

# Appointing Reliable People

Essential Person Specification for Paid Ministry Posts  
at Eastleigh Parish Church

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## Section 1

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### Background

In recent years, previously clear language within the UK Church has become increasingly open to interpretation and sometimes ambiguous usage. For example, the label 'evangelical' and 'charismatic' are now understood and applied with such a breadth of meanings as to have become lacking in any clarity and substance.

### Rationale

When selecting persons to posts that will involve a certain amount of teaching, it is of course wise (and biblical) that those who appoint others ensure that the ministers appointed are suitable for the post. As Paul writes to Timothy, *"The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."* (2Tim 2:2)

### Purpose

The purpose of this brief document is to attempt to describe certain non-negotiable criteria for those whom we appoint to ministry/teaching posts.

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## Section 2

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### Generous Orthodoxy

EPC strives to be a place in which our ministers model a devotion to the idea shared in Jude vs3, i.e. that we will *"contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people."* Eph 4:15 calls us *"speak the truth in love."* and Eph 4:14 shows us that acting upon/teaching the unchanging truth of God's Word will help us avoid becoming, *"infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming."*

'Speaking the truth in love' is a key concept. Those appointed to teaching posts at EPC must be able to:

- i. Speak the truth,
- ii. Teach in line with the faith that has already been revealed via Scripture, and,
- iii. Act in a loving manner.

Truth allied with love will enable us to create a culture in which all historical/orthodox understandings and applications of the timeless Christian Gospel can be valued and celebrated.

EPC is a church that wishes to be both generous and orthodox in how its ministers handle the Word of God.

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### Section 3

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#### Historical Faith

For millennia, the Church has held to certain core doctrines. These are well described in certain key creeds and formularies (particularly the *Nicene Creed*, *Athanasius's Creed*, and the *Apostles' Creed*).

It is vital that all paid ministry post holders at EPC are willing to teach in line with this historical understanding of the Christian Faith. In particular, all ministry post holders must:

- Trust in the inerrancy of Scripture (see Articles VI and VII of the 39 Articles of Religion)
- View the Bible as the final authority in all matters of faith and Christian discipleship (i.e. the doctrine of *Sola Scriptura*, which is well described in this article: <http://www.churchsociety.org/publications/principles/principles-art06-s5.asp>)

#### Contemporary Issues

The question of how to apply the timeless-authority of Scripture to an ever-changing world is an important task. A good example of how one might do this is well illustrated in the work of the late John Stott in his series on *Issues Facing Christians Today*. One contemporary issue that has attracted much attention is the topic of Human Sexuality. All ministry posts at EPC are to be filled by persons who hold to what might be described as an orthodox understanding regarding issues in human sexuality. <https://www.livingout.org/> provides a good description of such an understanding. The reason for highlighting this issue is not to create an unnecessary modern-day 'shibboleth' within the Church, but to illustrate how we understand Scripture to be both relevant and authoritative in every age and every context.

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*Section 4*

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*Your Willingness*

If you have been appointed to a ministry/teaching post at EPC, please indicate your willingness to teach in line with the above guidance by signing here:

Title of Post:

Name:

Date:

Signature: