

www.sjp.org.uk

4 February 2026

Part time Associate Priest (SSM)

Introduction

St James's is a lively, inclusive church in central London which draws together a diverse set of activities, projections, and aspirations. Rooted in its character as an Anglican parish church, and with the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of its life, it has a decades-long track record of gathering people of all faiths and none in a range of social outreach, earth justice and arts/music programmes. The congregation is lively, diverse and gathered from across London and beyond.

This Associate Priest role, 2 days plus Sundays, is focussed on the pastoral care and support of the gathered congregation, working with the Rector, Associate Rector and clergy team to develop programmes and structures that enable individuals to get to know each other, grow in faith and discipleship, welcome newcomers and empower and encourage lay leaders.

Our Vision

Rooted in God's earth, we envision a just society and a creative, open-hearted church.

Our Values

Contemplation. Action. Adventure. Kindness. Courage.

Context and Purpose of the role

St James's has been fundraising for a major restoration project The Wren Project, the construction phase of which is due to start in the Spring of 2027. Over this time, the Rector and PCC want to ensure that the pastoral care of the gathered congregation is a priority. Focussed on the flourishing of the gathered congregation, this role is envisaged to be three weekdays plus Sundays. The plan for the construction phase of the church building (up to 18 months) is for Sunday and weekday worship to be held at St Pancras Euston Road, the congregations joining for that time. The Rector of St James's is also the Priest in Charge of St Pancras.

This three year role (renewable) 2026-29, reporting to the Rector, is focussed on the provision of pastoral care for the gathered congregation over this period which will include the move to St Pancras and back to St James's.

The current clergy team comprises a full time Rector (Lucy Winkett), full time Associate Rector (Ayla Lepine), part time Associate Priest (Mariama Ifode-Blease) and part time Self Supporting Minister (Ivan Khovacs).

Working with the Associate Rector, church wardens and assistant wardens, this new Associate Priest (SSM) role will

- a) create, sustain and support pastoral structures (for example small groups) that enable the pilgrim congregation of St James's to keep in touch with each other, continue to welcome newcomers and flourish alongside the congregation of St Pancras Euston Road.
- b) work with the lay pastoral care coordinator for the provision of pastoral care and visiting,
- c) support the St James's congregation prayer group
- d) be a member of the safeguarding team, attending quarterly team meetings chaired by the Associate Rector
- e) Assist in developing pathways over 2026 for St James's and St Pancras congregations continue to get to know each other in advance of the St James's move in 2027.
- f) Attend the Voice and Community strategy group, supporting lay leaders of congregational groups

With the rest of the clergy team, take a share in leading baptism and confirmation preparation, occasional offices, special services and discipleship courses as required.

Person Specification

Our new Associate Priest will be a person who is motivated by and energetic in committing to the pastoral care of our gathered congregation.

They will be dedicated to the growth in depth of the people of God as a gathered worshipping community centred on the Eucharist on Sundays and the weekly Tuesday 'Sanctuary' community.

They will be fully supportive of the inclusive ethos of St James's and have a proven track record in bringing people together across generational or identity differences.

They will be highly collaborative, and in this 3 year phase, be willing to live with uncertainty, demonstrating flexibility. They will also be a person who enjoys taking initiatives and seeing change happen.

What can St James's offer you?

Membership of a lively, collaborative clergy, lay and staff team who are purposeful, imaginative and committed to the flourishing of the church and the transformation of society.

A place to explore and develop your own ministry with specific reference to building inclusive community.

A place to learn and grow in terms of providing pastoral care for a pilgrim congregation moving from St James's to St Pancras and back again for Sunday worship over the next three years.

This post is being offered under Common Tenure terms and conditions; no housing or housing allowance is available

Full expenses, including travel up to Zone 6, are payable

A book/retreat allowance of £500 pa is available.

Recruitment process

Members of the clergy team are available for informal conversation. Please contact the Rector Lucy Winkett rector@sjp.org.uk the Associate Rector Ayla Lepine associaterector@sjp.org.uk, the Associate Priest Mariama Ifode-Blease curate@sjp.org.uk or SSM Associate Priest Ivan Khovacs ivan@sjp.org.uk as you discern whether to submit an application.

Please complete the Church of England Clergy application form that is on the website www.sjp.org.uk/jobs and send to Jane Gray, St James's HR advisor hr@sjp.org.uk by 12 noon on Friday 27th February.

Interviews will be held on Friday 13th March 2026.