

Light on the Hill

Community Church Pastor - Job Description

Summary:

The Pastor will lead the work of gospel outreach in a distinctive part of Chesham; with the aim of establishing and pastoring a sustainable, vibrant, community church that will make Jesus known by word and deed to the residents of Pond Park and the Hivings area. The Pastor will be supervised and supported by the team vicar of Emmanuel, under the oversight of the Team Rector in the Parish of Great Chesham.

Context & history:

Hivings Free Church has been on the current site for 56 years, in an area of relative social and economic deprivation, and has sought to have a faithful gospel witness over those decades. For various reasons by 2017 the church was facing a bleak future, and a gospel partnership was formed with Emmanuel Church, a thriving conservative Anglican evangelical church. Over the last 18 months this partnership has been fruitful. We have seen clear signs of God at work and we believe that it is our calling to strengthen and develop a healthy, evangelical church in the community, to make Christ known for decades to come.

Emmanuel Church (Parish of Great Chesham) have an agreement to lease the buildings for 5 years with an option to buy, and so the current Hivings Free Church will close, and a new community church will be launched, made up of members from Emmanuel and Hivings (& potentially members of other churches who live in the area).

This is an exciting leadership role as something new begins. The pastor will require energy, grace, wisdom, and above all a love for Christ and for people. He won't be doing it alone, but will be working alongside and be supported by godly and gifted men and women.

The job will include:

- a) Gathering and envisioning a group from Emmanuel to establish a new community church in Pond Park/Hivings (which will include occasional preaching at Emmanuel)
- b) Leading services and preaching at Hivings Free Church, and working with current leaders (until the new church is launched)
- c) Building relationships with people outside the church, in the local community especially at Ivingswood Academy (leading assemblies), the Pond Park Community Association, etc
- d) Working with the Emmanuel DCC & Hivings leaders to establish a new leadership structure for the church, and a timetable for launching the new community church
- e) Taking responsibility, alongside new church leadership, to:
 - establish and maintain a Biblical vision for the community church;
 - equip the congregation to develop and take opportunities to serve;
 - lead and model evangelism in the community;
 - Give pastoral care and support to church members.

Person Profile:

We are looking for someone who...

- ... loves God and loves the lost, and believes that the gospel is the power of God for salvation
- ... is able to offer clear but sensitive leadership and vision, bringing people from different backgrounds with them into something new
- ... recognises their dependence on the grace and power of God in all things, and is consequently a person of prayer and humility
- ... believes that the Spirit inspired teaching of the Bible is God's means for saving and maturing people, and so seeks to teach God's Word faithfully and creatively
- ...ideally, has some experience of living and/or working in a more disadvantaged and marginalised community
- ...is an effective communicator, able to relate well with people of different backgrounds
- ...is passionate about evangelism and reaching out to those in the community who don't know Christ
- ...ideally has some formal theological training, or evidence of a deep knowledge of the Scriptures and experience of ministry
- ... is able and keen to work as a member of the Emmanuel and Parish team

Terms and Conditions:

- Salary: depends on experience / training (plus pension contribution)
- Accommodation: Appropriate housing provided / Housing allowance if in own home
- All expenses (inc. book & conference allowance) are covered
- Holiday allowance: 6 weeks
- Work expectation: The norm in the ministry team is to work 6 days, with a continuous period of 24 hours rest taken
- There will be a six month probationary period, and annual ministry reviews.