



VACANCY FOR TWO CATERING ASSISTANTS AT SALTYARD CAFÉ

DESCRIPTION OF THE POST

The Catering Assistants at Saltyard Café (158 Dalry Road in Edinburgh) will support the newly appointed Catering Coordinator by ensuring the smooth running of the café, in keeping with the vision for the café as a safe gathering space that welcomes all and witnesses to the love and hope found in Jesus Christ.

The café is open on four days each week and ideally we have 6 shifts to fill, each 8.5 hours

ABOUT GORGIE AND PALMERSTON PLACE CHURCH (G+PP)

Gorgie and Palmerston Place Church (G+PP) came into being on December 31st, 2023, following the union of Gorgie Dalry Stenhouse Church (GDS) and Palmerston Place Church (PPC) as part of the Church of Scotland's Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian Mission Plan. Both church buildings, on Gorgie Road and on Palmerston Place, have been retained as active worship centres for the new parish. A new Minister was called in July 2025.

Saltyard Café has been part of the outreach of the previous GDS since 2013 and is within walking distance of both Gorgie Church and Palmerston Place Church buildings. It is well served by public transport being on Lothian Bus routes 2, 3, 4, 25, 33, 44. Haymarket Station and Haymarket tram stops are within easy walking distance.



ABOUT SALTYARD

Saltyard is a well-established café run by three paid staff (the Catering Co-ordinator plus two Catering Assistants) and an enthusiastic team of volunteers. The café is currently open 4 days a week (Tuesday to Friday), from 9am to 4pm.

It offers competitively priced freshly made soups and rolls, baking and hot drinks, with one additional 'main meal' option every day.



The main café area is large and bright, with a choice of table seating or comfortable sofas. There is also a small, gated play area for young children.



The attractiveness of the setting, warmth of the welcome, and competitive prices mean that the café attracts many regulars as well as passers-by.

What is different about Saltyard, however, is that it is much more than a well-run café.

As part of Gorgie and Palmerston Place Church, it strives to be a place run on the Christian principles of love, kindness and welcome to all. This is demonstrated in all kinds of ways. For example, the volunteers are always at hand to offer a listening ear and companionship (as well as a prayer if requested), alongside serving food and drinks; four of the volunteers are people with special needs who are respected as full members of the team whilst receiving appropriate support; the café is used outside working hours for a variety of less formal worship services; currently all members of staff are being paid at the same level to emphasise the deeply collaborative nature of the café.



The café also displays information about events and activities in Gorgie and Palmerston Place Church. If asked, staff and volunteers will engage in conversation and direct customers to activities that might be of interest. Some lovely church connections have thus been made through Saltyard over the years.

The new members of staff will be expected to support the Coordinator in embracing this approach fully whilst ensuring that Saltyard continues to provide quality service and food at competitive prices in compliance with industry standards of hygiene and cleanliness.

MAIN DUTIES

Food Preparation

- Before the café opens, assist with the baking and making of soup and daily special alongside the other member of staff on duty that day
- Make up orders as required throughout the day
- Operate the coffee machine to provide speciality coffees

Front of House

Take a share in

- drinks preparation
- table service
- till

End of Day as directed by Catering Coordinator

- Ensure kitchen area is fully cleared and cleaned in preparation for the next day
- Assist with cleaning of pots and utensils

- Clean coffee machine
- Clean counter and table tops
- Brush/mop floors
- Take rubbish out

Other

Take it in turn, to do a large shop on a Monday and set up the café in preparation for Tuesday's opening

PERSON SPECIFICATION

- Alignment with the café's strong Christian ethos *
- Excellent inter-personal skills
- Ability to work under pressure
- Excellent organisational skills
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Experience of catering or hospitality would also be an advantage, together with knowledge of food and hygiene regulations

A Level 2 Food and Hygiene certificate is necessary, but this can be obtained once on the job.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The working hours are currently 7.45am - 4.45pm

Start date: after Easter

Salary: currently £12.60 per hour but subject to review from April

Holidays: 5 weeks of holiday plus 9 statutory days (pro rata) are offered, but most are taken when the café closes, usually during school holidays.

The post is permanent but probationary and mutually reviewable for a period of 6 months.

Interested applicants must have the right to work in the UK to be eligible for this position.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested applicants should complete the application form, including the names and contact details of two referees (only to be contacted if the job is offered and accepted).

The deadline for applications is Noon on Tuesday 3 March 2026.

Interviews will be held week commencing 9 March 2026.

Applications should be emailed to Bénédicte Scholefield,
Premises Co-ordinator, at premises@gappchurch.org.uk

(*) This is a genuine occupational requirement in terms of the Equality Act (2010)

