

Changing Market Towns Youth Missioner

Background Information, Job Description and Person Specification

In addition to the overall objectives for all Changing Market Towns Workers, the specific objectives of this post are to:

- be the person who leads Changing Market Towns in Huntingdon with regard to young people
- be the local lead of Thrive Huntingdon (a missional youth work project developed by the Diocese of Ely and partners)
<https://www.thriveyouthwork.com/>
- work in partnership with the Anglican ministers of the town, their congregations and the other workers appointed to enable mission among young people

Summary

- Job title: Changing Market Towns Worker: Youth Missioner
- Based in: Huntingdon
- Responsible to: The Revd Jon Randall (vicar of the Parish of Huntingdon), in partnership with Natasha Clark (Thrive Youth Work)
- Hours of work: Full-time (35 hours per week), to include some evening and weekend work
- Salary: £27,000 for a full-time appointment
- Membership of The Church Workers Pension Fund (non-contributory)
- Initial three-year contract (fixed term), subject to 6 months' successful probation

Job Description

Lead the Thrive Huntingdon project, including the following:

- Leadership and support of the Thrive volunteer team
- Maintaining partnerships and relationships with churches, schools and other partners
- Identifying new missional opportunities and working with partners to respond
- Delivering Thrive programmes as required, which *could* include the following:
 - Thrive mentoring in secondary schools
 - Thrive Youth Cafés in Huntingdon, Brampton and Oxmoor
 - working with hard-to-reach young people through the 'Thrive Outreach' programme

- Liaising with the Thrive Huntingdon Steering Group to ensure that the project is managed and run effectively
- Developing work in line with the Thrive values:
 - Connecting with young people in key local areas
 - Caring for young people effectively
 - Celebrating young people and being an advocate for them
 - Challenging young people to make positive choices
 - Creating opportunities for young people to encounter and understand who Jesus is and grow in faith
 - Connecting young people with worshipping communities - both inherited church and fresh expressions of church

Recruit, lead and support a volunteer team by:

- Visiting churches and sharing information about Changing Market Towns and Thrive Youth Work
- Developing and maintaining strong church links
- Recruiting, training and supporting volunteers

Support the mission of the local church by:

- Meeting with key volunteers and workers from local churches to provide guidance on youth work
- Working with local churches to identify missional opportunities and grow missional engagement with young people
- Supporting church activities as agreed

Maintain a safe environment and comply with safeguarding policies by:

- Ensuring that the Diocesan Safeguarding Procedures are strictly complied with (with the support of the Parish Safeguarding Officer and Diocesan Safeguarding Team)

Ethos and working practices

Applicants are referred to the attached Thrive Working Practice Guide which contains a detailed description of the ethos and method of Thrive. The post-holder will become a member of the Thrive team with the supervision, mentoring and assistance of the Thrive Project Lead and will be required to work comfortably and entirely within the ethos and working practices of that organisation.

In addition to the role-specific job description, every Changing Market Towns Worker will:

- Work closely in partnership with the town's team leader (who will be one of the local clergy) and with other paid and voluntary workers as part of a whole-town team leading in mission. Support and guidance will also be provided as part of the Changing Market Towns project.
- Be a 'Change Maker', working to transform the culture of the local church, enabling a new focus on mission, increased lay involvement and a willingness to step forward in courageous new ways.

- Encourage and lead the development of fresh expressions of church relevant to the local setting in each town, as part of the Diocese's blended economy of fresh expressions and inherited-mode church.
- Engage widely and confidently with the community, enabling others to join in mission and service.
- Where agreed, participate in worship in an Anglican setting within the town concerned, supporting and affirming mission through both inherited mode and pioneering forms of church.
- Contribute to a culture, through modelling and training, where mission in word and action become part of the life of every parish.
- Manage, support and recruit volunteers encouraging every member ministry, and helping engagement with training provided by the Diocese at all levels.
- Helping both enquirers and new believers on the 'Journey to Faith'.
- Initiate and expand links and networks with parts of the parish which are currently not in regular contact with the church. This may include schools, charities, agencies and local services.
- Play an active role in local and Diocesan shared mission, collaborating with Diocesan officers and other co-workers.
- Participate in the on-going training and development programme as part of a learning community with other Changing Market Towns Workers.
- Seek partnerships with other churches and voluntary groups to work for the good of the town.
- Work creatively to establish sustainable mission activity.

The core skills of understanding fresh expressions of church, evangelism, culture change and training will be required for all positions. Each role will require a slightly different skillset but will also retain flexibility in the light of the gifts and experience of those appointed.

Person Specification

It is expected that the post-holder will become a wholehearted worshipping member of the Christian Community of the town where they work and **there is an occupational requirement for the person to be a practising Christian**. There is no requirement that the post holder will be an Anglican, but she or he will be expected to work within and be sympathetic to the ethos and structures of the Church of England and to become a 'known friend' of the Anglican churches which serve the town:

<https://www.huntingdonparish.org/>

<https://www.christchurchhuntingdon.co.uk/>

Continuing professional development will be offered as part of a learning community, including occasional residential courses with others working in similar roles across the Diocese with added support from the Bishop's Change Officer for Market Towns.

These are the essential (E) and desirable (D) qualities we are looking for:

A demonstrable love of Christ	E
Experience of working with schools and / or young people	E
Experience of teaching the Bible in a variety of contexts	E
A demonstrable ability to 'love' the community in which you are based	E
Experience of fresh expressions of church	E
Experience of bringing about an element of culture change	E
Good verbal and written communication skills	E
Confidence in using technology and social media	E
Good self-awareness and the ability to reflect	E
A friendly and warm persona with an ability to work well with a wide diversity of people	E
An ability to balance teamwork with entrepreneurial imagination	E
An understanding of how to handle confidential and sensitive information	E
A commitment to uphold current safeguarding legislation and best practice	E
The ability to travel independently	E
Previous experience of leading and developing fresh expressions of church	D
Leadership experience, with responsibility for empowering and releasing volunteers	D
Qualification and / or training in theology, mission and evangelism	D
An ability to think strategically	D

In addition to the expectations of all Changing Market Towns Workers, the successful candidate will be:

- A 'self-starter' who can work on their own, on occasion in an environment which presents conflicting demands and expectations
- An intuitive and creative worker who will be able to identify paths to successful outcomes
- A confident communicator who is self-aware and able to receive negative as well as positive feedback
- An advocate for social justice who can recognise and deal with the consequences of social deprivation and the safeguarding issues common to youth work
- Happy to report to several stakeholders

Changing Market Towns

Over a period of six years, the Diocese of Ely is making a multi-million-pound investment in the region's market towns. We are seeking inspiring people to join in realising our aims.

We want to see whole communities transformed through the love of God. The *Changing Market Towns* project focusses on enabling and sustaining church growth in small and medium-sized towns, significantly enhancing the Diocese's ability to realise its desire to **engage, grow and deepen** our commitment to God through word, worship and prayer.

The Diocese of Ely has identified the need to focus especially in developing church life and community engagement in market towns. Churches are often

relatively weak, and there is general socio-economic need and a culture of low aspiration. These towns are all located in the north and west of the Diocese, in rural areas well away from the Cambridge area.

The Diocese of Ely's *Changing Market Towns* project is already making a significant investment through youth, children's and community workers across the fenland towns. Each has a brief to engage with the community and to encourage the development of Fresh Expressions of Church. The plans are far-reaching and ambitious and an expression of our faith in the power of God. Are you ready to be part of this exciting future, as the work expands into the Ouse Valley towns?

The Diocese of Ely is committed to safer recruitment practices for people working or volunteering with children and adults and therefore this position is **subject to an enhanced disclosure from the DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service)**.

If you have any enquiries about this post, please contact Martin Kenward at markettowns@elydiocese.org

Application Process

Please complete the application form in full. A Curriculum Vitae (CV) will not be accepted as a substitute.

Completed applications should be returned by email to markettowns@elydiocese.org by the closing date (see below).

Please use the application form to demonstrate - with relevant examples - how your skills and experience meet the requirements of the role for which you are applying. The information above, especially the Person Specification, sets out the qualities and experience being sought, and the selection panel will use this as the basis for deciding whether to invite an applicant for interview.

Closing date: 12 noon, Monday 11 May 2020
Interviews: Friday 22 May 2020 (via videoconferencing software)