

What is a Volunteer Learning Assistant?

As part of the tercentenary celebrations of the life and work of renowned architect, Sir Christopher Wren, the Diocese of London is offering a free education programme across 2023 for schools from around London. The programme will help children discover the significance of Wren and his connection to the building of city churches following the Great Fire of London in 1666. We are looking for individuals to become Wren300 Volunteer Learning Assistants and support our Education Facilitators during these visits and activities.

What's involved?

Education Assistants will be on hand to help on Wren300 education days for Primary Schools (Key Stage 1 & 2 age group) at a City of London church. The children will have a fascinating and busy day with storytelling, object handling, small group activities, lunch in the pews, a city walk and dressing up in another City church. All this takes organisation and the more adult helpers, the more beneficial it is for the children. Learning Assistants will not be responsible for planning or teaching these sessions. Education Facilitators will lead the sessions, but you will assist them with different activities, and particularly small group work (quill pen writing, constructing towers, double writing), dressing up and sorting costumes afterwards.

What's in it for you?

- Personal satisfaction of helping students to get the most out of their visit.
- Meeting new people and working as part of a small and friendly team.
- Make the most of your existing skills and perhaps learn some new ones.
- The opportunity to observe and learn from experienced educationalists.
- If teaching is a career you would like to explore, this could be a good way to demonstrate your commitment and decide if teaching is right for you.
- Being a part of the momentous national celebration of Sir Christopher Wren and Wren 300 project activities.

Experience and skills

No experience is necessary, but it is important that you are comfortable and enjoy working with primary-school age children. You should be enthusiastic, easy going, and be able to work as part of a team. In addition to this you should be able to communicate as positively with children as you would with adults. The ability to be on your feet for most of the day is essential. An interest in history is also helpful but not essential.

Please note, a DBS check will be carried out by the Wren300 project. Details of these checks will be shared once applied for this role.

Timing and Commitment

Our education sessions are on Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The timings of these visits will be between 10am to 2pm. However, this commitment does not have to be every week. We are happy for you to get involved as and when you can.

Training and Expenses

Education Volunteers will be invited to join one of the induction sessions being offered for the Facilitators (dates to be confirmed) so that they can be familiarised with the programme, structure of the day, activities, and the church venue. Volunteers will also be given key information about Health and Safety and Safeguarding procedures. We will reimburse volunteers' travel costs and lunch costs.

Wren300 and the Square Mile Churches

Wren300 is a national tercentenary celebration of Sir Christopher Wren (1632-1723) - Mathematician, Astronomer and one of the country's most distinguished Architects, best known for the design of many London churches, including St Paul's Cathedral. He was a founder of the Royal Society, and his scientific work was highly regarded by Sir Isaac Newton. Organisations are coming together to celebrate his life and legacy including the London Diocesan Fund (LDF). With funding from National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Diocese of London is undertaking a series of special projects and cultural and conservation-based activities across 2023 including education visits for Primary School children.

Point of Contact: If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the **Project and Volunteer Officer, Laurie Dighton** on contact.wren300@london.anglican.org

This role is purely voluntary, and this arrangement is not meant to be a legally binding one or an employment contract.

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