



Minister for Sark Ecumenical Partnership

Do you place an importance on the church living and working amongst its community?

Do you value ecumenism, and the importance of different approaches to being the church of God?

Would you relish the opportunity to minister and engage with a wide breadth of society?

Can you ride a bike?

If the answer is “yes” to the above – then please read on!

The Sark Ecumenical Partnership was formed in September 2017 – a partnership in ministry between the Methodist Church and the Church of England. It has been agreed by both partners that we will seek the appointment of a Methodist presbyter to serve in Sark from September 2019 who will serve as the minister for Sark Methodist Chapel and as the minister in charge at St. Peter’s (Anglican) parish church - as well as being an important member of the community, sharing the gospel and being involved in many outreach opportunities.

Below is information we hope you will find helpful as you seek to discern whether this is a ministry to which God might be calling you.

What skills are we looking for?

- **A ‘people person.’** Both churches agreed the presbyter needs to be a ‘people’ person. Pastorally, the minister will find themselves approached by those who attend the church and chapel as well as those who attend neither regularly.
- **A resilient person.** The minister needs to be thick skinned and broad shouldered as they will be expected to listen to a range of views. Being the only ordained person makes it rather a solitary ministry, though there is support from church stewards, wardens, lay readers and a local preacher who lives on island, as well as links with Guernsey.

- **Ecumenically committed.** The minister will serve two congregations from two denominations and each has its distinct pattern and styles of worship. It is vital that the minister is comfortable in working ecumenically, but also respecting the traditions of each congregation.
- A **good communicator** and **listener**. Both are vital in a small island community!
- **Non-judgmental and open to all in the community.** You would be there to serve everyone – Anglicans, Methodists, residents, tourists...whoever comes your way!
- **Not easily led** and **Diplomatic**. In a community which has known significant tensions, it is critical that you can exercise diplomatic skills – and be careful not to easily take sides
- **Able to work in a range of teams** and situations, sometimes as leader and sometimes as a worker or supporter.
- **Willingness to get stuck in, and lead by doing.**

Still reading? Still think this might be you? Then please read on!

Sark Methodist Church

Website: www.sarksanctuarycentre.com

The Sark Methodist Chapel is part of the Bailiwick of Guernsey Circuit, so the minister is part of that team. However, as Sark is 9 miles from Guernsey, it can be difficult to join with colleagues and physically attend circuit meetings and events. Video conferencing is often used if it is not possible for the minister to be present physically.

The Methodist Chapel has an active membership. In recent years they embarked on a major project to build the Sanctuary Centre in order to facilitate outreach and community service work. This was officially opened in April 2017, and is in active use.

Services tend to be all age worship with congregational participation encouraged. The age range at worship is typically 7 to those with 'the gift of years'. The Chapel also considers its outreach role to visitors and children as an important part of its mission. Typical Sunday congregations are 12 to 15, with, in the summer months, this increasing to nearer 40. There are currently 22 Chapel members. United services involving the community are also an important part of the work, such as pet services and Sea Sunday.

Messy Church is held once a month, with a wide age range attending. Some members of St. Peter's Church help at this. The Chapel offers a number of other activities, such as youth club and a gym, as well as being used by various other island groups.

The Methodist Chapel considers outreach and social work within the community as central to their calling to spread the gospel message. The work with children and young people is central, and engagement with the school is an important part of the role of the presbyter, who would also be expected to sit on the Board of Education. As well as through the active work of the Chapel, there

are also links with various arms of the community, with the presbyter working closely with the Island procurer, constable and doctor. The current presbyter sits on the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub, and it is likely that the future presbyter would be needed to fulfil this role.

There is also a close working relationship between the Sanctuary Centre Manager and minister which assists in the community work of the Chapel. The Sanctuary Centre is seen as a neutral place that acts as an anchor in the community.

There has been some work in setting up retreats and quiet days in Sark. The Chapel would like to build on this, imagining that this could become an area of work that would benefit attendees and also the Island as a whole. The quiet Island location is eminently suitable to retreats, and the incoming participants would be of huge benefit to the Island community. There is a history dating to 565AD of a monastery that was established by St. Magloire, no longer present but ruins are evident in the Seigneurie grounds.

The Methodist Chapel has engaged with development and change in the construction of the Sanctuary Centre and is eager to form a bridge for the community to God. They are open to new ideas and ways of doing things that will enable this.

St. Peter's Parish Church

Website: <https://www.sarkparishchurch.org.uk/>

Sark Parish Church is part of the Anglican Deanery of Guernsey. The Dean of Guernsey is priest in charge of Sark (and is also authorised to serve as a Methodist Minister in the circuit). He and other Anglican clergy lead services in the Church on occasion. The Methodist minister currently in this post has authorisation from the Bishop of Dover and the Methodist Conference to serve as the minister for St. Peter's resident in Sark. It is anticipated that this arrangement would be put in place for an incoming presbyter. The Deanery of Guernsey is under the episcopal oversight of the Bishop of Dover and under the wing of the Diocese of Canterbury. Regular attendance at Anglican meetings is not an expectation and would be by agreement with the Dean.

Over the past 10 years St. Peter's Church has had a lack of stability in leadership with no permanent long term resident priest in charge. Many in the Church would have preferred to have a Church of England vicar, but given that circumstances do not currently allow for this, the ecumenical partnership has enabled the congregation to be led by the Methodist minister. This has provided some stability and begun the healing process, necessary to overcome what has been perceived as a lack of support from the Deanery.

There are currently 80 on the electoral roll with congregations typically being between 20 and 35. Christmas Eve tends to be the best attended service with a congregation of 170 to 200 people. The congregation have a loyalty to St. Peter's, and the Church is a focus of faith in the Island, the hub for Christenings, Weddings and funerals. Its role as a place of God is recognised within the wider community.

St. Peter's congregation maintain worship on a Sunday as their focal point. There is a strong adherence to the Church of England tradition, with the church regarding itself as following a 'middle-of-the-road' Church liturgy. It is a diminishing and aging congregation with no regular children or young people attending. It does not particularly engage in outreach although there is a prayer circle.

The Church considers pastoral work is an important area that requires more focus, as currently there is not a system in place to pick up all needs. The Church recognise that the minister has too many time constraints to meet all needs on their own, particularly as a lack of social services in the Island means that the minister becomes involved in lieu. Looking forwards, the Church would like to make more contact with those who only attend worship for special services.

St. Peter's consider it is important to maintain their identity and their vital purpose to be present as a Church in the community. For the majority of the congregation the traditional *Book of Common Prayer* pattern of worship is important.

Housing

The minister would be expected to reside in the Anglican Church Vicarage, which is the home available to the minister. (The Methodist Manse, beside the chapel, is a two-bedroom bungalow and is occupied by the Sanctuary Centre Manager on a house-for-duty basis).

Address:	The Vicarage, Sark GY10 1SF
Amenities	Vicarage across the road from St. Peter's Church, and ten minutes' walk from Methodist Chapel. The school is five minutes' walk as is the doctor. There is no hospital on Sark - the hospital in Guernsey is a 45 minute boat trip and 15 minute car journey.
Transport links:	Boat to Guernsey, frequency depends on season and weather/sea (see www.sarkshipping.gg for further information.)
Measurement of rooms:	Ground floor: Entrance porch, WC, study 3.4x2.65m, reception room 3.7x4.0m, kitchen/dining/family room 4.4x6.9m, utility 2.1x2.4m, pantry. Half landing: family bathroom and separate WC First floor: Bed 1 4.2x3.6m, ensuite 3.4x2.4m, bed 2 3.7x4.5m, bed 3 3.1x4.4m, airing cupboard.
Study:	As noted above - study 3.4x2.65m
Heating	Oil fired central heating
Nature of garden:	Large garden laid mainly to grass with shed for minister and shed for church.
Garage facilities:	Not relevant - no cars on island
Disability access:	None

Oversight

The presbyter appointed will be subject to the standard terms and conditions of a Methodist presbyter in full connexion. There are some financial enhancements to reflect the cost of living in Sark, which are set out elsewhere. Medical costs are covered by the Connexion.

Key dates to note

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS (by email or post): **10th September**

ORIENTATION DAY IN SARK: **20th September**

INTERVIEWS IN SARK: **21st September** (morning)

Take a look at us:



Vicarage - front



Vicarage - rear



St. Peter's Church



Inside St. Peter's Church



Sark Methodist Chapel - opening of Sanctuary Centre April 2017



Sark Sanctuary Centre and Chapel