

Profile for dual post

Priest in Charge

The Benefice of Ashwick, Oakhill and

Binegar

&

Associate Vicar - Mission Enabler

The Benefice of Shepton Mallet, Doulting

& Cranmore

Thank you for taking the time to consider this profile.

The benefices and deanery have spent time discerning God's leading for what we believe is an innovative post. We hope that we have managed to convey this in the information provided.

If you would like more information please don't hesitate to contact either Philip Duffus (t:01749 840363 e: philipduffus@hotmail.com) or Caroline Stevens (t:01749 840 170 or e: warrenfarm@talktalk.net) the Benefice Representatives for Ashwick, Oakhill & Binegar or Revd David Williamson of the Benefice of Shepton Mallet, Doulting and Cranmore (t: 01749 343 365 or e: david.williamson@peterpaul.co.uk) to chat through any aspect of the post.

Potential candidates are also welcome to make an informal visit.

Please contact us if you would like help with making arrangements.

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1: Overview

We Offer:

This is a full time post formed in partnership with Ashwick, Oakhill and Binegar (AOB) and the Benefice of Shepton Mallet, Doultling and Cranmore. The person appointed will have parochial responsibility for AOB as Priest in Charge and live there and be an Associate Vicar in Shepton Mallet, Doultling and Cranmore.

Both roles offer enormous opportunities for mission and ministry. The person appointed will play an important role in developing new forms of mission and ministry across the Shepton Local Ministry Group (LMG) as it evolves.

While the post involves two distinct areas of responsibility and the obvious challenges of a dual role, we believe there is a genuine synergy for someone keen to further the growth of God's Kingdom through both the leadership of a local church community and the opportunity to share their expertise and gifts more widely.

We believe that between us we offer a great combination for a priest with a passion for sharing the gospel in our prevailing culture and helping others to do so also.

Background:

The new post emerges after careful consideration and from the strong desire within the Shepton deanery to encourage collaborative models of ministry and mission. Churches across the deanery are increasingly committed to forming closer relationships with each other and working towards establishing a LMG.

At a very practical level, AOB offers an active laity with experience of being led by a priest in charge working on a part time basis. The role of Associate Vicar and the LMG role will be largely focused on specific projects.

The churches that will eventually make up the LMG reflect the full breadth of traditions, and cover a wide variety of contexts from relatively isolated villages to more populated areas and serve a spectrum of socio economic groups from the wealthiest to those facing social exclusion and areas of rural poverty.

Faced with these challenges, the Churches are excited by the evident possibilities for new approaches to mission!

2: Local Ministry Group (LMG)

LMGs were set up several years ago across the diocese to help people to work together, sharing strengths and developing positive ways of working. This was part of our 'Changing Lives' programme (see more below section 5: Diocese of Bath & Wells.) and included, some parish resources, such as the bishop's DVD 'Changing Lives...for good'. More information can be found at our website.

<http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/faithandmission/changing-lives/>

The person appointed will need to be suited to collaborative ministry and to support

the development of teamwork in the wider local ministry group. Both benefices are part of the Shepton Mallet deanery, comprising these and six other benefices. The Deanery Plan has been under review and included consultation with all PCCs. We are moving towards two team ministries in the deanery, one of which will be centred on Shepton Mallet and include other surrounding parishes. In each of these team ministries individual clergy will be appointed to have primary responsibility for specific named parishes in which they will work as well as wider responsibilities within the whole team.

The next step now will be to form a LMG with the parishes involved, in order to develop the relationships and begin sharing and developing the resources of the clergy, Readers and other laity.

3. Person Specification

In combining two areas of responsibility in one post we are seeking a person who:

- Is prayerful and knows the importance of the leading of God in their life and ministry.
- Is self-motivated, an initiator; a person willing to try new things but also with the ability to see things through. A 'can do' attitude and positive approach to the inevitable challenges of mission and ministry.
- Has excellent organisational skills and the ability to manage and prioritise a variety of competing demands. Comfortable working on their own initiative and in teams, able to make clear and firm decisions having consulted and collaborated with others in both benefices.
- Has excellent presentation skills and ability to impart clear and concise information confidently and in public through a variety of media. With interest in, and ideally experience of, the potential of new technologies for mission and ministry.
- Has a driving licence and their own transport.
- Is excited about the potential of a dual post with the opportunity to lead and nurture the parish of AOB and be part of its community while also working as an associate vicar in Shepton Mallet, Doultling and Cranmore playing a leading role in developing new forms of mission and ministry across, the LMG, with:

A pioneering vision to help grow a local church and a passion to see people of all ages come to Christ and grow in faith. With a desire to build relationships and seek new and creative ways of to develop mission and growth.

A commitment to pastoral care, meeting people where they are and leading them into using their God given gifts.

A commitment to the exposition and application of Scripture, and the leading and gifting of the Holy Spirit.

The ability to enable and encourage the development of mission gifts and

vision in the wider church. Able to communicate about the key missiological and theological questions that local churches and the LMG need to consider.

The ability to support and mentor ministers and lay leaders to develop specific mission projects and with experience in working with Christians in different context and traditions.

4: Associate Vicar / Mission Enabler

This new post is a key step in the direction of helping local churches of the Shepton area to create opportunities for creative and flexible collaboration.

There is a role to play as an Associate Vicar in Shepton Mallet, Doultling & Cranmore Benefice

- support ministry within the benefice
- sharing responsibility for occasional offices
- developing and communicating the vision for God's work
- setting an example in prayer, witness and lifestyle
- and as Mission Enabler across the LMG we are looking for someone to advise and support us in developing specific skills, resources and confidence in mission to those currently outside the worshipping life of the Church. Developing the inherited models of church but also taking account of the need for a 'mixed economy' of church and new ways of mission in a variety of contexts.

Principal Accountabilities:

Work at a strategic level with the Rev David Williamson to assist local churches and emerging groups to identify where and how sustained growth in the church's mission is possible in their context. Help to share information, resources and best practice on mission – including theological reflections, national developments in 'Fresh Expressions' of church and growth and initiatives for the renewal of established church models.

In agreement with the Rev David Williamson, advise and support specific mission projects to assist parishes and benefices to connect with those outside the worshipping life of the Church. Helping the parishes and benefices to develop skills, resources and confidence in such mission initiatives.

Support:

The post holder will be responsible to Rev David Williamson who will act as their line manager.

In consultation with the post holder, an advisory and support group will also be established to support them in their role.

There is also a diocesan group of Mission Enablers/Pioneers who meet up to share and discuss good practice.

5: Diocese of Bath & Wells

Changing Lives, Changing Churches for Changing Communities

THE AIM OF THE DIOCESE is to resource and encourage confident Christian communities which express joyful hope in the Gospel, for the sake of the world which they serve.

THE MISSION STRATEGY OF THE DIOCESE is Changing Lives, Changing Churches

for Changing Communities. The vision is supported by four core aspirations:

Calling

This diocese seeks to affirm the call of all the baptised and to nurture and encourage the giftedness of each.

Transformation

This diocese seeks to proclaim the Christian gospel afresh in each generation in ways that will transform the lives of individuals and communities.

Renewal

This diocese seeks to re-energise its clergy and lay people with the gospel story through inspired worship and teaching and personal development.

Reshaping

This diocese seeks to enable the whole Body of Christ to be the church in its locality by supporting and offering appropriate resources to parishes, local ministry groups, church schools and other expressions of Christian community.

The Changing Lives Prayer

Lord, you are the changeless one who comes to change us
into the likeness of Jesus Christ your Son:
grant that we, changed and transformed
by your Spirit may be an instrument
of changing lives in the world you so love.
Amen.

The Jesus Society

Jesus says that in his society there is a new way for people to live:

- You show wisdom by trusting people
- You handle leadership by serving
- You handle offenders by forgiving
- You handle money by sharing
- You handle enemies by loving
- You handle violence by suffering

In fact you have anew attitude towards everything, towards everybody. Towards nature, towards the state, towards all and towards every single thing because this is a Jesus society and you repent, not feeling bad, but by thinking differently.

Appendix

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