

Pastor's Job Description – Bethesda Baptist Church, Ipswich

This Job Description is to be read alongside the Church Profile and Articles of Faith.

Context

Employed by:

Bethesda Baptist Church,
St Margaret's Plain, Ipswich IP4 2BB

Responsible to:

The Deacons on behalf of the Church

Working with:

Ministry Team and Deacons

Work Base:

Bethesda Baptist Church, with access to the Pastor's vestry and fully computerised office

Manse available if required

Position overview

The Pastor will serve as the spiritual leader of Bethesda Baptist Church, guiding the congregation in fulfilling its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ amongst all nations. This role requires a leader who can inspire and nurture spiritual growth, foster community engagement, and oversee the church's teaching and outreach efforts, working with the deaconate and ministry teams. The Pastor will be dedicated to preaching, teaching, and providing pastoral care, with a particular focus on families and young adults aged 20-40.

Main Purpose

To provide visionary leadership for the church, focusing on:

- Preaching and teaching (John 21:15-16)
 - Pastoral care (1 Peter 5:2)
 - Evangelism and outreach (2 Timothy 4:5)
 - Disciple-making church growth (Matt 28), with a specific focus on families and the 20-40 age group.
-

Person Specification

Essential:

1. A baptized believer who upholds Scripture as the final authority in matters of faith.
2. Committed to the doctrinal position of the church as outlined in the Articles of Faith.
3. A person dedicated to prayer, with a close walk with God, a love for people, and the ability to lead others spiritually.
4. Dedicated to the study of God's Word and delivering high-quality, relevant Bible-teaching and preaching ministry.
5. Committed to evangelism, mission, and the growth of the church, especially among families and young people.

Desirable:

1. Leadership experience in pastoral care, evangelism, and outreach, with a proven track record of team ministry.
 2. Theological training and experience working in multi-generational church settings.
-

Key Responsibilities

1) Leadership

- Lead the church with the Deacons in seeking God's will for the spiritual direction of the church.
- Work collaboratively with the Deaconate and Ministry Team to plan, resource and implement church services, teaching, and outreach initiatives.
- Provide leadership at Deacons' meetings and Church Meetings.
- Spend time in prayer for the church and individual members, while actively encouraging the congregation to participate in the church's life and mission.

2) Preaching, Teaching, and Evangelism

- Lead the Ministry Team in planning the preaching and teaching program to meet the diverse needs of the congregation, including mature Christians, new believers, and those who have not made a Christian commitment.
- Lead the planning and running of Sunday worship services, working with the Ministry Team and encouraging participation from others in the church.
- Preach and teach on approx. 35 Sundays per year, and approx. 20 mid-week meetings per year, sharing responsibility with other team members and guest speakers.
- Ensure the church is engaging and relevant for all age groups, with a focus on families, youth, and people with no Christian commitment.

- Oversee and take active involvement in the implementation of evangelistic courses such as Alpha and Hope Explored.
- Provide direction for house groups, taking an active role in encouraging spiritual growth, Bible study, and fellowship.

3) Pastoral Care

- Work with the Pastoral Care team to ensure all members, particularly the elderly and frail, are well-supported.
- Lead regular visitation programs and provide care for those in specific spiritual, emotional, or physical need.
- Play an active role in the Bethesda Eventide Homes, providing pastoral care for residents and attending Trustee meetings when required.

4) Community Engagement and Outreach

- Engage actively with "The Key" and its evangelistic initiatives, and explore new ways to connect with the wider Ipswich community.
- Strengthen relationships with other local churches and engage in cooperative initiatives within the Ipswich Christian community.

5) Additional Responsibilities

- Provide leadership in marriage preparation, weddings, funerals, and bereavement care.
- Support church members in mission work both locally and globally through prayer, involvement, and financial giving.

Future Growth and Vision

- Lead the church in developing strategies to grow the 20-40 age group and attract more families.
- Encourage flexibility and creativity in worship services to meet the needs of different demographics.
- Lead the church in addressing necessary building redevelopments to make the church more accessible and welcoming for all.