Volunteering for Lay Ministry as a Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary or a Reader

Ewan Robinson is a Reader at St Paul’s Church, Thamesmead. He was licensed in October last year.

The understanding is that someone has decided to take on the role, with all its responsibilities and demands, which is entirely voluntary. Then Ewan, in a word – ‘yes’. As a result, Ewan felt inspired to add a “bridge” to things.

Volunteering at the chaplaincy is something that has helped to mould and nourish us in the community, there are so many things going on, but we keep on going.

Through my volunteering I am able to bring pastoral skills which can be instilled effectively by people who may not have been able to do so before.

I think that volunteering is a way to learn about the community that you’re in.

Ewan has been licensed for just over a year now and on Sat 5th Feb he will be conducting his first service – so it is not something to look forward to!

When you come to the mission that God has chosen for you, you will see everything that you have done.

It took me a few months before I realised how much I enjoyed being a volunteer.

I have learned to change in order to be a better person.

Volunteers in the church or wider community.

The Church of England, in partnership with the British Institute of Pychiatry, has launched a scheme called ‘Million Volunteers’.

The first step is to ask yourself what you are good at, what you love doing, what you are passionate about. Then you think about where you could volunteer. That’s about half the job done. The other half is – what will I get out of it? What can I offer?

As a volunteer, you can help your life feel more purposeful. You can make a real difference to the lives of others. You can find fulfillment in giving something back to your community.

The benefits of volunteering are endless:

- You can gain new skills and experience that will help you in your career.
- You can make new friends and meet people from all walks of life.
- You can improve your mental health and wellbeing.
- You can feel a sense of pride and accomplishment.
- You can help others in need.

If you would like to become a volunteer for Welcare please contact one of the Welcare central team on 020 7939 5400, or visit our website at www.welcare.org.