

Volunteering FAQs

Why does St Leonard's need volunteers?

Volunteers are crucial in keeping the Hospice running:

- some services are better delivered by volunteers
- they bring ideas, skills and experiences to complement those of paid staff
- it helps us keep in touch with the community

How much time do I have to commit?

For most roles we ask people to commit time on a weekly or fortnightly basis. You can give a couple of hours occasionally or a few hours a week, depending on when you are available and what you want to do.

What skills do I need to volunteer?

The most important qualification is to be interested in people of all ages and backgrounds. Some volunteer roles will need extra qualifications such as a DBS application (Disclosure and Barring Service). Each volunteer role will detail the exact experience required for the role.

What training and support will be given?

You will be supported throughout your time with us through full training regular supervision. Certain mandatory training is relevant for all volunteer roles, which is usually completed online.

Can I volunteer even though I have been recently bereaved?

After someone close to you has died, we recommend that you wait at least 12 months before applying to volunteer in a Hospice- based role. However, if you're keen to help before this, you may like to consider helping out in our retail sector.

Do I need references?

Yes. We require the contact details of two referees that we will ask you to provide before you are inducted into the role. They do not have to be 'professional' i.e. employers, they can be friends and neighbours.

Can I volunteer if I have a disability?

We welcome everyone. If you have a disability or additional needs that you think may affect your volunteering then we can discuss that during your induction process.

Why are some of the roles not available?

We advertise our current opportunities based on what the Hospice needs at a particular time. For some roles, there is a limit to the numbers required and therefore spaces may only open up when an existing volunteer leaves. Check back on our Volunteers' page as this is updated regularly.