

A partnership consisting of
the Central Baptist Association, the Anglican Diocese of St. Albans,
the Methodist Beds, Essex and Herts District and the North Thames Synod of the United
Reformed Church (and in association with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton)

is seeking to appoint an

ECUMENICAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT MINISTER

for

Wixams, Bedfordshire

Wixams is a growing new community just south of Bedford, comprising (when complete) around 5000 homes/12,500 people. There are now more than 200 houses occupied. The aim is to appoint a person to plant an ecumenical church.

He or she will:

- be an ordained minister of a member church of Churches Together in England
- have a commitment to and skills in the proclamation of the Christian gospel
- be a self-starter with a strong personal vision
- be a strategic thinker
- be able to work with people of all ages and backgrounds
- have a proven track record in community development.

A suitable house is due for completion in the late autumn in the new community. A starting date for the post is envisaged to be 1st January 2011. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB disclosure.

For a job description, profile of Wixams and an application form, please contact:

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PA to the Bishop of Bedford

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The closing date for applications is 21st September 2010, and interviews will be held in Bedford on 5th October 2010.

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 21st 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.