

JOB AND PERSON DESCRIPTION FOR THE COMMUNITY LEADER

Appointment of a new Community Leader

The Lee Abbey Small Missional Communities Board are seeking to appoint a new leader for the Small Missional Community in Knowle West.

The role is one of leadership and development in a new season for the community of **Lee Abbey Knowle West**. The leader will be expected to discern and shape a fresh vision in the light of the community's story and enable the community in deeper discipleship and mission, sharing God's saving love.

He/she will lead a community of people of all ages, active in their neighbourhood, in the Lee Abbey House, (a centrally located 8 bedrooed community house), building on the nearly 3 decades of excellent relationships with local residents and local churches, and to enhance the potential for new members to move in and discover fresh ways of mission in the South Bristol housing estate of Knowle West.

The person appointed may be a man or woman, lay or ordained. If not an Anglican, they will be able to work sympathetically within a Movement which is Anglican in its foundation but ecumenical in its membership. This role is in addition to being a full member of the community, with its time commitments

The expectation is that the community as a whole will be financially self-sufficient and that the community will share 'everything in common'. There therefore needs to be a willingness to explore with the whole community how this is achieved, taking into account the calling, skills and resources of the community and their particular financial circumstances. The local support group is able to provide support for these discussions. Although the leadership of the Community must be the leader's primary calling and responsibility, it is expected that the leader will contribute financially to the community (e.g. through part-time paid employment) and so release others to mix paid work and ministry with the community as indicated by the hallmarks (below).

The core commitment of the Lee Abbey Movement is to communicate Christ through relationships.

The hallmarks of Lee Abbey Small Missional Communities are:

- Commitment to **life together** – praying, discipleship, eating, care of home and garden, supporting and respecting each other
- Clear **missional** focus involving all
- **Participation** in the Lee Abbey Rule of Life
- Lives marked by the desire to **bless and honour** all in community and neighbourhood
- Working **with** churches
- Identified **leader** (enabling not authoritarian)
- **Under one roof**, though may have associates
- Members should have **part time** paid work (ideally no more than three days)
- **Financially** sustainable
- **Locally** supported in prayer and accountability
- Essentially in **urban** situations

It is against these Hallmarks that we are looking to recruit the community Leader

The community leader must possess and display:

- A calling to and ideally experience of community life
- A proven record of mission and leadership
- A passion for growing and making disciples;
- A calling to work in an area of urban poverty;
- the gifts to hold, grow and guard vision for incarnational community life.

The leader's role : Key tasks

- Leading and developing the existing mutually accountable community
- Listening and being attentive to God together
- Helping to shape a fresh vision in light of the community's story
- Facilitating healthy and sustainable patterns for community life
- Creating space for intentional personal discipleship and growth
- Playing a key role in the recruitment of new members
- Discovering together God's heart for the people and places of Knowle West and thereby enabling the whole small missional community (SMC) to identify missional opportunities and develop a strategy to share God's saving love
- Working in partnership with other churches and agencies on the estate developing key relationships with people of peace in the area
- Encouraging and enabling the mission of individual members in their work and service within the wider community
- Discerning the potential and facilitating the use of the building for mission on the estate
- Where necessary, engaging contractors to ensure economical upkeep of building maintenance
- Being responsible for implementing safeguarding practice and training within the community

Key Relationships

Alongside all community members, the Community Leader will seek to develop good relationships with:

- People living and working on the estate, especially those near the Lee Abbey House
- Local Christian churches, and any other intentional small communities and networks such as Knowle West Churches Together.
- The SMC's Local Support Group, in particular the Chair of the local support group, and all those who pray and support the SMC.
- Chair and members of Lee Abbey SMC Board
- Lee Abbey SMC Advocate
- The wider Lee Abbey Movement
- The Leader will be a full member of the Local Support Group and be expected to attend the Lee Abbey Small Missional Communities Board.
- Relevant local, regional and national organisations and networks.

It is expected that the leader will

- Commit to a five-year period, after a three month probationary period and with regular reviews with the Advocate or the chair of LSG.
- Undergo a successful enhanced DBS check.

- Be a regular worshipper in a local church
- Make the Lee Abbey promises (attached)
- From time to time be called upon to speak on behalf of and about the Lee Abbey Movement
- Be the primary link between the Community and the rest of the Lee Abbey Movement,

If the appointment is of a married couple, the leader's spouse would be expected to be a full member of the community, applying and being interviewed in their own right.

Closing date: April 27th 2020

Shortlisted candidates will be expected to make a visit of at least 48 hours to the Community before the interview.

Interview date: May 27th / 28th