

Associate Rector, Chester le Street Person Specification

The Post

This is an exciting opportunity to join the leadership of a church entering a new phase in its mission and ministry. The Associate Rector will share responsibility with the Rector in implementing the vision of the church to be a “multi-generational church that makes life-long disciples of Jesus, where everyone flourishes”. Within that vision, the Associate Rector will have particular responsibility for discipleship, mission and ministry with children, young people and families.

The Place

Chester le Street is a place of rich historic significance, founded in the Roman times, with a fascinating Christian heritage. A market town in the North East of England with excellent transport links, Chester le Street offers easy access to the three major cities of the North East as well as beautiful countryside and coastline within a twenty-minute drive. The parish of St Mary and St Cuthbert covers the entire town, alongside neighbouring villages.

We are a medium sized, relaxed and informal evangelical church who worship using a variety of service styles. Occasional offices are a regular and important part of our ministry in serving the town. Having been at the forefront of pioneering church-planting during the 1970's and 1980s, we are currently in the process of re-imagining our service pattern, mission and ministry under the leadership of Rector Matt Strand who arrived in February 2022. We have a strong history of youth and children's ministry and this role offers an exciting, creative opportunity to lead and shape this ministry alongside a team of volunteers and a full-time, paid youth minister who will be appointed in due course. We have good relationships with the seven primary schools and two secondary schools within the parish, with our closest relationship maintained with our wonderful Church of England primary school.

The Role

The role will involve sharing general duties of leadership and ministry with the Rector, including preaching, pastoral care and occasional offices, but will specifically include the following:

- a. Overseeing work with children, young people and families, developing appropriate discipleship pathways.
- b. Building on ministry with children and families through work with the local primary schools, baby and toddler group and messy church.
- c. Overseeing and developing intergenerational worship, both on Sundays and other times during the week.
- d. Overseeing baptism preparation, baptisms, and ongoing relationships with families through occasional offices.
- e. Prayerfully recruiting, leading and motivating adult and teenage volunteers to work in a variety of leadership teams.

- f. Ensuring the voices of children and young people are heard and represented across our leadership structures and within all aspects of our mission and ministry.
- g. Being part of the recruitment process for a youth minister to be appointed in 2023, providing line management following the appointment.

The Ideal Candidate

We are praying for someone who:

- Recognises their dependence on the grace and power of God in all things, and is consequently a person of prayer, humility and integrity, and is open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Loves God and loves people and believes that the good news of Jesus Christ needs to be lived and shared with others.
- Is passionate about and has experience of ministry and mission amongst children, young people and their families.
- Is creative, flexible and pioneering.
- Is able and keen to work as part of a team, and able to build good relationships with the Rector and other leaders in the church.
- Is an ordained minister within the Church of England

Conditions

Stipend – Durham Diocese

House provided by Durham Diocese

The post is subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure.

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