Newark-upon-Trent

October 2021

Dear potential colleague

Thank you so much for your interest in applying for one, or possibly two, of our open positions: Children & Families Team Leader, Youth Team Leader, and Contemporary Worship Team Leader. The purpose of this letter to give you a little bit of the context for these roles.

Our church stands on the threshold of something new. We have recently been granted funding from the Church of England’s Strategic Development Unit to become a resourcing church for the town of Newark, and the surrounding villages. Our goal as a resourcing-church-to-be is nothing less than the transformation of the local area and beyond, through reaching people with the love of Jesus.

As things stand, our parish is blessed to have a faithful, committed and welcoming congregation of somewhere between 100 and 150 attendees per week; and two wonderful (and very different) buildings. But whilst we feel blessed to have what we have, we also recognise that the vast majority of people in Newark are not yet followers of Jesus; and the age demographic of our congregation does not reflect the demographic of our town as a whole.

With this in mind, along with the diocesan vision for growing disciples ‘wider, younger and deeper’, we are looking to place a particular emphasis on developing our contemporary worship; and our provision for children and young people. At the same time, we are committed to working to see our traditional forms of worship (where St Mary’s, in particular, has a very strong choral tradition) continue to flourish. And our focus as we build in these areas will be outward and missional, looking to pioneer new ways in which to engage with the people amongst whom God has placed us.

There is a real sense across the local churches in Newark that God is on the move in our town. We are praying together to see God move in power in this area, and believing that He will answer that prayer. If you are someone who has a passion for Jesus, and for enabling both Christians and not-yet-believers to encounter our awesome God, and grow in love for Him, then we would love to receive an application from you. It might be that God is calling you to join us.

God bless,

Chris

*Rev’d Chris Lion, Rector of St Mary Magdalene with St Leonard, Newark*