from youth and student ministries to networks of multiplying missional groups. He's a proven trainer and enabler of leaders, serving as an associate tutor at St Mellitus, and having sent five candidates into the ordination process in the last four years, and several others into full-time ministry. Thom is married to Sarah, with two children - Sophia (3) and James (1).

Thom writes: *'It's unusual for a church to be given a curate so quickly after a new incumbent starts, and I think this speaks to what a healthy base for training Emmanuel is, and to the exciting new season we are about to enter. I'm looking for a curate who can join me in leading the church through change and into growth, fulfilling its vast untapped potential and working and praying for a move of God among the students and young families surrounding our church. I benefitted from an excellent curacy in Woodford and would want my curate to enjoy the same opportunities here. My role as TI is enabling and releasing my curate in their own gifting, to offer stretching opportunities for ministry and leadership alongside coaching, support, and encouragement. If you are passionate about seeing people meet Jesus, I'd love to chat with you more.'*

Our Next Curate

We are looking for a proactive curate who can lead in the areas of evangelism and reaching students and/or young families in the parish. Possible ministry areas could include running Alpha, small groups, relaunching and leading our evening service, ministering in schools and on campus, and among students, youth, and children, or helping develop our worship and prayer life. As the only other stipendiary clergy post, you would share in much of the leadership of the church, with opportunities for line management and service pastoring. As Emmanuel moves from being a large version of a medium sized church to a small version of a large church, this might be a particularly attractive placement for someone interested in church growth and leading change.

We are looking for someone committed to the authority of the scriptures, orthodox on sexuality, seeking to grow in ministry in the power of the Spirit, and able to raise up both men and women in leadership roles. We're looking for a self-starter, who might have felt frustrated at times if in residential training, excited about seeing many of our teenagers, students, and families meet Jesus for the first time.

For an informal conversation to hear more, please email Thom at vicar@emmanuelchurch.co.uk

The title curacy is for 3 years and 1 month. The stipend is in line with the diocesan stipend policy, and all expenses will be covered.

If you would like to be considered, please email katrina.henderson@cofeguildford.org.uk and cc in DDO@cofeguildford.org.uk. Please include your letter of release, your interim college report, a CV, and a letter as to why you are being called to apply for this title curacy.