

## NORTH CHIPPENHAM GROUP OF CHURCHES (NCGC) TEAM VICAR POST

### MINISTER AT LARGE-EVANGELIST-MISSIONER

#### JOB DESCRIPTION

The NCGC is looking to appoint a full-time Team Vicar post which will include special responsibility for reaching outside the regular Sunday congregations. This is an imaginative and innovative role as an Evangelist-Missioner-Minister At Large. We are not worried about the exact title but more what you bring to this post!

As part of the diocesan vision of CREATING COMMUNITIES OF WHOLENESS WITH CHRIST AT THE CENTRE we are seeking to reach out from the comfort of our pews (actually they are very uncomfortable!) to further engage with the wider community and share the love of Jesus Christ with those around us.

We want this post to fit the right person (and their God-given gifts) and the main thing is that you are a Team Player who wants to work with a large group of people seeking to bring about God's kingdom in this area. We are already involved in various outreach activities and would be delighted for you to come and share with us in what we are doing – and help us to develop new ways of doing it.

The buzz phrase is Fresh Expressions and we have various activities that we are currently doing and it could be that you would be involved with these and give support to the people who are behind them (continuing to develop their vision and purpose). We want you to encourage people to use their God-given gifts.

Some of the current areas of more church-based activities that you might be involved in are...

1. Youth work support at St Paul's church – we have good work with teenagers but are always open to new ideas and you could support our leaders in reaching out to more youth in both church-based and wider activities – this is about working alongside the volunteer leaders and trying to help join up the strategy for delivering a holistic vision.
2. Work with families in the village of Kington St Michael both through contact with the local (C of E) primary school and the new 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday event (THE VILLAGE HALL ON SUNDAYS) which is being developed as a bridge between the church and the community.
3. The RISE Trust (although independent it comes out of St Paul's church and is an arm of social action and engagement with the needs of the local community) is starting to run a Children's Centre at St Paul's Primary School. There are a number of possible ways in which a new colleague could contribute to this area of our life and witness.
4. And, we are wondering about our small groups. Maybe they need to become some sort of mission cells and certainly there is a role in seeing them strengthened to enable better care and prayer in our own church community.

5. We are looking at the possibility of running something like a 4pm event at St Paul's as an easier point of outreach and contact. You could be part of this pioneer ministry and help shape its direction and purpose.
6. Also, a new (ecumenical) initiative started in November 2007 – a late (Friday) night outreach to clubbers (NIGHTSHIFT). Yes, there are some in Chippenham!

Clearly, you are not going to throw yourself into all these activities but you may want to consider some of them when applying for this job. We want to find the right colleague and then help that person develop their ministry as we see what God's agenda is.

Some other thoughts are...

1. We have wondered about taking on a TIME FOR GOD worker – would you be willing and able to supervise that young person?
2. Faith Introduction sessions – or informal events for discussion eg at local coffee shop.
3. There is an agreement with the Chippenham Deanery that you (or other people from our churches) would offer 20% of your post working with other churches in the area developing similar initiatives. (This might be with a small mission-group from the NCGC going to spend a few sessions with another church. There is real flexibility here and an opportunity for collaborative working.)
4. Although much of your focus is outside church life and worship it is important that you are part of our common life and worship – including PCCs and occasional offices etc. We need to worship with you and get common vision and direction from God. Also, we need to hear about your ministry and to be able to support you in this pioneer ministry with our prayers. We believe God will call someone to this post who, whilst enthusiastic about new ways of doing and being church, will be sufficiently mature to want to engage with the full life of our churches.
5. Much depends on the opportunities you make!

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

We believe we are looking for a person who...

1. is prayerful and knows the importance of the leading of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
2. is young at heart and family friendly.
3. is open to change and excited by the possibilities of Fresh Expressions.
4. is male or female, of any age, married or single.
5. is personable and wants to work with, and help develop, a large group of enthusiastic people.
6. is self-motivated, an initiator – a person willing to try things but also with the ability to see things through.
7. is a facilitator and has a heart and vision for helping the church reach outside the church community.
8. is able to be real about what their gifts and calling are and what they bring to this post.
9. has a driving licence and their own transport.
10. is looking to work outside the traditional vicar role – but also happy to take their necessary part within the life and worship of the NCGC (as required).
11. can laugh at themselves and can rejoice at what God does achieve despite (rather than because of) the people he has chosen to work with!
12. feels comfortable on the fringe of church life, willing to be unconventional and get your hands dirty.
13. is excited by this post and its potential.

## BENEFICE PROFILE

The North Chippenham Group of Churches (NCGC) is a grouping of four church communities in Wiltshire, within the Church of England diocese of Bristol. (Each of these churches is described below by one of the lay leaders.)

### **St Paul's, Chippenham** ([www.stpaulsweb.co.uk](http://www.stpaulsweb.co.uk))

is an urban evangelical, Spirit-led Church, situated 2 miles south of the M4. There are about 200 on the roll and 70 youth. The average attendance is about 150. There is a family spirit across a wide age range – it is child friendly and has a large “fringe” element. We present a contemporary informal worship with occasional formal worship. We are an outward looking church family with good links to the local community, particularly serving a small social housing estate with high dependency needs. We have a well used church hall adjacent and a reasonable car park.

### **St Peter's Church, Langley Burrell**

is a beautiful ancient building set on the edge of a small village whose approximate population is 250. Being only 1 mile from Chippenham the village community spirit is not very evident but it does support the Church in several activities through the year e.g. progressive lunch, fete, harvest supper and various Christmas activities. The Church has an electoral roll of 32 and a small congregation who are gently growing in their faith and beginning to consider how to reach out to the community effectively. The Church has a variety of worship styles, and after Sunday services most of the congregation enjoy chatting over coffee developing relationships that continue during the week. There is also a midweek home group which regularly meets in the village.

### **St. Nicholas, Hardenhuish** ([www.harnish.org.uk](http://www.harnish.org.uk))

is a small Grade II Georgian building situated between a well established residential area and a modern estate. Access is quite difficult as it is built on the side of a hill, reached by a steep pathway and steps. There are no hall facilities. WYSIWYG, i.e. its one room with no aisles or corners to hide in! The core congregation numbers about 30 ‘regulars’, ages ranging from 9 months to 90+ years. There are bigger congregations at certain services and special occasions. We offer a wide range of service styles from informal all-age to BCP Communion and/or Matins. ‘Early Birds’ for young children and their parents, meet separately once a month, with invitations to special services with the main stream congregation. The church attracts old and young alike, most of whom ‘own’ their membership. There are many growing in faith and wanting to know more. There are two home groups associated with the church. Growth is only limited by resources, and we look for opportunities to reach out into the community. The church is pastorally ‘aware’, looking out for the sick and those in difficulty. Faith and love are at work!

### **St Michael and all Angels, Kington St Michael**

is a village 3 miles from Chippenham with a voters' list of about 1000 - many first-time-buyer houses and a strong community spirit. Fine old church with average attendance of 25 - about 15 senior citizens and a few young families. (Play area and tea & biscuits after services.) Probably mid to low church with a mix of traditional and informal services. Well-supported mid-week communion & house group. C of E primary school with good links to the church. The village supports the church in a range of activities.

## STAFFING

We have seven Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers) and a locally ordained minister (Rev Dave Kilmister, since 2006) and Team Rector (Rev Simon Tyndall, since 2001) and also a strong team of churchwardens and other enthusiastic, capable and willing Christians wanting to live out their faith.

Our new colleague would work with the clergy and Group Leadership (wardens and licensed ministers) and especially with the Team Rector. We try to model real and meaningful collaborative ministry and relationships and are looking for someone who expects to both give and receive.

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

There is a four bedroom house provided with this post (near two excellent secondary schools) and the stipend is in line with the Bristol Diocesan policy.

## FOR MORE DETAILS

If you would like to know more please feel free to contact

Simon Tyndall (Team Rector)	01249 657216	simon@tyndall.plus.com
Archdeacon Alan Hawker	01249 750085	alan.hawker@bristol5.gotadsl.co.uk

## APPLICATION FORM

Application forms are available from

Archdeacon of Malmesbury  
Church Paddock  
Church Lane  
Kington Langley  
SN15 5NR

01249 750085  
alan.hawker@bristol5.gotadsl.co.uk

## CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS

28<sup>th</sup> March 2008

## INTERVIEWS

22-23<sup>rd</sup> April 2008