

JOB DESCRIPTION

ENCOUNTER LEADER



Job Purpose

To oversee, train, support and enable local leaders in developing Encounter Satellites (new worshipping communities) focused on children and families.

Each Encounter Satellite will become a sustainable new worshipping community formed through a partnership between a local school and its parish church.

Leading the team of 3 Encounter Enablers, to enable children, young people, and their families to grow in their faith you will have a focus on:

- Building on existing work within each locality
- Reaching young people and their families with the Gospel
- Developing new young active disciples
- Supporting new worshipping communities
- Growing young leaders
- Developing new volunteer leaders and teams
- Realising the goals set out in the project proposal

To develop the Encounter Satellites in collaboration with:

- A newly established Resource Church which will grow alongside the new worshipping community satellites
- Enablers from each Encounter location
- The Encounter Local Oversight Groups
- The local parish and school leaders
- The project board
- The Bishop of Stafford and Archdeacon of Stoke upon Trent

Job Description

The postholder will:

- Oversee, plan, nurture, and equip new worshipping communities alongside the Joiner's Square resource church in Stoke-on-Trent, the local church and school leaders.
- Line-manage the team of 3 Encounter Enablers, offering regular supervision and ensuring they receive the training and support which they need.
- Develop creative approaches to engage children and their families in the Christian faith, through careful listening to the voices of the community.

- Provide and support intergenerational creative worship and learning experiences for children and their families.
- Identify, equip, and encourage volunteers (children and adults) to sustain the new worshipping community.
- Work closely with the Encounter Enablers to create pathways for growth in discipleship, bringing children and adults to faith in Christ.
- Work closely with key leaders across both church and school to develop the new worshipping community; engage key stakeholders such as governors, parents/guardians and partner organisations.
- Strengthen the church-school partnership by linking new worship events with existing congregations.
- Engage and contribute to the planning and delivery of city-wide children, young people and family events hosted in the Resource Church.
- Meet regularly for support and reflection with Joiner’s Square resource church leader.
- Report regularly on progress and reflect with children and young people, funders, stakeholders and the wider church.
- Actively engage with and contribute to community learning events to reflect upon the impact of existing work and enable the development of further work.
- Contribute to parish, deanery and diocesan life in other ways as agreed with the Bishop and Archdeacon.

Occupational Requirement

Given the nature of the role and its central place in promoting and communicating the aims of the Diocese and with the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 there is an Occupational Requirement that the post holder be a committed Christian.

DBS

Given the nature of the role an enhanced DBS is required.

Qualifications And Experience

Essential	Desirable
Have a recognised qualification and/or significant experience in working with young people and families.	A recognised qualification in Theology. Have a recognised qualification in training or educating adults.
Relevant pioneer/missioner experience. Experience of managing, motivating and supporting volunteers and/or paid workers.	Experience of work within a church and/or parish setting.

<p>Technological competency in the use of everyday computer programmes.</p>	<p>Experience of working within school structures.</p>
<p>Have a strong Christian faith with a passion for sharing the Gospel, particularly with younger generations, that they may have the opportunity to grow in faith.</p> <p>Experience of leading children, young people and families to faith in Jesus</p> <p>Be supportive of the work of the Church of England.</p> <p>Ability to build relationships with and empower young people.</p> <p>Excellent communication skills, both orally and in written form</p> <p>Excellent interpersonal skills, open and collaborative. Able to build strong working relationships with ability to relate to a range of parishes and people in differing contexts and stages in their journeys of ministry and discipleship.</p> <p>Leadership abilities, with the capability to inspire and encourage others.</p> <p>An ability to think theologically and enable others to do so.</p> <p>Knowledge of health and safety issues, policy, and procedures.</p> <p>A commitment to a rigorous implementation of the Church of England and local schools' policy on Safeguarding Children, Young People, and Vulnerable Adults</p>	<p>Leadership skills in any area that could be applied to the engagement of young people e.g. Sports, Arts.</p> <p>A good understanding (or ability to acquire understanding) of the traditions, values, structures, and practices of the Church of England.</p> <p>Holds a full driving license and access to a car.</p>

<p>An understanding of power and dynamics and a commitment to the development of healthy leadership styles with transparent and accountable ministry practices.</p> <p>Willingness to work ecumenically and with external organisations.</p> <p>Ability to manage a complex workload.</p> <p>A commitment to their own personal, spiritual and professional vocation and development – and the ability to grow that in others.</p>	
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Lichfield Diocese Board of Finance is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. All postholders are expected to share this commitment.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- This is a fixed term post (7yrs) limited by the duration of the funding.
- There are no set hours for this post but you are contracted to devote not less than 40 hours each week to the performance of your duties. Both parties to this contract accept that in order to do your work effectively there may be occasions when you will need to work more than 40 hours in a week and in such circumstances you are entitled to take time off in lieu. This time off in lieu should be taken within one month of working additional hours.
- Salary £42,190
- Holidays 30 days per annum, plus 8 Bank Holidays pro rata
- The posts are subject to a DBS disclosure and satisfactory references
- The employer is Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance
- Working in close collaboration with the resource church Leader, the newly formed resource church, the local church and school.
- Reports to the Archdeacon/Bishop

Closing date for applications: 21st September 2024

Interviews to be held on 25th September 2024