



Volunteer Welcome & Process

About us

St Mary Redcliffe is a thriving church in the heart of Bristol. St Mary Redcliffe is not just a Gothic masterpiece, but also a highly diverse parish in one of the more deprived areas of Bristol and home to a growing, inclusive congregation.

The current generation of 'SMR' is a diverse community: old and young, rich and poor; Bristol-born and migrants to the city; Redcliffe through-and-through and newcomers to the church; diverse in ethnic background & cultural identity and in relationships & family circumstances; with varying levels of physical & mental health & ability and understanding of gender & expression of sexual identity.

What binds this 'diverse community' is a growing sense of vocation, of purpose within the society, to be a church that is *singing the song of faith and justice*. And over the next year, we are hoping to welcome as many as 50,000 visitors and tourists from across the world through our doors, many of whom will cross paths with the amazing work of our volunteer teams.

Welcome

Before you go any further in the process of possibly becoming a volunteer at St Mary Redcliffe Church, we want to take a moment to thank you so much for expressing your interest in being involved. A church like St Mary Redcliffe relies significantly on the freely given time of its many wonderful and dedicated volunteers and for anyone wanting to join the team, the process starts here, by expressing that initial interest.

There is a great variety and diversity of volunteer opportunities at St Mary Redcliffe and our aim is to be able to connect you with an opportunity that fits both your skills and your interests. In doing that, we hope that our volunteers will greatly enjoy their time here regardless of how long they are with us or how much or little time they are able to give.

So, thank you again for your interest and welcome to our recruitment process.

Process

When it comes to our volunteer recruitment process, we want to make it as easy as possible for you to get involved whilst also ensuring that we handle the process safely and rigorously. Here at St Mary Redcliffe, we take all our prospective volunteers through what's called a Safer Recruitment process.

Safer Recruitment is the Church of England practise of ensuring that all paid and volunteer staff are recruited in a way that makes sure those individuals have the values and skills to do the work we ask of them and that people who present a risk to vulnerable groups e.g. children or vulnerable adults, do not work with them.

What this means for your recruitment process here at St Mary Redcliffe is that along with your application form, we will also ask for 2 references from you and will invite you for a short interview

relating to the role you are interested in. If all of that is successful and your volunteer role requires it, you will then be put in touch with our Parish Safeguarding Officer to complete a DBS check.

If you have any questions or queries, do not hesitate to get in touch with me on:

chris.whitwell@stmaryredcliffe.co.uk

Kind regards,

Chris Whitwell

