



ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Application deadline: 28th September 2025

Interview: 14-15th October 2025

“Join us growing everyday disciples of Jesus, shaping the future of a Spirit-led, growing church family, reaching our area with the gospel and transforming our community”



Welcome to the Lantern Church

The Lantern Church is a vibrant, charismatic-evangelical church in Merley, near Wimborne. We are part of the Canford Magna parish (Salisbury Diocese) and a Hub church in the New Wine Network, we exist to be a family of God, sharing His heart to reach the lost, grow the found, and transform our communities.

We find ourselves at a pivotal moment in the life of the church. We are growing across the generations, especially amongst the young, and heading into our 50th year with momentum and expectation. The Lantern has been growing and is currently a community of approximately 400 adults, 75 in school years 0-6 and 80 in school years 7-13, with believers old and new, like Luke and Chris (pictured right)—scan the QR code to hear Chris' story, and watch for more codes below.

The ministry and mission of the church is supported by a wonderful, capable staff team and wider lay leadership. However, we need a new senior leader to join the team, helping to support the pastoral and discipleship needs of a growing church and enabling the whole church to pioneer new things. We long to play our part in making Jesus known in our area, sensing God calling us into new forms of mission and ministry, grounded in ancient rhythms of apprenticeship to Jesus.

“God has transformed my life, healed me and used me to bring others I love to Jesus.”



The Opportunity

We are looking for someone with significant church leadership and ministry experience to work with the vicar, staff team and wider leadership of the church to help bring the church's vision and strategy to fruition. We need someone secure in their identity and calling, with rich theological training, experience in managing change, excellent pastoral gifts and a track record in raising up leaders and leading healthy teams.

They will need to be courageous to pioneer new things, a competent completer-finisher with good attention to detail, capable in overseeing significant areas of ministry, and willing to support the vicar's overall leadership.

- Join a growing, Spirit-filled, Biblically-rooted church with vision and momentum
- Collaborate closely with the Vicar to shape vision and implement strategy
- Lead and grow ministries of discipleship, prayer, pastoral care and more
- Empower and release staff, volunteers, and lay leaders in their calling
- Help us reach a spiritually hungry community in a time of Kingdom opportunity



Role and areas of responsibility

The Associate Minister will take a lead in several key areas of ministry — supporting the church's spiritual life, strengthening its leadership structures, and enabling the church family to grow in spiritual gifts, discipleship, mission and pastoral care. Naturally there will be some flexibility to shape the role around the gifting and experience of the right person, but here are some expected areas of responsibility:

Discipleship & Pastoral Care

- Support the growth and health of discipleship groups as a key context for formation, pastoral care and releasing our members as ambassadors of Christ in every sphere of life
- Encourage and teach into a 'rule of life' that empowers everyday apprenticeship to Jesus
- Oversee the Pastoral Care Team and group leaders, helping everyone to play their part in pastoral care and ensuring extra support reaches those in need
- Ensure high standards in safeguarding, working closely with our excellent Parish Safeguarding Officers
- Provide pastoral leadership in moments of crisis, bereavement, or significant life events

“We value belonging, encountering God and having fun together”



Worship & Prayer

- Help develop our rhythms of gathered worship and prayer as part of a corporate Rule of Life
- Preach and lead services as part of the clergy team; lead occasional offices (baptisms, weddings, funerals)
- Shape and nurture the spiritual atmosphere of the church, deeply rooted in the Bible and open to the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit to empower mission today
- Encourage intergenerational worship, leadership and belonging within the church family



Mission & Evangelism

- Encourage creative and Spirit-led evangelism that responds to a growing openness to the gospel, enabling everyday ambassadors of Christ and strengthening our existing outreach
- Work with the team to develop and see the Kingdom of God in our community
- Cultivate a vision of the church as a modern-day 'Abbey' — a centre of prayer, discipleship and apostolic mission in the area



Strategic Leadership & Governance

- A key voice in helping shaping and implement the church's vision and strategic plan
- Provide support and leadership across the wider parish as needed, contributing to deanery and diocesan life where appropriate
- Contribute to the leadership and development of the staff team, including line management, and support church operations to ensure sustainability and growth



Leadership Development

- Identify, equip and release leaders into their calling, overseeing some of our key volunteer leaders, enabling ministry to flourish through the whole church family
- Help develop a thriving leadership development programme, including training for lay leaders, interns and ordinands and curates as needed



Person specification

Essential

- A mature, joyful apprentice of Jesus with a clear call to senior church leadership and a willingness to serve under our vicar
- A pastoral heart—compassionate, instinctively caring, a good listener, sensitive and wise
- A heart for mission and desire to encourage all to become ambassadors of Christ
- A deep commitment to personal and corporate prayer, recognising it as central to all we do as church and as apprentices of Jesus
- A capable communicator, eagerly desiring Spiritual gifts and confident in leading prayer ministry
- Proven leadership in church ministry, with strategic thinking, good attention to detail, and the ability to manage staff and raise up leaders
- Someone who takes Jesus seriously, but themselves, not so much
- Committed to high safeguarding standards and healthy church culture
- Theologically orthodox on issues of human sexuality and aligned with the charismatic-evangelical tradition

Terms of appointment

- Full-time role, initially offered on a renewable three-year basis, with an expectation of extension, subject to funding and discernment. Subject to a six month probationary period, with annual reviews thereafter
- For ordained Anglican applicants, the role will be offered as an Assistant Curate post under common tenure within Salisbury Diocese. *Applicants from other denominations or streams with appropriate experience and alignment are also welcome to apply*, and suitable arrangements would be explored in consultation with the Diocese
- Six weeks' annual leave (typically including the week after Christmas and Easter), arranged in consultation with the Vicar to ensure continuity of clergy cover



- Ordained in the Church of England (or a church in good standing with it), with at least 3 years of ministry experience and energy to serve for the foreseeable future

Desirable

- Experience in regional or resource church leadership, church planting, houses of prayer and/or missional communities
 - Involvement in networks such as New Wine or the HTB Network
 - Familiarity with church operations and administrative structures
 - Someone with experience in 'digital mission' and evangelism amongst younger people
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- Stipend, housing, pension, council tax, and ministry expenses provided and at rates comparable to Salisbury Diocese (depending on experience)
 - Church of England pension scheme applies for those ordained within its structures
 - Enhanced DBS and appropriate safeguarding training are required as part of our safer recruitment process
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- Line manager: Revd Mike Tufnell, Vicar of The Lantern Church
 - Place of work: Primarily The Lantern Church, as well as the wider parish