

Role Title:	Guildford Town Pastor(s)
Office Location:	Founders Studio, Guildford and The Lighthouse, Woking
Working pattern:	37.5 hours pw (flexi/hybrid)
Reporting to:	Senior Pastors

Role Overview

We are looking for someone willing to lay their life down to lead a beautiful, healthy, diverse expression of the Church, centred on Jesus Christ in prayer, and making a measurable difference in the lives of Guildford's 143,000 people.

Emmaus Rd is a thriving, multi-congregational church overseen by Senior Pastors Pete and Sammy Greig, with congregations in Guildford, Woking and Aldershot. Our doctrinal foundation is the Nicene Creed. Our vision is to play our part in reaching the region with the good news of Jesus, and to resource the 24-7 Prayer movement, of which we are founder members.

Town Pastors are responsible for loving, leading and serving their congregation and mobilising its members to reach their local community. They also bring leadership to Emmaus Rd regionally by serving on the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) with the other town pastors and the Executive Director, which is chaired by the Senior Pastors. *(To note: this role does not exercise line management of or supervise other town pastors.)*

This is a crucial role leading a large and growing congregation in Guildford, managing and developing a core staff team (which supports Emmaus regionally), collaborating with regional leadership on the church's strategic direction, and serving the wider community.

Town Pastors are supported by a team of committed staff and volunteers, including:

1. The regional heads of our core activities including social transformation, worship, kids and youth ministries, forming our Regional Leadership Team.
2. A local staff team, which for Guildford includes a Senior Associate and Associate Pastor, the worship, kids, youth and student pastors, welcome and social transformation pastors, regional prayer coordinator, a church life and discipleship coordinator, and local operational support.
3. A centralised operational engine, led by our Executive Director, covering finance, HR, communications, major projects, and governance.

We are a Christ-centred, people-focused team. We worship and pray together, and we are learning to lead and serve as Jesus taught us.

The role description below is formed around three core responsibilities:

1. To Pastor
2. To Lead
3. To Teach

Role Responsibilities

To Pastor

1. First and foremost the successful candidate will be a person who knows how to shepherd their own soul: a person of prayer, deep in the word of God, with a burning heart for the lost, and of good character.
2. Ensure local church family gatherings are times of encounter with God and family, including working with team leaders to plan and organise gatherings on Sundays and through the week.
3. Provide comprehensive pastoral support to the church family and staff team, and working with the HR and safeguarding team on any sensitive matters.

To Lead

4. Lead, manage and nurture a high-functioning local staff team, mobilising volunteers across church ministries, recruiting, training and supporting leaders.
5. Model a commitment to prayer and study of the Bible, demonstrating with integrity values that help people to love and serve others in their communities.
6. Initiate and lead effective missional strategies across the town to reach and bless local people.
7. Work with the Lighthouse Directors and operational team to establish a local Lighthouse (social transformation centre), including securing and transforming a building in the heart of Guildford town centre and mobilising church engagement.

To Teach

8. Dwell in the Word, developing and clearly communicating sound theology, adapting communications to reach the church family, Emmaus staff team, volunteers, and town and communities more widely.
9. Develop and lead effective discipleship strategies for the church family, both locally in collectives and regionally.
10. Develop and embed practices and values which help people grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus, across worship, prayer, and teaching. This includes for children, youth, students and adults.

The Individual – skills, experience, attitudes and character

- Passion for Jesus and a deep personal commitment to the life, health and culture of the church.
- Prayerful, deeply relational and sacrificial, in line with our core values of 'Pray, Play and Obey'.
- Experienced as a Pastor or in a similar church leadership role.
- Transparent and authentic, leading with humility and a teachable spirit.
- Able to build, lead and inspire teams, working with and developing future leaders.
- Strong communicator, able to engage effectively with people at all levels both across Emmaus Rd and externally.

- A considered decision-maker, able to gather input and collaborate to problem-solve and make timely or hard decisions.
- A passion for helping people connect and develop.
- Familiarity with the 24-7 prayer movement and its various ministries.

Occupational Requirement: This post has an occupational requirement for the holder to be a Christian, and to be in full sympathy with the aims and ethos of Emmaus Rd's vision and mission. The person will either already be a part of the Guildford church family or is committed to joining. There is also an expectation that this person will reside in Guildford.

Right to Work: You must have the right to work in the UK. Emmaus Rd will not be able to obtain a work visa on your behalf.

For Job Ad:

Application Process

To apply for this role please submit:

1. A CV
2. A personal statement (up to 1000 words)
3. A link to a video of you teaching.

Please send these to pete.greig@emmausrd.com and christina.manning@emmausrd.com by **Sunday 27 October 2024**. Interviews are likely to be conducted in November.

If you would like to discuss this role prior to applying, please contact Christina Manning.

Following an initial sift, candidates will:

- complete psychometric testing.
- be invited to an initial chat with the Senior Pastors.
- be invited to meet some of the Guildford team.
- have a formal interview with Senior Pastors, Trustees and Elders, which will be informed by the above.

Guildford Town Profile

Guildford is a historic market town in the south-east, about 27 miles outside of London and close to the Surrey hills. It is known for its rich cultural heritage and countryside setting, its cobbled High Street and historic buildings, including the Guildhall with its iconic 17th-century clock, Guildford Castle, with origins dating back to the Norman period, and Guildford Cathedral, built in the 20th century.

Guildford is also a hub for education and the arts. It is home to the University of Surrey, the Academy of Contemporary Music, and the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre. It is therefore a significant creative centre, with former residents including PG Wodehouse, Lewis Carroll, Terry Jones of Monty Python, Sir Kazuo Ishiguro and bands from Genesis to The Stranglers.

According to the 2021 Census, the population of Guildford is younger than the average (median) age of the nation, thanks in part to the large number of students. Those in higher and further education amount to almost one person in every four within Guildford town itself. The University of Surrey is also one of the most culturally diverse institutions in the UK, with students from 140 different nations and with graduates in 187 countries.

Guildford was also where the 24-7 Prayer movement was launched in February 2000 and has been a significant centre for the movement ever since.

Emmaus Rd Guildford: Vision

Vision: To play our part in reaching the region with the good news of Jesus, and to resource the 24-7 movement.

As a church founded by 24-7 and as a major resource community within the 24-7 network, we seek to be a family of prayer, mission and justice in Guildford:

Family

Over the coming 5 years we have a vision for growth, not just in size but in depth of community, by:

- Growing in discipleship through collectives, teaching, and pastoral care.
- Growing in diversity through hospitality, diverse leadership and representation, student work and church planting.
- Growing in fellowship through a continued commitment to “play”, including Waverley Sundays, Wildfires, food-based events, the Welcome Course, and a general demeanour of fun and celebration.
- Establishing a home for the Emmaus family of churches in or near Guildford, including space that enables us to meet each Sunday, office space for Emmaus staff and ministries, a 24-7 prayer room and a Guildford Lighthouse.

Prayer

We are pre-eminently called to be a people of prayer. This is a particular grace and calling upon us as a church; Emmaus Rd was born out of the 24-7 Prayer movement, which was itself launched here in Guildford 25 years ago. We want to:

- Establish and maintain 24-7 prayer across the region in partnership with Waverley Abbey and benefiting from 24-7 resources.
- Model rich times of worship, ministry in the power of the Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our meetings.
- Listen to God prayerfully and honouring the prophetic gift as we form strategy and set budgets in meetings of Elders, Trustees, SLT and Family Business.
- Launch and help to sustain a new 24-7 Academy at Waverley Abbey, for young international leaders.
- Play our part in streaming Lectio365 live daily from Waverley – a prayer meeting for the nations.
- Cultivate the 24-7 values and re-telling the 24-7 story as the church continues to grow.

Mission

We are here to play our part in reaching the 143,000 people in the Guildford Borough with the Good News of Jesus. We have three primary tools for evangelism and discipleship:

- Alpha - our goal is to run Alpha at least three times per year.
- Safar – a tool for one-to-one discipleship, we aim to train leaders to equip and encourage the church to use this tool in all contexts.

- Church Planting – with growing congregations in Woking and Aldershot, our aim to continue to give people new opportunities to lead and reach their towns with the good news of Jesus.

Justice

Guildford Borough also has four of the most deprived neighbourhoods in England (Westborough, Stoke, Worplesdon and Ash Wharf), with over a quarter of children in three local areas considered to be living in material poverty.

Surrey County Council's Report on Child Poverty in 2022 noted "parents cutting back on food (61%), skipping meals (26%), not replacing children's shoes (19%) and winter coats (14%), and using debt to make ends meet (80%)."

Our aim over the next five years is to:

- Secure premises for Lighthouse in central Guildford, running projects in response to local need.
- Develop strong relationships with local civic and commercial bodies.
- Look into planting a smaller Lighthouse onto one of the poorer estates.



A note from Adam and Hannah Heather, former Town Pastors for Guildford

The Bible lays out an audacious vision for the church: a group of strangers who supernaturally become a family. This family then becomes the light of the world; bearers of hope to a lost and broken world in need of Jesus.

Emmaus Rd has always been a church that takes that call seriously. For the last decade it has been a pleasure to be part of the family, and watch it grow from 50 people in the back room of a pub to 1200 across three towns. It's been an honour to be a volunteer, an elder, then to serve as the Guildford Town Pastors - helping to steward a growing hunger for the word and presence of God.

In the summer our family felt the call to go and lead a church in Northern Ireland. We went with heavy hearts for all those we left behind but with excitement knowing that God had orchestrated these next steps for us.

The values of Emmaus are PRAY, PLAY and OBEY. A passion to live a life fuelled by prayer in the presence of God, take the great commission seriously and see a measurable difference among those most in need in society - and have a whole load of fun while doing it!

We sense that Guildford is on the cusp of something exciting, and we are watching on with anticipation for all that God will do. God has drawn together an incredible group of people and an exceptional staff team. Sometimes pastoral ministry can be lonely - we found leading in the Emmaus context to be the opposite. Journeying day in day out with great people who consistently choose to do Godly things in a Godly way.

Please know, whoever is successful in this role will have prayers from across the water. We can't wait to see everything that God is going to do.

Adam and Hannah Heather