



Cornerstone Team
Thurnby — Houghton — Stoughton



Profile for a Church Planting Curate

The Cornerstone Resourcing Church team

Diocese of Leicester





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We are looking to appoint a curate with the specific aim of planting a new congregation over the next couple of years in an area of great missional opportunity.

This curacy will include all of the usual training opportunities which come with working in this varied and busy parish, including pastoral work, preaching and developing leadership skills; but with a clear focus on planting a new congregation.

In partnership with Diocesan Leaders, we have identified a likely area for our next plant to take place: a large parish of over 10,000 people on the edge of Leicester, with huge potential for growth, and no other churches within the parish at present. There is currently a small congregation in the existing church there, but also the possibility to begin a new congregation in a more central location. (For further details on the location and plans for this plant, please feel free to contact the Team Rector)

We are therefore looking for someone with a passion for evangelism and church planting; with a desire to work in new and creative ways; who enjoys starting new things and seeing them develop; and who thrives as part of a team.



Who are we?

The Cornerstone Team is based in three villages on the eastern edge of Leicester and includes three suburban village churches with an average Sunday attendance of over 200-250 people. As an evangelical team of churches, we see the four foundations of our life together as

Belonging: Living as the family of Jesus.

Growing: Becoming more like Jesus.

Multipling: Proclaiming Jesus and Planting Churches.

Serving: Living out the Love of Jesus.

Our specific areas of focus for the next 3-5 years are:

- **Planting and Evangelism**

Our vision is to be churches which plant church-planting churches.

Our aim is to plant new congregations and expressions of church through planting, pioneering and new ministries, both within our own parishes, and in other local areas.

- **Seeking to impact our communities with the love of Christ**

Our desire is to be known for loving our neighbours, as we invest in the needs of those around us.

Within this, we are currently in the midst of a major project to build and open a Community Café in Thurnby as a point of connection with people, a base for serving local communities, and as a location for a new fresh expression congregation in the next couple of years. The vision is for a place where the threshold of entry for the church is lowered. The majority of the finances for this project are in place, and we expect to go to planning shortly.

- **Developing the sense of 'Church Family', where people grow and feel at home**

Through our small groups, children's and young people's work, and ministries for people of all ages, our aim is for people to feel loved and cared for, as they are enabled to grow in their relationship with Jesus and with others.



Resourcing Church

In 2018, we were designated as one of the Diocese of Leicester's first Resourcing Churches, which seeks to meet the diocesan strategy of seeking growth in the number of disciples, the depth of our discipleship, and in our capacity to serve our communities.

Leicester Diocese are committed to supporting and enabling planting and growth through Resourcing Churches and this strategy is very much reflected in our key priorities described above.

Team and Priorities

The Cornerstone Team is comprised of three churches, with parishes bordering the eastern edge of Leicester City. St Luke's Church, Thurnby, is a busy parish church in a suburban village of approximately 3000 people, with three weekly services attended by around 200 people. The worship style is varied, with an emphasis on the contemporary and informal, and services incorporate thriving groups for youth and children, and major on biblical preaching. The Team Rector is based in Thurnby; many lay people are involved in ministry, and the staff ministry team includes the Associate Rector, a non-stipendiary Associate Vicar, a Youth Ministry trainee and a Children's and Families' Minister, as well as operational staff.

St Catharine's Church, in the neighbouring semi-rural village of Houghton on the Hill, is a family church with a worshipping community of all ages. The church is led by the Team Vicar, and shares a children's minister with the local Church School Academy Trust.

St Mary and All Saints, Stoughton, is in a small nearby village, with two services a month, and a small faithful congregation.

There are good facilities within the benefice, including three primary schools, three pubs, a range of shops, three village halls, two

garages, a range of sports clubs and facilities, a residential retirement home plus some areas of sheltered housing, a small Methodist Chapel, and a bus service to Leicester.

There is significant house building taking place both within our parishes and in nearby areas. With this comes significant mission opportunities, and possibilities for future plants.

As a Resourcing Church Team, we have started projects within our own communities, including 'Vitality' for seniors, and 'Explore' for families; and we are engaged in supporting an Ordained Pioneer Minister working in a nearby parish within the City of Leicester.

Within our churches, a high importance is given to evangelism, and discipleship, with a strong emphasis on ministry among families, children and young people. This is reflected in the make-up of our staff team, in the way we run our small groups, and in the regular running of Christianity Explored and Alpha.

Beyond the Cornerstone Team, we engage fully in the life of the Deanery, where both our current and previous Rector have been involved in leadership. We have links with both the Midlands Gospel Partnership, and with the New Wine Internship programme.





Church-Planting Curacy

As Curate in the Cornerstone Team, there will be opportunities to minister across the team of churches, with opportunities for preaching and teaching, pastoral work and discipling others, plus all the usual curacy training opportunities including working with PCCs, taking weddings and funerals etc.

However, the focus of the curacy will be very much geared towards planting: beginning with involvement in identifying, gathering and equipping a planting team, and working towards starting and establishing a new congregation.

Rob Miles, our Team Rector will provide supervision as Training Incumbent; but while this relationship is key, this post will also enable the experiences and expertise of the other clergy and members of the staff team to feed into and enrich the development of the curate's ministry.





Further Details

Visit www.thurnbychurch.com
and www.houghtonchurch.co.uk

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