



Team Vicar- Mission Enabler

Known as: Team vicar.

Role Overview

The Team Rector/Priest in Charge and the Team Vicar -Mission Enabler will lead together on the outward facing mission of the benefice as a whole, but the Team vicar will have a particular focus in the new and emerging town extensions. This role does not involve direct responsibility for any single church, parish or PCC, but instead takes responsibility for developing the missional work across the whole. The role is created in recognition of the expanding mission opportunity in the City of Ely – and includes responsibility for whole areas of housing, development of mission into the wider school community of parents and surrounding area and leveraging the missional potential of all of our ministries beyond simply creating a fringe.

The Mission Enabler will be known as Team Vicar and work collaboratively alongside the Team Rector/ Priest in charge and the rest of the team. The Team Vicar alongside the Priest in charge 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.

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 course of the present decade – 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 between 2020 and c. 2030 the population is forecast to grow by a further 50% to 30,000.

The Ely Team is currently made up of St Mary's Church, (the parish church for the city of Ely), and five smaller village churches. Current pastoral reorganisation is set to reduce the number of village churches in the team to two on the edge of the City at Stuntney and Chettisham. (Thus the designation of Team Rector as Priest in Charge). Over the last seven years, St Mary's has planted Christ Church, 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.



Role Description

Objective: To lead and facilitate the missional initiatives of the church, working closely with the clergy, staff, and congregations to enhance outreach, community engagement, and the overall mission of the church in the parish.

Areas of Focus

In pursuit of our mission to see every home in Ely reached with the love of Jesus, and to become a vibrant hub of community engagement and spiritual growth, the Team Vicar will play a pivotal role. In order to lead and facilitate the missional heartbeat of our team of churches the Team Vicar will focus on a number of key areas. This mission will unfold through investment in areas of new housing and through leveraging both our existing community touchpoints and creating new ones, as well as, with the rest of the team, fronting and crafting warm, inviting Sunday experiences. This strategic role also extends beyond parish boundaries, embracing collaboration within our team of churches, and serving across the wider deanery alongside the Priest in Charge. Together, these key areas of focus demonstrate our commitment to vibrant, purposeful mission and outreach.

Mission to New Housing Developments & Development of our Missional Plant.

Developments in North Ely

Developments in the North of Ely are under way to provide housing for 10,000 additional people over the coming decade along with associated schools, community spaces and retail hubs. From 2021 to c.2030 the population of Ely is expected to expand from 20,000 to 30000. We already have a small church plant, Christ Church on the North Ely estate led by lay members of the team. Though that plant has been established for eight years the rate of the surrounding development has run behind schedule. As a result the original ambition for Christ Church to be a gathered church in that community has not truly come to pass. Christ Church have been involved in a discernment process to reassess their missional model and the Team Vicar will be crucial in coming alongside the Christ Church leadership team and congregation to be directly involved in enabling a new model of mission that connects more directly with the local community as it continues to form.

New development in the North East of Ely

The redevelopment of a significant area of military housing in North East Ely has also opened up. Pioneering mission in leading our outreach into this area of housing development, which offers significant 'green-field' opportunities for mission will require imagination and creativity. There are a scattering of St Mary's members already present which may help to 'prime the pump.'

Leveraging our Missional Potential

St Mary's parish church has a number of groups and activities that engage with the local community. Our Open Space, Bereavement café, Market Day Coffee, Under 1's and Under 5's, our work in primary schools, our CAP centre, our Youth Group, and our recently appointed Anna Chaplaincy, all create a great interface with the surrounding community. The Mission Enabler will be instrumental in leveraging the missional potential of an already outward facing church in a number of ways.

- Creating opportunities and pathways to enable those accessing the range of activities we offer to explore faith and connect more fully with a sense of being a part of the local church. This would involve taking a lead creating teams offering pop-up initiatives and courses both within the church and in the community. This might include, for example, Alpha {or similar}, Pilgrim courses, Politics, Puzzling Questions, Table talk etc.
- Developing the missional opportunity arising from increased potential to connect with the local community that our newly transformed building offers.
- Working with our schools to develop the work that we do in the school to expand beyond the boundary of the school day and to connect to the wider school community of parents and local residents.
- Working in collaboration with our lay and stipendiary teams to take responsibility for developing the missional opportunities that our baptisms, weddings and funerals present. This would include;
 - 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.
 - Creating a follow-up plan for **wedding couples*** to encourage them to stay in touch with us, creating opportunities within 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 - we have teams that do that - but instead taking responsibility for the outreach opportunities they present. Management of the Life Events themselves would continue to be the responsibility of the Team Rector / Priest in Charge. However because of the relational potential of occasional offices the Team Vicar would be expected to preside at a share of these.



Team Missioner

As well as St Mary's, the Priest-in-charge has responsibility for other parishes in the team. The Team Vicar would play a supportive role across the team assisting the other parishes in thinking through their missional potential and strategies. In collaboration with the Priest-in-charge, the Team Vicar would be involved in establishing and setting up a missional learning community to support the other parishes in the team.

St Mary's is also committed to playing a part in the wider deanery and in the same way, alongside the Priest -in- Charge, we would seek to extend more general encouragement and support to developing missional thinking across the deanery.

Sundays and Festivals

The Team Vicar will play a full part in the team in planning, leading, preaching and presiding at Sunday Worship and Festival Services, taking a lead alongside the rest of the team in developing the missional potential of high days and holidays. As warm welcome and the openness of our congregations is essential to people 'landing' well as they join, the Team Vicar would be responsible for overseeing and developing our welcome teams on Sunday mornings.

There are many opportunities open to this role. Within the above we expect the Team Vicar to discern, in collaboration with the team, where to focus their attention in any given season.

Current Staff Team

Our Current staff Team consist of;

Team Rector / Priest in Charge	Phil Marsh
Team Vicar – Mission Enabler	To be appointed
Curate	Ruth Holmes (Curacy ends summer 2024)
Children's and Families Minister P/T	To be appointed
Operations Manager P/T	Kirsty Smith
Office Administrator P/T	Elizabeth Anderson

This team of paid staff minister alongside a wide number of other leaders in the life of the church including retired ministers with PTO, a number of LLM's and ALM's and a significant number of other lay leaders.

Person spec

To give a flavour of the kind of colleague we are looking for, we are looking for someone who is;

- Enabling – Capable of enabling and releasing others and able to build teams and develop capacity in others.
- Encouraging - Experience in mobilizing and equipping teams of people.
- Missional - Experience in leading missional activities and outreach programs and seeing people grow as disciples of Jesus.
- Articulate & winsome - Strong verbal and written communication skills. Shares their faith naturally.
- Collaborative - Ability to work effectively in a collaborative team environment.
- Warm - Demonstrated passion for community engagement and sharing the Gospel.
- Adaptable and Agile - ability to adapt to changing circumstances and seize new opportunities.
- Welcoming - a strong commitment over time to building an inclusive and welcoming church.
- A servant leader - encourages life changing service.
- Honest - Builds authentic community.
- A team player - Able to find contentment in being part of a team, yet also capable of dreaming big dreams.
- Courageous - willing to lead, able to handle and work with honest feedback.
- A change maker & community builder - leads Kingdom orientated impact {Beyond the boundaries of the congregation as well as within it} able to speak the language of secular partners.
- A creative thinker and enabler - can maximise the opportunities they are presented with.
- Inspiring - Able to Lead others in creative thinking and missional engagement.
- Servant hearted - Amplifies the Vision of the church.
- Faithful - Committed to building trusting, committed working partnerships with others.
- Humble - Committed to using their influence to advance the whole mission of the church.
- Responsible - Able to take responsibility for areas of ministry, leading deeply within it, but aware of the width and breadth of the ministry of the whole church.
- Sensitive to the Holy Spirit - Able to contribute to having a sense of the 'pulse' of the church, and comfortable with discerning the activity of God in the world around them and to align our work with it.
- Prayerful - with a deep, personal relationship with Jesus.
- Resilient - Has a strong sense of God-centered self definition.

And of course a sense of humour and gracious patience.

What we can offer you

The Role offers:

- An opportunity to lean into a sense of missional vocation.
- A collaborative and encouraging leadership team.
- A commitment to develop strong working relationships.
- A stimulating environment.
- A chance to be strategic and creative.
- An opportunity to be involved in developing the missional culture of congregations.
- A chance to develop your leadership, supervision and communication skills.
- A chance to develop teams and trust them to take risks.
- A chance to encourage vocation in members of all generations.
- A chance to utilise our transformed building for new community initiatives.
- Warm and loving congregations.
- A family home in the new housing developments.
- A wonderful market town as it continues to grow apace.
- A supportive and caring Diocese.

We would love you to embark on a transformative journey as our Mission Enabler, where your leadership will shape the missional landscape of our church. This role provides a unique blend of challenges and opportunities, from pioneering mission in burgeoning housing developments to maximizing the rich potential within our existing community initiatives. As a strategic guide, you'll collaborate within our dynamic team, extending your influence across the wider deanery. Dive into the heart of Sunday worship, leading in a way that fosters warmth and openness. This position is not just a role; it's an invitation to be a catalyst for meaningful change, contributing to the spiritual growth and vibrancy of our community of St Mary's, her congregations, church plant and beyond. If you seek a role where your vision and impact can intersect, this is your calling.