



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
SUFFOLK



BENEFACT TRUST

JOB PACK

DIRECTOR OF PERFECT PEACE

DEADLINE DATE

FEBRUARY 29 2024

INTERVIEW DATE

MARCH 19 2024

**WORKING FROM HOME &
OCCASIONALLY
IN IPSWICH**



**Inspiring
Ipswich**

ABOUT THE PROJECT



“ **This role is a key one in the life of the Ipswich deanery, the diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich and ultimately in the life of wider Church, offering the opportunity to make a difference to hundreds, possibly thousands of under 5s and their parents and carers.**

Dr. Nicole LePera has recently stated that 'The trauma of growing up in poverty or just barely having enough to get by is something we really need to start talking more about. The chronic stress of those childhood experiences lives in the body'. (@Theholisticpsyc Twitter 31.03.23).

Isaiah 26.3 says, 'You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you'.

The vision of Isaiah is the hope we have for all, and particularly for those who live with the burden of poverty.

Perfect Peace is a project which will create a resource that will help to deliver God's Perfect Peace into the lives of 0-5's living in areas where there is financial deprivation, and for their families / carers. To do this we will take some of the tools used in relaxation (a key tool in dealing with trauma) and meditation and utilise them alongside Scripture and prayer to offer a time of deep peace, as a way of (re)connecting with/(re)discovering God's presence.

Perfect Peace sessions have three aims: Relaxation – Reflection – Reconnection. As Director of Perfect Peace, you would have a key role in shaping this project and helping to promote it across Ipswich, Suffolk and the UK, especially in estate churches.



ABOUT US

The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich covers the county of Suffolk, excluding the area around Lowestoft in the north-east, and one parish in Essex. It is a mainly rural Diocese (with 443 churches) with a large number of small villages, plus market towns and our larger towns like Ipswich but we also have 27 estate churches in our midst.

We have two innovative projects, 'Growing in God in the Countryside' which is working to set up Lightwave groups (fresh expressions of Church) throughout the rural areas of the diocese and 'Inspiring Ipswich', seeking to help 7500 to explore faith and to start over 25 new worshipping communities in the County town; both praying for 1500 new disciples.

Perfect Peace sits within Inspiring Ipswich as it has emerged out of one of our estate churches, St Mary Stoke, in South West Ipswich, the brainchild of its Vicar, the Revd Sophie Cowan.

We love God and are passionate about Growing Younger as a diocese and excited to see Perfect Peace impact many of our church-run toddler groups throughout Suffolk, bringing the love of Christ to many who might not know it.

The goal is to trial Perfect Peace in up to eight estate parishes in Ipswich first, then across ten other toddler groups in the diocese and then to open it up to the wider Church of England and ultimately beyond.

We are hugely grateful to the national Church of England Estates eEangelism Task Force (funded through the Church Commissioners) and to the Benefact Trust for their support and trust.



SOME WORDS FROM SOPHIE



“

Working with people on estates is my heart's passion. It's where I'm from, it's what I'm about and it's where God has called me. This project provides the opportunity to help under 5s and their parents and care-givers and to give them the very best start in life, knowing they are loved by God and that their body, mind and soul all matter to him.”



ABOUT IPSWICH'S ESTATES

The County Town of Suffolk, Ipswich, is where the Bishop lives, Inspiring Ipswich is based and where Perfect Peace will start its life. It is home to almost a quarter of Suffolk's inhabitants and with its beautiful Waterfront area and Christ Church Park in the middle it is a great place to be. It is also circled by twelve estate areas where life is more challenging: Maidenhall, Stoke Park, Chantry, Pinewood, Whitton, Castle Hill, Westbourne, Priory Heath, Whitehall, Rushmere, Gainsborough, Greenwich. We have eight churches amongst these twelve areas

There are mainline train and coach services that run regularly from most places across the region connecting with London and the rest of the country.

The plan is to trial Perfect Peace in at least five of these estate parishes, more if there is interest and then to take the learning county-wide.



Rev Sophie Cowan
St Mary Stoke



Rev Heather Livingstone
Livingstone
St Francis, Chantry



Rev Rachel Revely
St Thomas



Rev Emily Swinerd
St Peter Stoke Park



Rev Emma Haggart
All Hallows



ABOUT THE PEOPLE

There is rarely a dull day working with Inspiring Ipswich and you will almost certainly get to work with inspiring people and in turn be an inspiring presence for others.

This role:

REPORTS TO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR KEY CONNECTIONS

The Archdeacon of Ipswich

Project Manager
Project Administrator (2 days a week)

- The Vicar of St Mary Stoke • Local parish clergy • The Bishop of Dunwich . The Diocesan Adviser for Children and Families • The Ipswich Deanery Leadership Team • The national Growing Faith team • The Early Years Advisor • Diocesan Safeguarding Officer • The National Estates Team The Inspiring Ipswich team and project board



FROM THE BISHOP

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We are known as 'the Church of England in Suffolk' and I, along with the Suffragan Bishop, the Rt Revd Dr Mike Harrison, work to help shape our vision and strategy, and amongst a plethora of other tasks, nurture the faith of people in our congregations including offering Bishops' Teaching mornings, morning prayers and hosting regular Vlogs on Facebook. There are three archdeaconries and 443 churches where visitors will find a wide range of worshipping styles, from the traditional to contemporary, as well as growing numbers of 'Lightwave' fresh expressions of church for those who haven't connected with traditional church previously.

St Edmundsbury Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds is the mother church of the diocese and is proactive in offering support to clergy and parishes including welcoming parishes on pilgrimage.

Our vision is to be 'Growing in God', aiming to grow 'flourishing congregations making a difference'. We have been focussing on four key priorities:

- Growing in Depth: responding to the call of Christ in every part of our lives.
- Growing in Number: drawing the contacts we have into the life of God's kingdom.
- Growing in Influence: reaching beyond ourselves in our impact on the wider world.
- Growing Younger; building churches whose age-range reflects our communities.

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The Rt Revd Martin Seeley
Bishop of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich

FROM THE ARCHDEACON

“

We are enormously grateful to the CofE's National Estates Church Network and the Strategic Mission and Ministry Board (SMMIB) for their generous grant that enables us to get Perfect Peace off the ground.

This post will initially come under the auspices of Inspiring Ipswich. We are delighted about this as our passion is to grow younger as a Church and to help as many children and families as possible to know God's transforming love in their lives.

We believe that Perfect Peace and the spin offs from it will raise our game here in Ipswich and further afield and open our eyes to what God wants to do with this important age group.

In turn we hope to provide a context where you will be loved and supported, as well as challenged and inspired to do the very best job you can. We promise to pray for you and your work regularly.

You will get the chance to work alongside our fantastic clergy who have been chosen for their can-do attitudes, their passion for mission and their love for God's Church.

We are so glad you are reading this now and we pray that if God is nudging you to apply you will do just that!

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The Ven Rhiannon King
Archdeacon of Ipswich and
Director of Inspiring Ipswich



JOB DESCRIPTION

The overarching purpose of this role is to ensure that Perfect Peace has a transformative impact on the life of all the children and parents/carers it comes into contact with, helping them to know God's love and peace for them in ways which support their mental and spiritual health. Your job is to give strategic direction, ensure the project works and runs smoothly, to champion it nationally and in due time to take it to the next level!

KEY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- To provide strategic direction to the whole project, working closely with the Steering Group.
- To take full part in the governance of the project, ensuring the project is delivered fully to time and to budget and keeping the Steering Group apprised of progress through written and verbal reports.
- To champion the project with all stakeholders, communicating clearly progress, needs and learning.
- To access grants with an eye to the long term sustainability of the initiative.
- To network with national church leaders with an interest in early years mental health and evangelism.
- To work with Steering Group to design a Research Project to discern the best tools to use to help under 5s and their parents/carers with their mental health and discipleship needs,
- To work with the Steering Group and a designer to put together materials for use with toddler groups and parents & carers at home and an attractive website
- To observe how the materials are being used and how they can be revised and improved.
- To devise and implement good habits of monitoring and evaluation
- To train up toddler group leaders to run Perfect Peace and to provide video tutorials.
- To inspire clergy and others to use the materials and to start up new toddler groups.
- To find and work with Churches to run the Diocese of St Eds and Its pilot and subsequently to find 30 Churches nationally to pilot Perfect Peace.
- To learn and promote good ways of sharing faith with under 5's and their parents/carers.
- To build a web and social media presence for the project.
- To grow a network of practitioners.
- To manage a part-time Project Manager.
- To ensure Perfect Peace is grounded in prayer.
- To work closely with the national estates team.



PERSON SPECIFICATION

Qualifications/Knowledge and Experience

Essential knowledge of:

- Early years mental health issues
- Discipleship pathways for children and parents

Essential experience of:

- Operating in a professional environment
- Degree or equivalent level of education

Desirable:

- Higher degree or equivalent level of education
- Good understanding of the theology pertaining to childhood years and hands on experience of running a toddler group .
- Experience of applying for grants
- Good working knowledge of the Church of England, its organisation and governance structures.

Skills and Abilities/Aptitudes

- Strong organisational and planning skills to anticipate and plan for work in advance.
- Pragmatic approach to resolving priorities and workload challenges.
- Delivery-focused, understands what is important to key stakeholders, committed to achieving goals.
- Strong analytical skills, with the ability to discern trends, document and present facts and figures in a clear and concise way.
- Pays good attention to detail.
- Effective communicator, with excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- IT skills: good knowledge MS office (all packages) and an ease with using technology such as smart phones, tablets, laptops, data projectors
- Demonstrable maturity and professionalism.
- Able to work on own initiative
- Can quickly establish credibility and respect and build strong working relationships with wide range of colleagues - clergy (at all levels), toddler group leaders and under 5s
- A capacity and willingness to be flexible and adapt to changing work priorities.
- Comfortable working mostly from home (though office space in Ipswich could be provided)
- Responsive, proactive, positive and reliable.

Work-Related Personal Qualities

- We are looking for an enthusiastic, warm and friendly person who will draw others to want to work with them
- We are looking for an inspiring and dynamic individual with an infectious faith who children, families and church leaders will gravitate towards.
- Someone who will understand the missional importance of the project and will feel comfortable heading up the prayer side of the post
- Able to travel widely around the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich and nationwide when required, with a full, clean driving licence
- Comfortable and confident in communicating and working with people of all ages and backgrounds.
- An Enhanced DBS check will be required.

DETAILS

Fixed Term Contract for 2 years

With the intention to extend to at least three years, subject to funding.

GOR

There is a genuine occupational requirement for this post to be held by a practicing Christian

Salary

£40,100pa

NB We are open to the idea of a job share if suitable

Pension

Membership of the Church of England Pensions Board Pension Builder 2014 Scheme. Further information is available on the Church of England Website

Hours of work

Full time post, 35 hours per week Monday to Friday to be worked flexibly. TOIL (time off in lieu) is applicable for evening and weekend working to be agreed with line manager.

Holidays

25 days paid leave in addition to the usual public holidays, plus four discretionary days at Easter and Christmas, although these are subject to review.

Probation period

Six months during which time progress is regularly reviewed and the period may be extended.

Notice

During probation 1 week and thereafter 1 month on either side rising to 3 months after 3 years' service.

Place of work

Working from home and when in Ipswich, office space will be provided.

Other

Use of own personal transport and insurance for business use may be helpful but not essential Expenses for mileage will be met by the diocese.



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HOW TO APPLY

Please use the tailor-made application form on our diocesan website vacancies page.

www.cofesuffolk.org/vacancies

If you would like a conversation about the project please contact either Archdeacon Rhiannon (archdeacon.rhiannon@cofesuffolk.org) or the Revd Sophie Cowan (rev.sophiecowan@gmail.com)

We aim to acknowledge receipt of all applications as they come in and let candidates know whether or not they have been shortlisted as soon after the deadline date as possible.

We very much look forward to hearing from you!

OUR PRAYER

**God of Mission,
Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions
Joy to our worship
And power to our witness.
Help your Church here in Ipswich
To grow leaders, to grow younger,
To grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you
And in service to our local community.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen**



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OF ENGLAND

**Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich**

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Charity number 248919