***A Light on the Hill***

**Community Church Pastor**

We are looking for someone to lead the work of establishing and pastoring a sustainable, vibrant, community church that will make Jesus known by word and deed to the residents of the Pond Park and Hivings area of Chesham.

This distinctive part of the town at the top of a hill is one of mixed social and private housing, highlighted by the local authority as facing the challenges of social and economic deprivation.

This is an exciting new post, leading the revitalization of a local Church, under the oversight of Emmanuel Church (an evangelical Anglican church in the Parish of Great Chesham). A new church will be formed as members of Emmanuel join together with members of the local Baptist Church (which currently meets on the site), for the sake of the community and the glory of God.

We are looking for someone who has a passion for the gospel and for the local church, who is a wise and energetic leader, a committed Bible teacher and who relates well to people of all backgrounds. Could this be you?

Details, including job description and application form are on the website [www.emmanuelchesham.org](http://www.emmanuelchesham.org) or if you would like to talk about it, do contact John Shepherd on 01494 784372 / 07969 981908 or at [john@theshepherds.org.uk](mailto:john@theshepherds.org.uk)

Closing date for applications: June 30th, 2018 (interview on July 10th)

***Light on the Hill***

**Community Church Pastor - Job Description**

**Summary:**

The Pastor will lead the work of gospel outreach in a distinctive part of Chesham; with the aim of establishing and pastoring a sustainable, vibrant, community church that will make Jesus known by word and deed to the residents of Pond Park and the Hivings area. The Pastor will be supervised and supported by the team vicar of Emmanuel, under the oversight of the Team Rector in the Parish of Great Chesham.

**Context & history:**

Hivings Free Church has been on the current site for 56 years, in an area of relative social and economic deprivation, and has sought to have a faithful gospel witness over those decades. For various reasons by 2017 the church was facing a bleak future, and a gospel partnership was formed with Emmanuel Church, a thriving conservative Anglican evangelical church. Over the last 18 months this partnership has been fruitful. We have seen clear signs of God at work and we believe that it is our calling to strengthen and develop a healthy, evangelical church in the community, to make Christ known for decades to come.

Emmanuel Church (Parish of Great Chesham) have an agreement to lease the buildings for 5 years with an option to buy, and so the current Hivings Free Church will close, and a new community church will be launched, made up of members from Emmanuel and Hivings (& potentially members of other churches who live in the area).

This is an exciting leadership role as something new begins. The pastor will require energy, grace, wisdom, and above all a love for Christ and for people. He won’t be doing it alone, but will be working alongside and be supported by godly and gifted men and women.

**The job will include:**

a) Gathering and envisioning a group from Emmanuel to establish a new community church in Pond Park/Hivings (which will include occasional preaching at Emmanuel)

b) Leading services and preaching at Hivings Free Church, and working with current leaders (until the new church is launched)

c) Building relationships with people outside the church, in the local community especially at Ivingswood Academy (leading assemblies), the Pond Park Community Association, etc

d) Working with the Emmanuel DCC & Hivings leaders to establish a new leadership structure for the church, and a timetable for launching the new community church

e) Taking responsibility, alongside new church leadership, to:

* establish and maintain a Biblical vision for the community church;
* equip the congregation to develop and take opportunities to serve;
* lead and model evangelism in the community;
* Give pastoral care and support to church members.

**Person Profile:**

We are looking for someone who…

… loves God and loves the lost, and believes that the gospel is the power of God for salvation

… is able to offer clear but sensitive leadership and vision, bringing people from different backgrounds with them into something new

… recognises their dependence on the grace and power of God in all things, and is consequently a person of prayer and humility

… believes that the Spirit inspired teaching of the Bible is God’s means for saving and maturing people, and so seeks to teach God’s Word faithfully and creatively

…ideally, has some experience of living and/or working in a more disadvantaged and marginalised community

…is an effective communicator, able to relate well with people of different backgrounds

…is passionate about evangelism and reaching out to those in the community who don’t know Christ

…ideally has some formal theological training, or evidence of a deep knowledge of the Scriptures and experience of ministry

… is able and keen to work as a member of the Emmanuel and Parish team

**Terms and Conditions:**

* Salary: depends on experience / training (plus pension contribution)
* Accommodation: Appropriate housing provided / Housing allowance if in own home
* All expenses (inc. book & conference allowance) are covered
* Holiday allowance: 6 weeks
* Work expectation: The norm in the ministry team is to work 6 days, with a continuous period of 24 hours rest taken
* There will be a six month probationary period, and annual ministry reviews.

**A brief summary of the churches and their context…**

**EMMANUEL CHURCH, CHESHAM**

Emmanuel was a mission church, planted from St Mary’s in 1887, and had its first vicar in the 1980s. It is a vibrant, friendly, socially mixed conservative Anglican evangelical church that is one of a group of churches in the Parish of Great Chesham. We have three Sunday gatherings at 9am, 11am and 7pm. Across the three services on a Sunday, we usually see around 180 adults and 60 children. We seek to be a warm, loving community where we serve one another, and in which people are well supported and cared for.

We have a current staff team at Emmanuel of a Vicar, a minister for evangelism, a part time administrator, a ministry trainee, and are seeking to replace our families and women’s worker. We work as part of a wider Parish Team under the oversight of the Team Rector, Simon Cansdale, along with vicars of the other churches, a Parish administrator, and Youth and Children’s Workers (based at St Mary’s).

We are committed to every member ministry, and are dependent on a large number of mature, gifted men and women who lead and serve in many different capacities at Emmanuel, with mid-week ministries to Babies & Toddlers, youth, adults with learning disabilities and Seniors; outreach into the community through the ministry of Christians Against Poverty, schools work, Messy Church; and then Sundays with a lively children’s work with crèche and Flyers groups, and a Pathfinders group for years 7-9.

We have a vision for the town and the whole world through various mission partners, but our geographical District within the Parish includes the Pond Park area of Chesham, for which we have felt a special responsibility over the years, and we have prayed about how we might reach the residents more effectively. We have tried various different ministries, but we believe that our partnership with Hivings Free Church and the vision for a revitalized, local church in the area is God’s answer to our prayers.

For more information about Emmanuel and our vision and values, go to [www.emmanuelchesham.org](http://www.emmanuelchesham.org)

**HIVINGS FREE CHURCH**

Hivings Free Church was founded in 1962 under a Baptist trust by a group of free churches in Chesham, with a desire to be a beacon on the hill for the local community. Over the years it has reached out into the local community, especially to the young with uniformed organisations, holiday clubs and other activities; and more recently has been a major founder of At the Edge, supporting teenagers in the area. There is a weekly toddlers group, a weekly seniors group, a monthly ‘Knit & Natter’ group and a monthly tea for those who live alone. It has never been a large church, or one to which many people have driven, as it has served the local community, led by elected deacons, and by a pastor (usually part time). The church went through a tough period with some bereavements and key members moving away, but it has enjoyed some renewed encouragement through the gospel partnership with Emmanuel. The current membership is 21, with an average Sunday attendance of 25-35. The connections with families in the community have been re-growing, with a successful summer holiday club, and monthly Messy Church that sees 70-80 local people attending.

The building is a strategic hub in the community, and is used well by community groups - police & councillors’ surgeries, a pop-in club for over 30’s, the Pond Park Community Association, Guides and Brownies, an IT education venue for those with learning needs and a ukulele group. All these provide opportunities to engage with those outside the church community, and to communicate the good news of Jesus in word and deed. The vision of the church back in 2009, was to be a welcoming and supportive fellowship; to lead individuals to faith and discipleship and to recognize and use people’s gifts in the church and the community.

The current deacons and membership have agreed to move towards the formal closure of Hivings Free Church and join with members and leaders from Emmanuel church, to preserve and develop the ongoing work of gospel in the area, through the establishing of a new, revitalised community church.



*“Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain”- Psalm 127:1*

**OUR CONTEXT**

**Chesham**

Chesham is a market town in the beautiful Chiltern Hills, at the very end of the Metropolitan Line, with a population of about 30,000. Chesham is hard to categorise. It is not wealthy south Bucks, though there are some big houses. There are considerable pockets of poverty and social deprivation, and the High Street has struggled, along with many others, in recent years, but is now turning around. As we are at the end of the tube line, many people move here either because it’s cheaper than being closer into London, and/or because we are a town surrounded by open space and there are some excellent schools.

Chesham has a Mosque and a significant Muslim community, many of whom originally came from Pakistan. Chesham is a little quirky, truth-be-told. It’s not picture postcard pretty, though you are out in the beautiful Chilterns very quickly, and it is a town that offers a sense of community and is a wonderful place to live. Access to London via the Metropolitan Line is good; larger shopping centres of Watford and High Wycombe are not far away, and we are close to the M25, M1 & M40 motorways.

**Pond Park / Hivings**

The local community is almost wholly residential, containing approaching 2000 homes. There has been considerable building in the area over recent years, including homes for key workers. A major part of the community is recognised as disadvantaged, for example having had a very high infant death rate. As a result, the community has been targeted in recent years by the local authority under a public services agreement intended to improve participation in voluntary & community groups. The Thames Valley Police have recently identified the community as one of the areas requiring additional support, and have entered into partnership with the Cinnamon Network, financially supporting local projects.

Apart from the church, there is a small parade of shops up on the hill, a local primary school - Ivingswood Academy, with about 180 children attending, and a small private members club.