



## Mission Lead for New Communities Team Vicar, Ely Parish

### Profile, Plan, Role and Person Spec.

#### 1. Role Overview

The role is created in recognition of the fast emerging mission opportunity in the City of Ely – and includes responsibility for whole areas of housing, a school community and fringe relationships which require significant additional bandwidth to engage in a meaningful way.

The Mission Lead for Communities will be Team Vicar and a member of the senior leadership in which we aim to operate as a “team of equals” – facilitated by the Team Rector. The Mission Lead will share responsibility for discerning and developing the vision for the parish and will work with colleagues, lay leaders and mission teams to implement the vision. When our roles overlap we enjoy collaborating and sharing responsibility with each other.

Our approach is to encourage and facilitate church members to use the gifts and talents given by God – including leadership gifts and often in “mission teams” – to ensure that the work of the church is not dependent on a few leaders – but instead can scale and flourish.

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#### 2. Summary

Ely's proximity to Cambridge – with its flourishing Pharmaceutical, Health, IT and Education sectors - has led to it becoming a hotspot for housing and employment. What has always been a flourishing Market Town is now well into a new phase of significant growth – which will transform Ely's character and which offers new and exciting missional opportunities for the church.

The plan is for the new developments in the North of Ely to provide housing for 10,000 additional people over the coming decade many of whom are moving into homes as we write. Two schools are planned – one is already open – new office and retail hubs are imagined – and we want to make sure that church and faith are an integral part of the formation of these new communities.

In addition to Cambridge, good rail connections to London, Peterborough and Norwich make Ely a particularly interesting location to settle. The city has already changed dramatically in the last

twenty years, as the population has almost doubled, but the next ten years will see Ely grow by a further 50% to 30,000.

The Ely Parish Team is made up of St Mary's Church, (the parish church for the city of Ely), and two smaller village churches on the edge of the City at Stuntney and Chettisham. Over the last five years, St Mary's has planted ChristChurch, a daughter congregation, into the Isle of Ely primary school on one of the new housing developments and 'the nine45' a new intergenerational congregation at St Mary's Church Centre.

We are also incubating a number of other gatherings which we hope might develop as communities of mission and faith, for example, in the Church of England primary school. Our model works with existing congregations and new pioneering communities - expecting both to flourish.

### 3. Ely Parish Team and Staff

The team comprises:

Rector: Chris Hill  
LLM: Mission Lead for Parish Families: Ruth New  
Team Vicar: Mission Lead for New Communities: TBC  
Curate: Ruth Holmes (from July 2021)  
Office Manager: Kirsty Smith

Administrator: Elizabeth Anderson  
Wardens: Chris Watson and Derek Tye  
Treasurer: Piers Coutts

The team also benefits from a group of LLMs, ALMs and retired clergy.

### 4. Ely Parish Team Vision and Plan

In this time of uncertainty – as we begin 2021 we are encouraging every member to inhabit Archbishop Stephen Cottrell's imperative for each of us to be 'Christ Centred' and 'Jesus Shaped' – abiding and surrendering to Christ and in turn being inspired for mission and ministry.

A priority for the leadership team is to facilitate scalable and sustainable structures where those with leadership gifts and a desire to deploy them are encouraged to take responsibility and authority and, in turn, form mission teams to lead, motivate and pastor groups and initiatives.

The Missioner will play a key role in leading by example, coaching, mentoring and encouraging leaders and others into growth.

We are equipping each congregation and group to be able to describe its vision and to be self-led and self-sustaining and we hope that future generations will inherit churches, gatherings and groups from us that are vibrant, relevant and that represent a variety of age group and social position.

## 5. Role Description: Mission Lead for New Communities

There are many opportunities open to this role. The following represent some examples. We expect the Mission Lead to discern, in collaboration with the team, where to focus their attention initially.

### **Mission to New Housing Developments:**

Leading our outreach into two areas of housing development which offer significant 'green-field' opportunities for mission – and which will require imagination and creativity. There are a scattering of St Mary's members already present which may help to 'prime the pump.'

- ❖ The **new development in the North East of Ely** is now accelerating – initially led by Redrow Homes – we are seeing an influx of new people and families moving into this development – which will ultimately see 1,500 new homes occupied by around 5,000 people.
- ❖ The redevelopment of a significant area of **military housing in North Ely** is beginning to open up - this area will include a significant portion of social housing.

### **Mission to St Mary's Junior School (CofE) and its communities including High Barns.**

The St Mary's School community and its surrounding residential communities offer significant opportunities for outreach which we have engaged with recently. Your leadership of this initiative will make a real difference to our missional and educational impact.

- ❖ Leading and coordinating our relationship with the School. Developing relationships with the Head, the faith and worship lead, the pastoral support lead and others. Offering pastoral support to the school staff.
- ❖ Contributing to the school curriculum where appropriate and subject to bandwidth – faith education – collective worship – school visits to church – festivals - CSI Easter etc. Contributing to the Ethos and Values of the school.
- ❖ Creating and supervising a mission team offering intergenerational gatherings (e.g. Messy Church) which provide a place for evangelism and worship for parents and children – with a view to families exploring faith, adopting a Christian way of life and attending services.
- ❖ Encouraging children to discover their gifts and start to use them in these gatherings and in the community.
- ❖ Encouraging baptisms and admission to communion from the school community.
- ❖ In conjunction with the School Head and Pastoral Support Lead – creating safe places and programmes where parents can develop their skills and their faith – parenting, relationships, work, Alpha, Puzzling Questions etc.

- ❖ Where appropriate including Spring Meadow School (Infant feeder school to St Mary's) in our thinking and programmes.
- ❖ Working with the school to begin to open up much of the above to the local population around High Barns. To get to know the surrounding population and to create a response for outreach.

#### **Mission to Families:**

- ❖ Playing a particular role in supporting our Mission Lead for Parish families in the development of the **nine45 congregation** – our new intergenerational congregation - which we hope will be a vehicle for outreach and growth and an option for those from St Mary's School, High Barns and the North East of Ely seeking a community in which to explore faith.
- ❖ Working with the baptism team, to ensure that **baptism families\*** and friends are warmly welcomed to the church, regularly kept in touch with and encouraged to return – and to create opportunities in the community for sharing faith with these families.

#### **Mission to Specific Communities:**

- ❖ Creating a follow-up plan for **wedding couples\*** to encourage them to stay in touch with us create opportunities in the community for sharing faith with these couples.
- ❖ Identify opportunities to stay in touch with local **funeral families\*** and create opportunities in the community for sharing faith with these couples.

\*We don't foresee this involving the management of life events – but instead taking responsibility for the outreach opportunities they present – unless that is important to you. The management of the Life Events themselves for the moment could continue to be the responsibility of the Rector and the Missioner may want to preside at a share of these.

#### **Mission via Courses, Fresh Expressions and Plants:**

We feel our fringe is growing and that one way of accelerating this is to get out into the community and engage with those around us in tackling some of the key issues of our time – Black Lives Matter and Emotional Well-Being during COVID are two current examples we are hoping to address.

- ❖ To take a lead creating teams offering pop-up initiatives and courses in the community, to help create a fringe from which we can invite people into faith. This might include Alpha, Politics, Puzzling Questions, Relationships, Workplace, Politics, Conflict – and may build on our relationship with Caffe Nero or other places as we host in the community.

#### **Sundays and Festivals:**

- ❖ Playing a full part in the team in planning, leading, preaching and presiding at Sunday Worship, Festival Services and some Life Events.

## 6. Person Profile: Mission Lead for New Communities

The following are important characteristics in our search for the Missioner.

- ❖ Passionate and prayerful – someone who is becoming Christ centred and Jesus shaped.
- ❖ A desire and capability to share the good news of Jesus with those around you.
- ❖ Good leadership skills – leading by example - delegating and trusting others easily – encouraging and supportive – developing vocation in others.
- ❖ Experience in forming and leading new gatherings, missional communities or new forms of church.
- ❖ Adventurer – willing to tread new paths – energy to cut through obstacles.
- ❖ Good communicator and relations skills - with the other church leaders and post holders, with mission teams, with church members and with the community.
- ❖ Collaborative – a team player – a servant hearted leader in a servant-hearted team.

## 7. Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure 1993

This is an official Church of England appointment and the employer is Ely Diocese. St Mary's is indiscriminate over the ordination of women, welcoming priests regardless of gender.

We are seen as an open evangelical church – inclusive – “Whoever you are, wherever you are from, you are welcome here.”

## 8. Housing

The successful applicant will be offered a vicarage, within the new housing in the north of Ely, under the provisions of the Church Property Measure 2018.

## 9. Our Locality

Ely has a good range of facilities including primary schools, a secondary school, doctors' surgeries, dentists and a small outpatient's hospital (not A&E which is in Cambridge). There's a new recreation park including cinema, restaurants, and sports facilities. In town there is a library, small cinema, several health & fitness clubs and a sports centre. Bowlers, swimmers, golfers, sailors and amateur dramatists are catered for. Ely railway station provides good access to London (Kings Cross 72 mins), Peterborough (35 mins) and Norwich (58 mins), and direct services to Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Ipswich & Stansted Airport.

Other attractions within Ely include the Cathedral, Oliver Cromwell's House (now a Tourist Information Centre), the City Museum, a Thursday market and a Saturday craft market which includes a farmer's market twice a month. The popular riverside area is linked to the town centre via Cherry Hill Park and Jubilee Gardens.

## 10. Conclusion

If having read this your heart leaps and you feel this might be the adventure for you – please do apply using the standard Church of England Application Form - and email/mail it to [office@stmarysely.org](mailto:office@stmarysely.org).

Meanwhile feel free to contact us to have a look round or to request further information.

## 11. Timetable:

Advertising: Feb 2021

Interview: April 2021

The successful applicant will be invited to join the team from 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021.