



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
SUFFOLK

Lightwave Group Leaders

Use your gifts to serve God and others in the name of Christ





The Lightwave Community is a supportive community of small missional groups across the whole of Suffolk who aim to:

- help bring new Christians to faith
- help both new and established Christians to grow in discipleship, vocation and leadership
- enable new culturally appropriate fresh expressions of church and other mission initiatives develop in a healthy and sustainable way in both rural and urban contexts.

In a Lightwave Group, every member is involved in ministry although only a couple of people will be the commissioned group leaders or facilitators. Lightwave group leaders may be lay or ordained, have completed theological degree or be new Christians, just starting out.



What do Lightwave groups do?

Lightwave groups pray, study the bible and seek to live life growing in God together. They see themselves as being on mission with Jesus. Some Lightwave groups are the team for a fresh expression of Church. Others may become the church themselves for people new to faith. The small groups meet regularly (normally weekly) to build their group life round a simple set of values:

All involved

Becoming disciples

Creating community

Doing evangelism

Encountering God

“

Fresh Expressions of Church are one of the amazing ways God is blessing us at this time, especially in reaching parts of the population which otherwise aren't being reached. So, it's wonderful that the Lightwave Community is fostering these ways of doing Church and following Jesus!

Bishop Mike

”

Discerning God's call

If you have a sense that God is calling you to reach out with others to share his love in your local community or network, then the Lightwave Community may well help you to follow this call.

- Pray about this with others.
- Learn about Lightwave by joining an existing group or taking part in small group leader training.
- If you want to start a group, talk with your incumbent/local church leader (unless it is you!) and contact the leader of the Lightwave community.
- Potential leaders of small groups will need a DBS check and to complete a Safeguarding training course, in line with Diocesan Policy on Safeguarding.



Accountability and support

Missional small groups need accountability and support. Accountability can be provided by your Parochial Church Council and Incumbent especially if the group ministers within a particular parish. It can also be provided by the Lightwave Community Bishop's Mission Order, especially if the mission involves ecumenical working or is over a number of parishes. We will help you, The Lightwave Community, discern what will work best for you. The Lightwave Community also seeks to provide or connect Lightwave Group Leaders with support of various kinds including:

- Peer group meet-ups for people engaging in similar kinds of mission e.g. Wild Church.
- Coaching for leadership of small missional groups and for evangelism.
- Msm-flexi (a year-long course in which your small group is coached and facilitated to learn about and start pioneering mission together).
- Opportunities for funding.
- Bespoke training.



Training for leaders of missional small groups

Initial training for Lightwave group leaders and assistant leaders is usually through a six-session course covering values, vision, leadership skills, healthy small groups, all involved and growth. This course is also available online or over two Saturdays. The Lightwave Community offers ongoing support and helps its group leaders to identify and access the coaching and training most helpful for them in mission.

On completion of the course, you will have:

- experienced healthy meetings of a small missional group
- been inspired by the core values
- gained an understanding of what a group looks and feels like
- established relationships with others
- experienced leading the small group meeting in a learning environment.

What to do next?

If you...

Want to reach out and share the gospel with a small group of others– but are feeling a bit stuck.

OR are starting an outreach initiative and need to build in prayer and sustainability from the start.

OR love being on a mission with Jesus in a small group and want to connect with a wider movement.

Becoming a Lightwave Group Leader may be for you!


Growing in God

For more information

Please visit our website pages for exploring your Christian calling available [here](#). We also have a list of [key dates](#). Resources specific to this role are also available on the diocesan website or visit www.lightwave.community.

Please contact:

Archdeacon Sally Gaze, Archdeacon for Rural Mission
archdeacon.sally@cofesuffolk.org | 07446 933129



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

**Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich**

4 Cutler Street, Ipswich IP1 1UQ
Charity number 248919