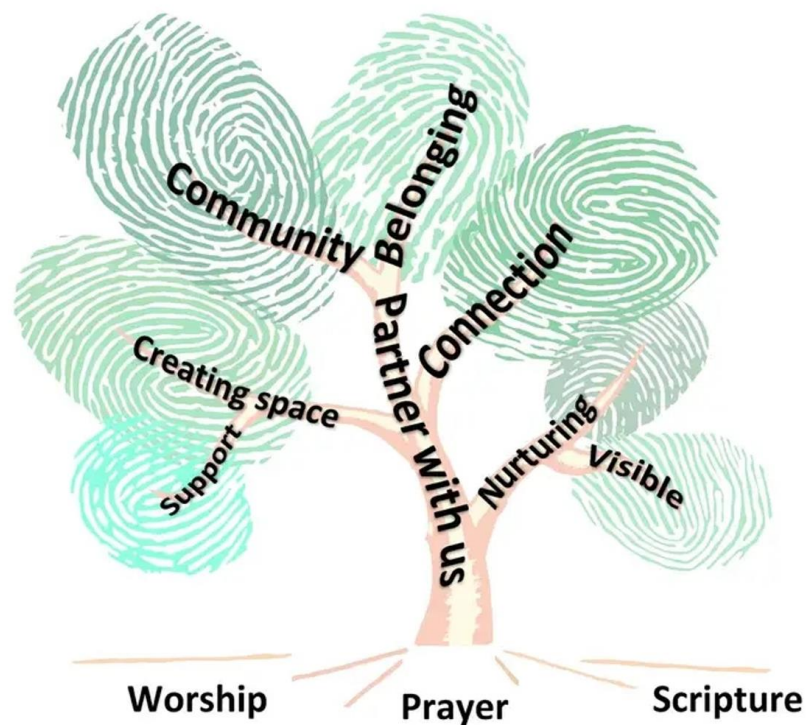


**THE PARISHES OF WELLESBOURNE AND WALTON
ARE LOOKING TO APPOINT
AN**

***ASSOCIATE MINISTER
FOR THE PARISH OF LIGHTHORNE,
LIGHTHORNE HEATH AND UPPER
LIGHTHORNE***



WELCOME

The person who will blossom in this diverse community will share the above priorities. This role offers unique opportunities for the right person to partner with us to minister from open field to urban growth.

The Associate Minister will have our committed support and encouragement, to develop a clear vision for mission. If you think this is your calling, please read on...

Upper Lighthorne is a new village with strong links to the existing villages of Lighthorne and Lighthorne Heath. This new development will ultimately grow to a population of around 7000, creating exciting missional opportunities and the potential of a thriving new church plant.

There is a well-loved Parish Church, in Lighthorne village, with lots of community work taking place at Lighthorne Heath and our exciting vision is to plant a new Church in Upper Lighthorne to serve the whole community.

Lighthorne Parish (with Lighthorne Heath) was previously part of the Mid-Fosse Group, but this Group has recently been dissolved following a deanery reorganisation, although good relationships remain. The new permanent stipendiary post of Associate Minister for Lighthorne Parish has been created to enable the ministry in the growing Lighthorne Parish to be developed.

The Associate Minister will be licenced to St Peter's Church in Wellesbourne, a similar sized village to Upper Lighthorne but they will be fully released to focus upon the Lighthorne Parish. St Peter's Wellesbourne offers supervision through their Vicar Greg Bartlem, who has a background in Pioneer Ministry; the church also offers excellent administrative support and a team of Readers and Retired Clergy.

We are very excited about the missional possibilities that lie within the growing Lighthorne Parish! This post offers the opportunity to embrace a diversity in expressions of church, bringing people together, serving each other and enabling growth as we live out the gospel together.

THE PEOPLE AND PLACES

Brief History of the Parishes of Lighthorne, with Lighthorne Heath and Upper Lighthorne.

Lighthorne and Lighthorne Heath were one Civil Parish till 2003 when Lighthorne Heath Parish Council was established as a separate entity. Upper Lighthorne forms part of the Civil Parish of Lighthorne Heath, which was renamed, following a vote by the community in April 2020, to Upper Lighthorne Parish Council. The size of the Civil Parish tripled.

Local need for housing for the growing population resulted in the approval for 3500 houses to be built; the development at Lighthorne Heath was deemed the most suitable location and became the Upper Lighthorne development. With the inclusion of Lighthorne Heath, this would create the biggest town outside of Stratford within the District.

The Parochial Parish continues to be the Parish of Lighthorne (with Lighthorne Heath and now Upper Lighthorne) and by arrangement with neighbouring Parishes of Chesterton (formerly part of the Mid Fosse Group) and Harbury (Now Priest in Charge of Chesterton), Lighthorne Parish will serve the whole of the Upper Lighthorne Development (most of which sits within the boundary of Chesterton).



Lighthorne

Lighthorne is a picturesque village in the South Warwickshire countryside of about 270 houses. As you enter the village via steep hills you will approach the village green and see the local pub, 'The Antelope'. St Laurence Church has been in Lighthorne for seven centuries, and with one of the oldest bells (the Tenor) calling people to worship since the 16th century. We also have the remains of a Preaching Cross in the churchyard that is approximately one thousand years old. The worship style reflects a more traditional approach, although the church building has been used in the past to provide fun space for children to embrace church in a style that is more accessible, and there is a space at the back of the church, where pews have been removed, which is more flexible and enables a more social space, whilst maintaining the quaint feel of a village church.



St Laurence Church, Lighthorne



Folk Concert by Show of Hands

The church building and the churchyard are well maintained, and there are assets within a Trust that supports with the fabric of the building. There is a team of local people who clean the church and provide flowers. There is a Rota of people to ensure that the church building is open during the day as much as possible, so that it is available for quiet reflection and prayer or for visitors. There is an active Bell Ringing Group, and the Tower Captain operates a teaching centre. The links between the community and the church for shared events has been a strength, which recently involved a Folk Concert and a Flower Festival.

St Laurence Church has an established pattern of services on a Rota with the wider parishes of the (former) Mid-Fosse Group; this pattern continues at the current time and will be reviewed in conjunction with the new Associate Minister once in post and Wellesbourne Parish.

Includes: Drama group, History Society, Café, Cricket Club, Tennis Court, Village Hall, Pub, Mobile Post Office, the Church Building and the current Rectory.



Flower Festival

Lighthorne Heath



5th Sunday Services at Lighthorne Heath Village Hall

Lighthorne Heath is a separate community of approx. 370 houses. Its origin was as quarters for RAF service families, built in 1942, but eventually the houses were sold off, some to the District Council and some privately. Lighthorne Heath has a strong community feel. Historically this community has experienced a high level of social need, which has pulled the community together. In the early 80s there was a big influx of families, who were provided with the new stock of council housing. The village has worked through many social challenges that arose from placing many people in need together. Now, newcomers to the village comment about how quiet it is and how welcoming people are.

There is no church building in this community, but records show that from Christmas 1979 there has been a history of Christian worship, first held in the old Social Centre (now demolished) and from 1994 in the Village Hall. Lighthorne Heath Community Church has always worked through a team approach, with a willingness to try new ideas.

In 2010 we adopted the Café Church model and met weekly on Sunday evenings, to ensure that there was a regular pattern which were easy for the local community to engage with. In 2015, we introduced a monthly Messy Church, to welcome children and families to an informal model of church that reached unchurched families and those on the fringe.



Community Camp and Messy Church

Previously, whilst capacity allowed, many children and young people from unchurched families attended weekly youth groups and Falcon or Venture Camps from 2003, with an average of 22 per year. We also, organised and ran five annual Community Camps, which welcomed 40 – 45 people (young and older). We have sought to engage the community through events outside of church buildings, for example by giving away free bacon butties on the green by the shop, a free car wash, 'treat or treat', and providing a free skip for the community to use at Easter as a physical demonstration of the gospel – bringing our rubbish to Jesus, who sorts it out.

Ministry has generally been lay led. Unfortunately, through sickness affecting the leadership team, life circumstances, Covid and the Village Hall being closed for a maintenance this ministry was not sustainable at that time.

The future holds even greater potential with the development of Upper Lighthorne, the strong links with the local school, and a strong leader to invest in this potential. Lighthorne Heath Primary School have families who have higher social needs and the school have a high number of children on free school meals and those with special educational needs. The cost-of-living crisis, and the challenges faced by families, present opportunities for service to the community.

Includes: Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, Shop, Village Hall, Food Share, Mobile Post Office, Mobile Library, Current Primary School (till it moves to new bigger school), Children's Centre, Football Field, Football Team (boys and girls), Multi-Sports Area, Skate Boarding Ramps, Bowls Club, and Play Park.

Upper Lighthorne

There are 700 houses now occupied. Upper Lighthorne is separated from Lighthorne Heath by the B4100. As a new community there is a need for cohesion of the new and the old. There is a Community Champion working and living on the new development. She has been in post for two years and has been creating links with community members and she has eight years left of her fixed term contract. She is very keen to work with the Church to develop any opportunities that benefit the community.



Outdoor Harvest Celebration by Church Allotment

The new development will eventually build a Community Centre, which would enable the development of a new worshipping centre. The developers' welcome stakeholders, including the church, to be involved in the development of plans for the community spaces, so the Associate Minister will be well-placed to take a lead on influencing these processes to enable the missional opportunities going forward. It is also anticipated that the Associate Minister will eventually live within the new development of Upper Lighthorne.

Includes: Nature Group and Allotments, including a Church Allotment, Residents Association

Planned: Community Centre, Doctors' Surgery, More Shops, New bigger Primary School, New Rectory

ACCOMMODATION



Rectory in Lighthorne

The Rectory is in Lighthorne, near the centre of the Mid-Fosse group. Built approximately 25 years ago from local stone, it is a four-bedroom family home close to the church with a secluded and well-established garden.

On the ground floor the accommodation includes an entrance hall with parquet flooring, a cloakroom, dining room, sitting room with woodburner, study, kitchen and utility room.

On the first floor there are three double bedrooms (two with basins) and one single bedroom, a bathroom with a shower and a separate toilet. Outside there is a paved driveway and a double garage. There are two external storage rooms. The property has LPG fired central heating, mains water and drainage. It is double glazed throughout and has a well-insulated loft.

Whilst the Rectory will be the Associate Minister's residence at first, plans are in place for a new Rectory in Upper Lighthorne.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE POST OF ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR LIGHTHORNE PARISH

The Role: (working in cooperation with the Incumbent of Wellesbourne, and maintaining the good will of the Priest in Charge of Chesterton)

- Love God and have a contagious faith, embracing contemporary and traditional worship
- Helping others to encounter Jesus and to develop a living faith
- Model discipleship and help create a culture across the churches in which everyone plays their part in helping encourage young and old grow in a lively, committed and radical faith in Jesus Christ. They will strive to enable all we reach to hear, respond and grow in the gospel of Jesus by the power of his Holy Spirit
- Creatively engage with the community and be visible, developing relationships with those within the church, those within the wider community, the developers and the school, working together to create missional opportunities, including the development of a Community Hub
- Support and develop leadership teams across the parish
- Plant a church in the new development, growing out of the missional opportunities, in particular with children and families.
- Embracing the existing church in Lighthorne Village, recognising the value of diversity in church life and taking us forward
- Recruit, train, and co-ordinate volunteer teams.
- Chair PCC and take on other responsibilities associated with incumbency on behalf of the Priest in Charge (Incumbent of Wellesbourne – Greg Bartlem)

Support: The post-holder will receive the benefit of support and senior leader oversight from the Incumbent of St Peter's Wellesbourne, the Archdeacon Missioner and members of his team. Money has been set aside to appoint a part-time Children & Families Worker

In addition to the above duties and responsibilities:

- To be lead recruitment of a Children and Families Worker and act as line manager
- To play a full part in the deanery and diocese by helping to encourage mission-minded values of audacious faith, generosity, unity and humility.
- Manage, and work within defined budgets and expenditure.
- Undertake appropriate training as required.
- The post holder will be accountable for carrying out all duties and responsibilities with due regard to the PCC policies, including Safeguarding.
- Oversee safeguarding to ensure all events, projects and churches are safe places.
- Duties that include processing of any personal data must be undertaken within current GDPR regulations.

Person Specification

Skills/Knowledge/Experience	Essential	Desirable
Leading in a Christ centred and mission focused church with a staff team	X	
Leading and hosting services on a weekly basis		X
Preaching and teaching to a high standard	X	
Leading ministry teams, sharing vision, setting strategy, teaching and able to draw in wide variety of team members and see them flourish		X
Successfully leading missional activities	X	
Knowledge and experience of church planting	X	
Experience of working with and discipling children and young people	X	
Excellent communicator (verbal and written skills) – able to communicate with other agencies and the wider local community	X	
Knowledge of safeguarding best practice and culture	X	
Experience of organising events, activities and regular groups for children and young people	X	
Experience of managing and developing staff.		X
Ability to build relationships with a community, to draw people to missional initiatives	X	
Ability to relate to and connect with young people and families	X	
Experience of working autonomously and as part of a team, managing own workload-within agreed and reasonable timescales.	X	
Is able to seek and receive advice / support	X	
Knowledge of the Bible and experience in teaching all ages the principles of living the Christian life.	X	
IT literate – e.g. Microsoft Office and internet based applications and databases and missional use of social media platforms	X	

AN INVITATION

We hope that you have learnt enough about the role to engage your interest and, if so called, consider looking further into applying for the post of Associate Minister for Lighthorne.

We welcome informal, confidential, conversations about this role. You may contact:

- The Vicar, the Rev'd Greg Bartlem on 01789 840866 or at gregbartlem@gmail.com or
- The Archdeacon Missioner, the Ven Barry Dugmore on 07487 578311 or at Barry.Dugmore@Coventry.Anglican.org

The application form for this role can be found by visiting the Coventry Diocesan website <https://www.coventry.anglican.org/about/vacancies/clergy-hr.php>