

GOOD NEWS – more GOOD NEWS – and a REQUEST...



...about the 'Emerging Generations Leader' we've been praying for.

Over the last few years we have been seeking the right person to help lead the ministry we have serving children, families, schools and young people. Depending on our need at the time the role has changed from either a position assisting in oversight, or needing someone more youth focussed. However, our main need currently is leadership with children's and families' ministry as Lena, our unpaid Children's and Families' Worker and her family have relocated. It has become clear that we need someone with excellent leadership skills who can demonstrate flexibility and has the experience to adapt to our changing needs. Hence the role of an 'Emerging Generations Leader' was developed.

In what seems God-sent, an ordained minister in a nearby Diocese, wanting to work as an associate priest with us has applied for the post. He would not only provide the leadership we need with children and young people, schools and their families, but also have the maturity and flexibility to be widely deployed as needed.

Some of the leadership team here met him (and one of his four children) over the Coronation weekend, and we all feel he would be an excellent fit for St. Matthias. He also comes highly recommended by the Archdeacon of Exeter who recently interviewed him for a post.

But that's just one part of the good news –

The other is that, out of the blue, we have been invited to host a curate in their second year of training. Claire Reynolds, having spent her first year with Revd Stephen Yates in Brixham, will be arriving here with her family in September. As with all curates in training, she will be a great addition to the leadership team. However she is only likely to be here for 2- 3 years, and is also here to learn in a whole variety of situations, not just with the 'Emerging Generations'.

So...we believe we should still be seeking to appoint an Associate Minister as well – to focus on the Emerging Generations as discussed above – and for a sustained period.

BUT the cost to appoint a trained ordained priest is substantially higher than a typical youth or children's worker post, mainly because housing is provided. Although he would need to be actually employed by the Diocese, most, and maybe all of the costs would have to come from St. Matthias – with legal assurances from us that we could both cover the cost and continue to pay our share of the 'Common Fund'.

We need to demonstrate that we can afford to pay for around a 5 year contract **before** we can proceed further towards formal interview and references etc.

HOW MUCH do we need?

A number of people already generously give to a 'Youth Fund' and since we have not had anyone in post for some time, there is around £35K remaining in this fund. *If* these gifts continue, *and if* no one diverts any money away from their general giving to the church, we estimate we need to establish an additional fund of **between £75K and £175K over 5 years to go ahead** – depending on whether the Diocese is able to contribute any of the housing or salary. (The Diocesan finances are perilous at present, so while they would like to support us and part-fund this appointment, the reality may mean they cannot).

WHAT next?

Please pray about whether you can commit to giving money to this project (or even have a house that could be used). Whilst many people giving extra can make a big impact, in reality in addition to this we need donors who can give relatively large amounts into this initiative. There may be the possibility of an agreement to underwrite the costs with the money re-paid if it isn't needed at the end of 5 years. As we believe this opportunity to be pretty unique and we don't want to lose it, we need to decide quite soon whether to pursue this – please let Kevin Francis, our treasurer know if you feel led to give by Sunday 9th July treasurer@st-matthias-church.org

For more information please email either John at jandrbeckett@outlook.com or Tessa at rowdale@me.com

And please continue to pray for this very important part of our church life – and for Claire Reynolds and her family in this transition time for them.

Thank you very much,

John

on behalf of St. Matthias PCC June 2023