



TRAINING POST: MINISTRY APPRENTICE 2011/12

1. INTRODUCTION

Castle Church is a conservative evangelical Anglican church on the western side of Stafford with 100 or so regular adult members. We have grown in size during the last three years or so, and God is continuing to answer the church family's prayer for a new family, couple or individual to join us each month. Our major growth has been amongst young families in their 20's or 30's. All our ministries aim to be Christ-centred, Bible-based and people-focussed.

We are seeking a Ministry Apprentice to join us in this difficult but encouraging ministry initially for one year from September 2011. The Ministry Apprentice would be a full part of the staff team; accommodation, expenses and a small remuneration are provided and wide-ranging training is offered.

2. THE CHURCH FAMILY

The Castle Church parish covers much of the western side of Stafford and takes in some of the farms beyond the M6 Motorway. As the name suggests, the church building is close by the ruins of Stafford Castle. We have four services on a Sunday:

10:15am Family Service (currently meeting in the Church Hall - Newport Road)

This is a modern and informal service using Power Point technology and with music led by a band. It attracts people aged 0-100! After around 20 minutes the children leave for their own activities across at the church hall. They usually look at the same passage of the bible as the adults in the church building.

9am Traditional Sunday Service with choir.

For those who find the modern style of worship uncomfortable, we have a traditional sung morning service. This is led by our church choir.

9:45am Sunday Service at Lovelace Close Highfields

An informal setting for this warm and friendly service in the church hall on Highfields.

6pm Sunday Service (Currently Meeting in The Barn behind the Church Hall - Newport Road)

The last service of the day combines modern and traditional music as we come together in this quieter more reflective time, with an opportunity to spend more time in God's word.

There is also a midweek Communion service twice each month followed by a coffee morning.

Midweek groups are an important part of church life: 20% of our adults go to fortnightly growth groups and there is a Prayer Night on the first Wednesday of each month. On the third Wednesday of each month we often have a 'Training Evening'; the church has close and growing links with ministries in Romania and are currently supporting the work of OMF.

We have a growing youth and children's work. Our Sunday school contains the children of adults attending the main morning service and the new youth group 'Hope' meets each Sunday Evening. Several of our young people attend CPAS Ventures each year.

We currently have two full time staff: the Vicar Philip Sowerbutts and the Ministry Apprentice. The Curate Chris Sykes is NSM, and there is a part-time administrator, Dalena Deall and a part-time verger, Pauline Howard.

3. THE POSITION OF MINISTRY APPRENTICE

The ministry Apprentice is a training post that is especially suitable for someone considering full time Christian ministry at some stage in the future. The ministry Apprentice will be regarded as a full and integral part of the staff team and attends all staff meetings, Bible preaching discussions, staff prayers, etc. We believe in using the gifts God has given the person who joins us, so the precise details of the role will be worked out once we have appointed an apprentice. However areas of ministry could include:

Teaching the Bible in youth groups, children's groups and 1to 1.

If and when appropriate, preaching at church services.

Speaking at assemblies at various schools and running activities at the local junior and secondary school.

Visiting older Christians.

Helping to organise, publicise and run evangelistic events and courses.

One to one bible reading

We will ask our ministry Apprentice to work hard! Although the majority of time will be spent on the above activities, we will ask them to offer practical service: moving chairs and tables, setting up and clearing up meetings, photocopying etc.

4. TRAINING AND PASTORAL SUPPORT FOR THE MINISTRY APPRENTICE

We want to give as much to our ministry Apprentice as we gain from them. The emphasis will be on training for present and future ministry. The Castle Church parish is wide and diverse and has many needs. The apprentice will learn and be involved in working out week by week, how to bring the gospel into our particular situation. We believe gospel ministers are trained through preaching and teaching, academic study and in learning how to serve sacrificially - all three of which the apprentice will have the opportunity to do plenty of with us!

Exegetical training will take the form of taking part in Monday staff meetings where a significant length of time is devoted to discussing the passages to be preached the following Sunday. The staff team also work through a variety of theological books together during the year. This is one of the most exciting and encouraging times of our week!

Appropriate training will also be offered either, in-house, based on the Moore College Correspondence Course or through The Midlands Gospel Partnership Ministry Training Schemes. We provide a small book grant and the funding to attend at least one conference each year. Where appropriate, the Apprentice would have the opportunity to be involved in the Diocesan structures designed to help people considering a possible vocation. Lichfield Diocese has an emphasis on helping younger people to explore calling.

The Vicar will take direct responsibility for the Ministry Apprentice, with a weekly meeting – to pray and study the scriptures, to review and plan, and to provide constructive leadership and pastoral care for the ministry Apprentice.

Thursdays are the normal day off for the staff team; however it is not difficult to have Saturdays off instead if necessary.

5. PRACTICALITIES

The position is a voluntary one, but we are able to make a contribution towards living costs and spending money for which we are working with a budget figure of £90 per week (plus accommodation, expenses and training courses) for a position that will run from late August 2011 until late July 2012. Apprentices in other churches in the region have found this contribution sufficient – the cost of living in Staffordshire is significantly lower than elsewhere, and particularly than the south of England. Appropriate accommodation is provided with a church family member who also receives a small amount of money to cover living costs and many meals will be readily supplied by members of the church family.

6. VICAR

Philip is married to Claire and they have two children. Before being ordained, Philip did a variety of jobs in Primary education and in teacher training. He trained for the ministry at Oak Hill Theological College in London where he is now also a visiting lecturer in the areas of both music and Spirituality. Before coming to Stafford was the Acting Vicar of St Luke's, Willerby, in East Yorkshire. As a curate Philip trained under Johnny Jukes from Proclamation Trust at St Andrew's Kirk Ella. He has wide experience as a trainer and a training incumbent and has experience supervising Oak Hill Placement Students. He is also a trainer on the Lichfield Diocesan CME team.

7. TIMESCALE FOR MAKING AN APPOINTMENT

Start date – last week in August 2011. Informal interviews can be arranged from February 2011 onwards. If you would like to find out more, you are welcome to ring me, or you could write to explain why you would like to be considered for the position, including a CV and a reference from one of the leadership team in your local church.

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Googlemaps

http://maps.google.co.uk/maps?q=ST16+1DP&rls=com.microsoft:en-gb:IE-SearchBox&oe=UTF-8&rlz=117GGLL_en-GB&redir_esc=&um=1&ie=UTF-8&hq=&hnear=Stafford+ST16+1DP&gl=uk&ei=t-1Tz7EGtO2hAfCoudCw&sa=X&oi=geocode_result&ct=image&resnum=1&ved=0CBcQ8gEwAA

This is what our current ministry apprentice David Hazell has to say about his time with us so far....

I would heartily encourage anyone to considering applying for a Ministry Apprentice position to consider an application to Castle Church.

It is a great, and most importantly real, place to serve whilst possibly exploring a potential vocation to further ministry. The leadership love Jesus as Lord as well as truly loving people. Naturally then, they are passionate about introducing people to the risen Christ and aiding Christians to grow in their faith through sound biblical teaching. This pastoral instruction extends to the Ministry Apprentice. I've been here almost 5 months and have found the church leadership supportive and to fully take into account my best interests. Consequently, my role is a synergy of parochial and personal development needs.

I have been welcomed into the family here to the extent that leaving to follow God's call on my life will involve elements of sadness and nostalgia.

This parish is not the finished article, but then, in wishing to do parish ministry, you were neither wanting nor expecting that. It is however, going through an exciting period, stepping up in a serious way to answer locally Jesus' 'great commission'.

The position here offers a great opportunity to love, learn and serve. If your serious about serving in a Christian community and want to grow both spiritually and in ability to minister, check it out.

David Hazell