

## **Ecumenical Church Development Worker**

**Responsible to:** The Local Ecumenical Committee through its Chair. (The Executive Committee of Churches Together in Bedfordshire will exercise general oversight of the project).

**Responsible for:** No staff. The post holder will be expected to develop voluntary support workers and teams including administrative capacity.

**Job Purpose:** To provide a focus for the development and growth of a Christian Community in the new settlement of Wixams, and to establish a leadership team for that Community. To contribute to the development of the community as a whole. To enable the Christian Community to determine in what way it will establish its presence in Wixams and guide and assist in that development.

**Organisational Context:** Wixams is a new residential development south of Bedford on a mixed brown and greenfield site consisting of a series of satellite 'villages' grouped around a town centre.

The mainstream churches have signed a Declaration of Intent to work ecumenically to establish the Christian Church in Wixams and the post of Church Development Worker has been established so as to facilitate that development as well as to contribute to the overall community development within Wixams. The post holder will be provided with accommodation in the first village development.

### **Duties and Responsibilities:**

- 1 To provide a focus for the Christian presence and the proclamation of the gospel appropriate to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in Wixams.
- 2 To seek out and draw together a community of Christians and to provide leadership for that community.
- 3 To develop, train and support a leadership team from the Christian community.
- 4 To liaise with churches and ecumenical bodies in the surrounding area to draw upon their skills and resources as appropriate.
- 5 To be involved and support the development of diverse community groups including young people and children.
- 6 To establish a pattern of worship opportunities reflecting the growth of the ecumenical experience and spirituality.
- 7 To create and assist in the maintenance of a programme of welcome for all new residents.
- 8 To liaise with community leaders and others to ascertain the developing needs of Wixams and where possible to encourage the development of responses by the Christian community to them.

- 9 To liaise with the developers along with the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity, and to act where necessary as a channel for the views and needs of the residents, and with the commercial and industrial developers in the community.
- 10 In conjunction with the Christian community to determine the future shape and development of Christian life and worship, and the need and type(s) of building provision (if any).
- 11 To enable the Christian community over time to become financially self-sustaining.
- 12 To liaise with the head teachers and governors of all schools in the community and in the event of a Church school being established to develop close relationships with the head teacher, governors and staff of that school.
- 13 To undertake such other tasks as may be required by the Local Ecumenical Committee, commensurate with the post holder's skill and experience.

### **Length of appointment and Review**

The appointment will be for 5 years and will be subject to review after 12 months and then every two years.

## **Person Specification**

### **Qualification**

An ordained minister in good standing of a church/denomination which is a member of Churches Together in England. (Essential)

Community development practice. (Desirable)

An understanding of new ways of being church including such programmes as *Fresh Expressions*. (Essential)

### **Experience**

Church planting or similar community development experience. (Desirable)

Work in ecumenical settings with a broad based spirituality. (Essential)

### **Skills and Abilities**

Commitment to and skill in the proclamation of the Christian gospel and to leading acts of worship in a wide range of settings and for people of all ages. (Essential)

Time management skills including the ability to balance urgent demands with long term priorities. (Essential)

Strategic thinking and planning skills. (Essential)

Good verbal communication skills. (Essential)

Good interpersonal skills including team working, counselling and ability to develop alliances with a range of clientele. (Essential)

Training and team building skills. (Essential)

A self starter with strong personal vision and motivation. (Essential)

Personal resilience and a mature spirituality. (Essential)

This post requires an enhanced CRB disclosure.  
The Genuine Occupation Requirement applies to this post.