

LVV VOLUNTEER GARDEN ADVOCATE WHO CULTIVATES HEALTH

HELP US PROVIDE GARDEN HELP TO VULNERABLE OR ISOLATED PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

Why have we written this out for you?

We understand that you can enjoy your role whole-heartedly when it is clear and understood by you.

ROLE DESCRIPTION

Vineyard Church volunteers are welcoming and committed people who want to help support communities. As a Volunteer Garden Advocate, you'll be playing a vital part in making sure that we gift and carry hope and health in our garden service for those who are in need. You'll make short garden visits to plant hope and health in creative bespoke ways. In a safe, friendly manner, take a look at the garden with the home dweller and through low level conversation understand their gardening needs and desires. Work alongside them to realise the garden potential or take simple notes and photos help us release more volunteers to help here. You will need access to a vehicle and a smart phone to volunteer as you will be visiting homes across our community on a Wednesday each week.

Our garden service sits within the months of May to October. From November to April we will take time for review, service improvement, setting up for May and of course a period of rest. We value you as a person and we work from a place of rest and peace, keeping your role easy and light.

At LVV we value character, chemistry and culture.

Character – You will be willing to love Jesus, love the church and be committed to our mission here at LVV. Character develops as you serve, the important character now is willingness to move honestly towards loving Jesus, Church and mission more with your everyday life.

Chemistry – willing to be gracious and kind and invest in your relational fit with our team, particularly those you will be working closely with. Each person is of value to Jesus and us.

Culture – You must be someone who will openly engage with, embrace and impart the culture of Lagan Valley Vineyard.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Skills you'll learn

- **Teamwork:** Your garden visits will usually be just you, but you'll know that you are part of a team of volunteers, with individual roles, ensuring our garden service can take place with real value. LVV "Compassion Team" is at the heart of our church family in community.
- **Relationship building:** you'll be building lasting relationships with your fellow volunteers. And be encouraged in this role to invest in your relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
- **Time management:** you will be required to be organised and to visit on time to homes planned for the day. Keeping to a plan really helps people who feel vulnerable or isolated.
- **Articulate:** you will accurately record the needs of a home in notes and photos for us.

What to expect from LVV

- Support and advice from our Volunteer Garden Leader Stephen Mairs.
- Encouragement to be a Jesus follower in church community with others.
- Expenses for mileage covered in line with our volunteer policy.
- The opportunity to make a difference during a challenging time.

What's expected from me

- Have bags of enthusiasm!
- Follow all LVV Safeguarding policies and procedures – including all guidance surrounding coronavirus/general Health and Safety, and the socially distanced delivery process. Including an ACCESS NI
- Follow advice/training given by our Volunteer Garden Leader and LVV Staff.
- Support LVV to fulfil its aim to bring the life of Jesus to every person and every place.
- Keep all data about homes/people secure and confidential.

Whilst Driving your own vehicle (or if we hire a vehicle for you to drive):

- A full and valid UK driving licence.
- A road-worthy vehicle with up-to-date road tax and MOT certificate.
- Fully comprehensive car insurance that declares you are a volunteer with us.
- Read and agreed to Volunteer Drivers Policy.
- A smart phone to follow routes.
- Never use your phone for calls whilst driving as a volunteer.

Time commitment

Give as much as you feel! It is easy to volunteer with LVV and for this role we ask for one weekday or one morning/afternoon each week. We prefer to keep that to the same day each week so that our team can support your role with phone calls to homes and together we create a planned service.

Health matters. This role would best suit you if you are physically fit and healthy and we ask that you check any health concerns with your GP by showing them this role description if you are unsure if your health permits you to volunteer.

COVID Precautions. If you or anyone close to you develops a temperature, loss of smell or taste or a new, continuous cough, we ask you to not volunteer at that time.

Tools. LVV holds some garden tools available to you. We are also happy for volunteers to use their own tools if they prefer. Please follow tool manufacturers guides to use and safety. Your role will involve some tool upkeep or assisting us in purchase or transporting of tools to sites when required and all of this in line with our health and safety policy.

“The **role of an advocate** is to offer independent support to those who feel they are not being heard and to ensure they are taken seriously and that their rights are respected. ... An **advocate** will ensure a person has the tools to make an informed decision; it is not about making the decision for the person.” As an advocate you will keep this ethos paramount. Firstly you are an advocate for LVV, sharing the LVV garden service with the home, you become an advocate for that home too and you help LVV understand and adhere to a persons requests or needs for their garden.

To tell us that you are interested in this role, please email our Compassion Pastor Yvette Wilkinson yvette@laganvalleyvineyard.com or phone our office at LVV on 02892671887

Thank you