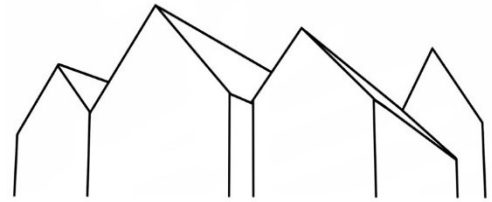


St Lawrence, Eastcote

2 Bridle Road, Eastcote
PINNER HA5 2SJ

<https://www.st-lawrence-eastcote.org.uk/>



The people of Eastcote are the treasure of God's church

Role description: Community stakeholder engagement lead

FTE: 0.4 (negotiable)

Remuneration: Expenses of post will be met by the parish

Introduction

As a church community St Lawrence's has arrived at an exciting and decisive juncture in its collective life.

The Interim Ministry started in February 2020 has supported the parish to re-visit its identity and sense of purpose. The saint that the church is named after has provided inspiration: when the faith life of Lawrence's faith community was at risk in the fourth century, he took the radical step of giving away the church's property and wealth. Doing this, he modelled a compelling selflessness, imitating the transforming love seen at the heart of Christian belief in the person of Jesus Christ.

The high points of the parish events calendar for St Lawrence's are our summer and Christmas fairs, when large numbers of people from the local area visit the church site. These events bring an atmosphere of shared community and a sense of belonging that is deeply rewarding for members of the church community and, given the fairs' popularity and the warmth communicated, for the wider population too.

Audit work has suggested a range of local needs that the parish's resources make it well placed to respond to. The church is set in two acres of land and has a range of buildings and an area of woodland that are presently under-used. Alongside the church's charitable activities, these already provide meeting spaces for community organisations and groups that promote well-being. The needs currently being met relate to loneliness and isolation across age-groups; educational support, including for families of children with special educational needs, fitness, cultural activities, adult education, youth provision, the environment and the arts.

The worshipping community's conviction that the people of Eastcote are God's treasure brings with it an impetus for us to enhance our facilities to better meet other's needs and serve our community. The most visible enhancement made is to the church building, which is now a light and uplifting space. AV infrastructure has been installed which makes the building apt to use for public meetings, presentations and performances, as well as worship.



The statue of St Lawrence above the church entrance

What the worshipping community doesn't have is the capacity and skill base to invest in and transform the site and buildings it has inherited. We are therefore turning to our local community to ask for help to support a venture intended to bring enrichment and improved well-being for the residents of Eastcote.

Role context and purpose

Following the work on vision that was undertaken as part of the Interim Ministry, a community audit was commissioned to identify the profile of the local population and its needs.

The parish already has contact with a wide number of groups that use its facilities and would like to sustain this use. Schools have also been regular visitors to the church and use its facilities for worship and performances. The community audit suggested that the resources that parish has – and which it could develop as part of realising its mission – could be of significant further use to community groups, offering potential expansion of the parish's stakeholders.

The consultant undertaking the audit did both survey work and interviews. Potential additional stakeholders were identified in categories, reflecting the kind of engagement the parish might be able to offer:

1. **Support for pre-school, primary school age children and their families**
- school staff report the need for safe, reliable and free / low cost activities for low income families
2. **Empowerment of young people to support future activities and plans**
- potential for youth work offer for children not reached by Uniformed Organisations
3. **Intergenerational support activities**
- building on the parish's existing outreach e.g. student volunteer offer for local schools to support lunch club, film club, Harrow over 50s, or friendship café
4. **Support for older people**
- the parish already runs a number of activities, which have potential to be expanded
5. **Enhancement and activation of green space**
- use of green spaces for gardening activities, plant identification, a woodland nature trail, to promote positive well-being / good mental health for target groups, e.g. young people / SEN groups / elderly
6. **Community cohesion and integration**
The history of the parish offers an educational resource for local people to engage with the Eastcote's heritage and evolution, and so a particular resource for children and schools
7. **Broad community-focused engagement activities**
- including providing space / volunteers for third-party community focussed activities

As the parish seeks to renovate and renew its buildings and develop the site, the views of community stakeholders and a detailed understanding of their needs is going to be key to ensuring that the development plans meet the wider populations needs. Equally, funding bids will need to demonstrate anticipated impact, requiring not only this knowledge base but a continuing relationship with stakeholders through the process of developing the parish's facilities.

Key outcomes

- Identify and build relationships with key community stakeholders who could be positively impacted by contact with the parish and use of the parish's resources
- Develop a knowledge base of the needs of community stakeholders which may be used in feasibility planning for site development
- Liaison with the grant fundraising lead on the anticipated impact of use of the parish's resources, to support formulation of grant fundraising bids
- Maintain relationships with stakeholders through the process of the parish developing its facilities, to maintain stakeholder interest and engagement

Requirements, appointment process and key relationships

This is a volunteer role and would suit anyone who is in sympathy with the parish's charitable purposes. There is no requirement for the person taking on the role to live or work in the parish or to be a Christian.

Key relationships for this role are with the interim minister as chair of trustees, the chair of the outreach group, the grant fundraising lead, the parish administrator (who currently runs the booking system for hire).

To apply, please submit a current CV to the interim minister outlining the relevant skills and experience you would bring to the role.



The Revd Dr John Seymour

Interim Minister

The Parish of St Lawrence, Eastcote

The Vicarage, 2, Bridle Road, Eastcote, PINNER HA5 2JD

Email: john.seymour@london.anglican.org; mobile: 0753 504 9710