

St John's
west wickham

LEARNING

Leadership

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WHAT IS 'LEARNING LEADERSHIP'?

This is a venture that was approved by the PCC over the Summer.

Following the success of having a curate, Jon outlined the idea of providing an opportunity for certain individuals to gain an insight into church leadership. Who it's for and how it might work is outlined in this flyer.

WHO IS IT FOR?

It is intended for those who think that God might call them to lead a church in the future.

This is not limited to ordained ministry in the Church of England, but will include some exploration of that possibility. This is not an alternative to curate and is not a scheme accredited by the Church of England. We are not the first church to experiment with such an idea, but this is a homegrown proposal.

It is something akin to an internship.

HOW WILL IT WORK?

The idea is that the individual will give one of their working days (if they are employed) to partake in the scheme. This will obviously have to be negotiated with an employer. The church would look to supplement the consequent loss of income.

As such, we are encouraging the church family to see this as an investment in someone's development and part of our responsibility to nurture future leaders.

The person(s) involved will meet with Amber and Jon on a weekly basis. They will be given responsibility for different elements of our church life and have general exposure to the workings of the church leadership. Consequently, they will need to be well-versed with our Confidentiality and Safeguarding protocols.

They will be accountable to Jon as their Line Manager and will be signing a contract, which outlines the respective expectations between them and the church.

WHAT'S THE SCOPE OF THE SCHEME?

It is intended to be as bespoke to the individual as possible, tailored around their existing experience and gifts. As this is a new idea, there is inevitably going to be some 'feeling our way into it'.

There will be regular reviews of progress, as well as an annual assessment to decide whether an individual wishes to continue with the scheme. Some of the areas that are likely to be explored include:

- Vision and Decision Making
- Mission & Evangelism
- Pastoral Care & Managing Conflict
- Work / Life Balance
- Vocation and Ministry within the Church of England
- Worship Life of a Church
- Spiritual Formation - Character and Leadership
- Preaching & Communication

DO WE HAVE ANYONE ON BOARD?

Yes!

Jon was aware of a few individuals for whom this might be suited. After a period of discussion and prayer, Dan Leeves was keen to be the guinea pig and has managed to secure a day off a week from his usual work to give it a go. He will be dedicating every Thursday to Learning Leadership, starting on 5 September.

WHAT IF I'M INTERESTED?

The short answer is to begin a conversation with Jon.

As you can imagine, there is a fair bit to line up from an initial chat, so it can take time. Therefore, even if you only have a vague inkling/stirring, don't hesitate to start the discussion.

QUESTIONS

This flyer is designed to give the church family the broad strokes of the idea.

You may well have questions and you are encouraged to pitch them to Jon. We might not have all the answers, but this is an idea that we felt was worth running with, even in the absence of a highly detailed blueprint.