

KINGDOM VINEYARD
VOLUNTARY PASTORAL
ASSISTANTSHIP
2024-2025



VISION

Right at the heart of what we aim to do at Kingdom Vineyard is develop and release new leaders, and that's exactly what our VPA programme is for: spending a year working with the KV team, growing in your relationship with God, putting your gifts into action and getting an insight into the everyday workings of Kingdom Vineyard and pastoral ministry.

PEOPLE, NOT PROGRAMMES

This isn't a one-size-fits-all programme. We want to make sure every VPA has the chance to explore and develop their own gifts and interests as well as getting involved in the more general aspects of running a church.



SO, WHAT IS IT?

- 12 months spent serving God through the work of Kingdom Vineyard
- Becoming part of the KV staff team for a year and being involved in everything that entails
- Time spent investing in the church, learning how it all works and growing in relationship with God, exploring your gifts and trying new things

WHY DO IT?

- Invest in your relationship with God
- See God move
- Grow in leadership skills
- Learn how church ministry works
- Spend time doing things that are currently outside your comfort zone

WHO'S IT FOR?

- Anyone over the age of 18, in all stages of and from all walks of life
- Members of KV and anyone else who shares the values of KV
- Committed followers of Jesus who are available, reliable & teachable
- Anyone exploring a call to pastoral ministry

We're not looking for any specific qualifications from those who apply, but we do need you to be:

- Able, in practical terms, to commit to a year of serving the church (a year spent volunteering full-time with Kingdom Vineyard should be thought of in the same way as committing to any other full-time work)
- Able to take an idea and run with it; or even better, come up with the idea yourself!
- Responsible with your finances
- Reliable, dependable and a good team-worker



WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

Structure

The expected duration of the programme is 12 months, usually beginning in July and finishing at the end of June. That being said, if you have a different start date in mind, or even a different duration, we'd be really happy to hear your thoughts and have a conversation about it. Again: we're about people, not programmes.

A typical five-day week might look like 2 1/2 days on everyday KV activities, 2 days on your chosen specialisms (more on that later) and 1/2 a day on study and personal development.

We'd expect the remaining two days of the week to be used for a day off and a Sabbath day. These are different from one another: Sabbath is an intentional spiritual discipline of stopping to rest and engage in activities of contemplation and delight in God; a day off is a flexible personal day to do all that is required to make a Sabbath day possible, such as running errands, housework, personal finances, etc.



Everyday Activities

Our VPAs are full members of the team so there are some key activities we'd expect you to be involved in, such as:

Sunday Services

We would expect you to attend KV Sunday Services and carry out the tasks personally assigned to you, to help the services run in a way that helps people make connections with God.

Pastoral Staff Meetings

Pastoral staff meetings are an integral part of our weekly rhythms and we want our VPAs to be active participants in these. During these meetings, you will be given important insight into the basic operations of KV, and have a key voice in decision-making.

Basic Operations

Finally, the general running of KV involves many everyday tasks, like administration and communication, and we'd expect you to take on a share of these jobs, which may overlap with one of your specialisms

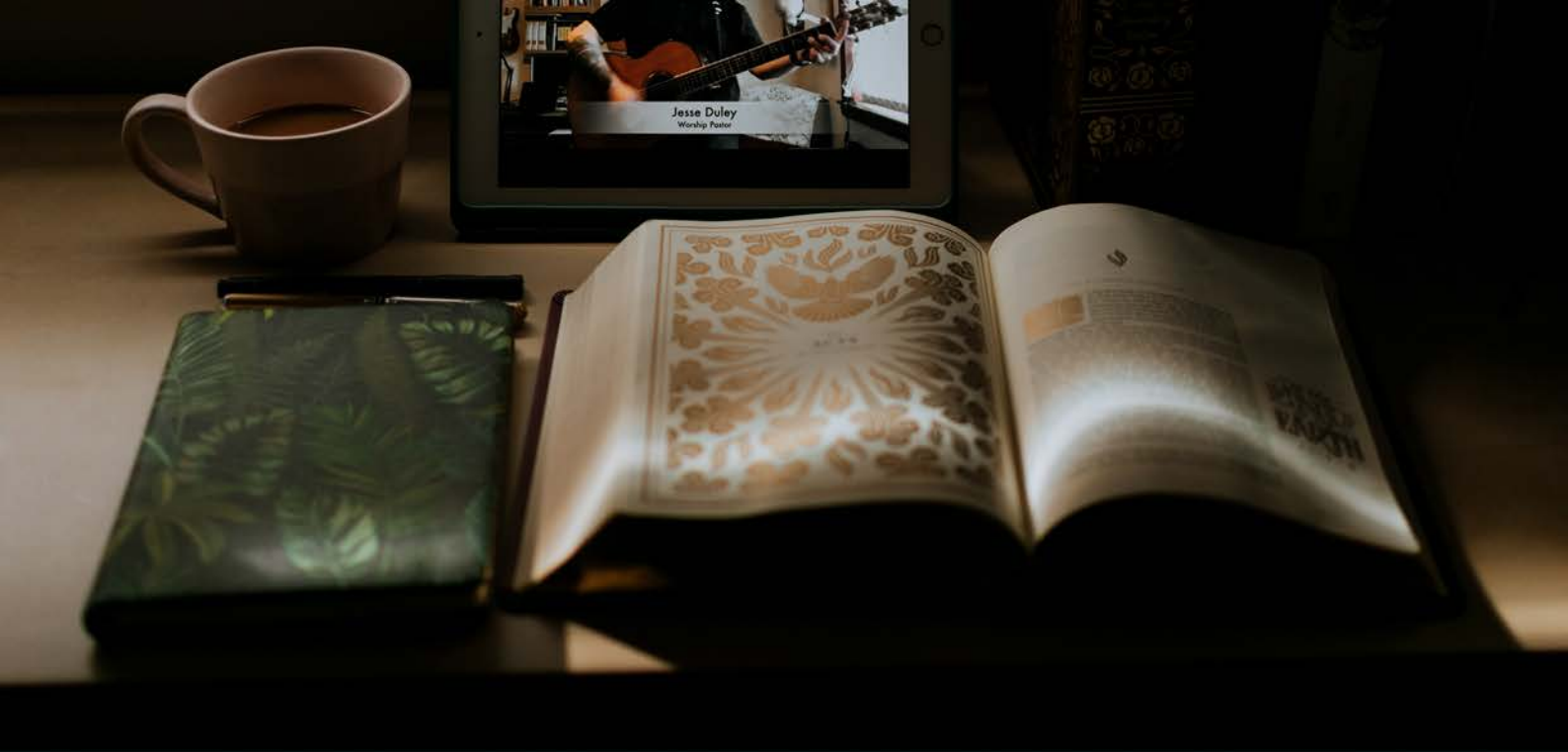
Specialisms

You'll see below a list of areas our VPAs can specialise in. Choosing one or more of these areas as a specialism will mean devoting some (or all) of the year to focussing on them. Those with a particular heart for, or gifting in, any of these areas should consider choosing them as 'specialisms' for their year. Over the course of the year we would expect you to spend time on multiple specialisms to gain more experience in a variety of ministry areas.

That said, each of these areas will naturally be covered in overall church plans, strategy, and duties, and you will gain some insight and experience in all of them through your general work with KV over the course of a year.

Areas of specialism include:

- Worship
- Preaching
- Kids
- Youth
- Storehouse (Foodbank
Compassion Ministry)
- Prayer
- Communications
- Homegroups
- Outreach/Mission
- Church administration
- Pastoral support



Personal Development

Study and Review

- You'll have regular conversations with the pastoral staff, to review your personal development throughout the course of the year
- There will be regular study sessions - with other VPAs and/or staff working through a syllabus of study and discussing personal insights and challenges drawn from it

Conferences and Research Trips

Throughout the year there will be leadership conferences and potential placements in ministries and churches with connections to KV. These are intended to give you a broader perspective of ministry than are available at KV, to give you insight into how other people do things, and have the chance to put what you've learned into practice at KV.

WHAT WE EXPECT FROM YOU

- Committed to following Jesus
- Committed to Kingdom Vineyard
- In agreement with Kingdom Vineyard's Vision & Values
- In agreement with Vineyard Churches UK & Ireland Statement of Faith
- A committed member of a homegroup
- Willing to serve the pastors' vision and follow their leadership
- Ability to maintain a high level of confidentiality when faced with sensitive pastoral issues

WHAT WE WILL GIVE

- The chance to invest a year into helping people make connections with God
- The chance to serve the church family and serve the community of East Fife
- Opportunities for theological training and discipleship
- Opportunities to be involved in almost every part of church life
- The chance to see and learn how a church works. So much is caught rather than taught; there will be many things you'll pick up along the way just by being a part of the team
- Time to invest in your relationship with God and discerning where He might be leading you both now and in the future

COSTS

There is no charge for spending a year working with KV as a VPA; however, we ask each VPA to raise the money that their year will cost the church (things like training, travel expenses, and where necessary, accommodation expenses). This means that each VPA's expected costs will vary depending on their individual circumstances, and these will be discussed with you, tailored to your individual arrangements, and agreed with you before you start your year with Kingdom Vineyard.

To give an example, a 12 month VPA programme with KV, with provided accommodation arranged by Kingdom Vineyard might cost around £5,000, and £2,600 without accommodation.

We ask our VPAs to raise this money for Kingdom Vineyard to cover these expected costs. Although we recognise that this may be daunting, we think raising the funds is an important faith step at the beginning of this year. God has always been so faithful to us and we are constantly blown away by His abundant provision for our VPAs.





WHAT NOW?

Like we said, we value people over programmes, so the next step is to get in touch with us and arrange a chat! You can email the office (office@kingdomvineyard.com) with any questions, or just to say “hi” and let us know you’re thinking about serving as a VPA with Kingdom Vineyard. We’d love to hear from you, and arrange a conversation with you.

As well as chatting to us, we expect that you’ll be chatting to Jesus! Anyone considering serving as a VPA with KV should be actively seeking God’s guidance, spending time with Him in prayer about it, asking friends and family members to pray, listening out for God speaking and looking to follow His lead.

We’ll also need you to fill in an application form, and if you’re applying for a 12 month July-June year with KV, please send your application to us by 31st January, or if you’re looking to spend a different amount of time with us, please include this on the form.

We’ll then be in touch to talk about the next steps!