

Ministry Trainee, St John's Leyland (www.stjohnsleyland.co.uk)

St John's Leyland

St John's Leyland is an evangelical Anglican Church in Blackburn Diocese. We are situated in a varied part of Leyland with a mix of residential areas (privately owned and social housing) and industry. We currently have about 60-70 adults worshipping on a Sunday morning and a newly launched Sunday afternoon all-age congregation of 20-30 people. Whilst the number of children worshipping on a Sunday morning is quite small (typically, in single figures), we have contact with a large number of non-church children (112) and families (82) through our weekly mid-week groups, catering for pre-school children right through to young people in high school and beyond, and our monthly Messy Church. This poses an exciting (but challenging) outreach opportunity.

Our vision is to **LIVE: Loving, Knowing & Sharing Jesus**. Specifically, this means St John's Leyland exists to:

LIVE: Jesus came to bring life to the full. We long to more fully live out this life that we have been called to through every member using their diverse gifts to build one another up in unity and maturity so that we grow up to be more like Jesus.

Loving Jesus: The heart of our vision is the gospel of Jesus Christ – that God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that all who believe in him may not perish but have everlasting life. We want help one another to respond to God's love for us by living our whole lives in loving worship to him.

Knowing Jesus: Nothing compares to the joy of knowing Jesus. Therefore, we long to help one another grow in our knowledge of him through deeper study and knowledge of the Bible.

Sharing Jesus: We long to share the good news of Jesus with Leyland and beyond. Specifically, we are seeking to prioritise unreached groups both in our parish and further afield.

For the next five years we have set the following **vision priorities:**

1. Sharing Jesus: Reaching the unreached peoples of our parish and the world with the good news of Jesus
2. Knowing Jesus: Growing mature disciples by developing a more intentional and strategic discipleship process
3. Loving Jesus: Offering a more varied, accessible and contemporary pattern of worship – including an all age service on a Sunday afternoon
4. Children & Families: Seeing an increasing number of young families who have a vibrant committed Christian faith

The Ministry Training Scheme at St Johns Leyland

The Ministry Training Scheme is a volunteer placement based at St John's Leyland and lasting 1 year (September 2020 - August 2021) with the option of a second year by mutual agreement. The purpose of the scheme is to help develop the next generation of servant-leaders. We seek to train and equip trainees in Christian discipleship, theology, Bible study, teaching others and servant-hearted gospel ministry. This is achieved through a combination of experiencing Christian ministry first-hand and tailored teaching, instruction and mentoring. As a result, the scheme is particularly appropriate for anybody seeking to discern if God might be calling them to some form of full-time gospel ministry.

Expectations for the Ministry Trainee

Trainees would ordinarily be expected to divide their time according to the following suggested allocation:

- 14 hours of formal ministry training
- 14 hours of experience doing Bible ministry
- 14 hours of experience of support ministry

Formal Ministry Training:

Ministry Trainees are encouraged to spend 14 hours a week in formal ministry training. This includes one day a week attending the North West Gospel Partnership Ministry Training Course (<http://northwestpartnership.com/training/ministry-training-course/its-purpose>) and a morning of private study and prayer. In addition, you will have individual supervision sessions with our Children & Families Coordinator and/or Vicar (who has experience of Theological Education and is currently undertaking PhD research in biblical studies), specific in-house ministry training sessions, set reading and discussion, and one conference and week of personal study/prayer per year.

Bible ministry:

Ministry Trainees are encouraged to spend 14 hours a week learning how to do Christian ministry "on the job". Within a supportive environment you will have the opportunity to experience a wide range of ministry while receiving feedback and encouragement. It is envisaged that the main focus of ministry (2/3 of the time) will be supporting our Children & Families Coordinator – particularly in ministry and outreach to youth. However, depending upon the candidate's gifts and vocation we would seek to tailor the opportunity for wider ministry experience as appropriate. This may involve assisting in leading our mid-week and Sunday children's groups, holiday Bible club, Christian enquirers course, evangelistic speaking, talks & sermons, etc.

Support Ministry:

At the heart of all Christian ministry is service and sacrifice. Therefore, trainees are encouraged to spend 14 hours a week in serving through practical support. This

enables you to get an idea of what goes on 'behind the scenes' to enable Christian ministry to flourish and may include things like setting up for meetings and administrative tasks.

Finances

This is a volunteer placement and as such trainees are required to raise money towards their own support. Ministry Trainees are encouraged to raise money from friends and family as well as through applications to Trust funds (numerous Christian trusts award grants for ministry trainees). Raising the necessary funds is in itself part of the training program and an indicator of your suitability for ministry by showing whether those who know you best think further ministry is appropriate for you. This may sound daunting, but we will happily provide advice for approaching and applying to trusts for support. You may also be eligible to apply to the St John's Leyland Vicar & Wardens Fund who may be able to provide a grant towards your placement.

St John's Leyland will pay appropriate ministry-related expenses associated with your placement and also fund your attendance at the North West Gospel Partnership's Ministry Training Course.

Who we are looking for

We are seeking a person of Christian conviction, male or female, who is

- Passionate about serving Christ
- Pursuing godliness in every area of their life
- Humble, teachable and willing to learn
- Servant-hearted and other-person centred
- Seeking God's will for their future ministry
- Committed to the vision and values of St John's Leyland

Applying to the Ministry Trainee Scheme

If you wish to receive an application form, or if you would like to arrange for an informal meeting or church visit before applying, please contact:

Rev Andy Meeson (Vicar)
01772 623483
andymeeson33@googlemail.com

Application Deadline: Mon 27th April 2020

Interview Date: Early - Mid May, to be agreed