



General information and how to apply

Thank you for your interest in the post of Church & Community Support Officer.

In this document you will find some general information about the role and the Church Buildings Team along with information about how to apply. The job description and person specification are contained in a separate document.

The Diocese of Leicester was founded in 1926. It covers an area of nearly 835 square miles in the East Midlands and includes, the city of Leicester, Ashby de la Zouch, Hinckley Loughborough, Lutterworth, Market Harborough and Melton Mowbray. The Diocese serves a wide range of different communities. Leicester is a very diverse city and is now the UK's first 'super-diverse' city; a city which has no single ethnic group in a majority. The county of Leicestershire includes both very rural areas with an agricultural heritage, and areas with an industrial heritage. Churches are at the heart of these communities, with congregations representing a broad range of cultures and Christian traditions.

We have a significant built heritage, of our 301 church buildings open for public worship. 91% are listed, 73% are listed Grade I or II*.

The Diocese is currently in the process of undergoing a major programme of change to form Minster Communities. These are groups of parishes who work together (without losing their individual identity) to strengthen local churches so that they can better serve their own communities. We are currently still forming Minster Communities and expect to continue to do so into 2027.

Church buildings have been a common theme during this process. Whilst many churches have members who are deeply committed to their local church, the sustainability and care of their building is one of the most challenging issues that Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) are facing and decreasing number of volunteers is causing major concern.

Church buildings are one of six foundations underpinning our Diocesan Strategy (2024-2034) and providing additional capacity to support parishes has been identified as a priority.

The Church & Community Support Officer will support parishes to engage effectively with their communities, develop volunteering opportunities and support the creation of Friends Groups and other local initiatives and encourage partnerships and wider use of historic church buildings.

Many of our rural churches have less than one regular service a week. We receive a steady flow of enquires about Festival Churches and governance models. Since 2020, we have been developing our 'Pathway to Festival Churches'. The Church & Community Support Officer will also support PCCs in exploring new models such as Festival Churches.

We are looking for somebody who is not only suitably qualified and experienced but is excited by the opportunity to make a significant contribution to supporting the long-term sustainability of our historic church buildings by enthusing and enabling PCCs and local communities to work together to enable their place of worship to be a valued and sustainable local asset.

The Church & Community Support Officer will be part of the Church Buildings Team, working under the line management of the Buildings Development Enabler and alongside the Historic Churches Support Officer and DAC Secretary & Database manager.

This is a new fixed-term post made possible by a grant from the Church Commissioners of the Church of England through their Buildings for Mission funding. The funding is for an initial period of up to three years, ending during 2028. There may be a possibility for a further grant but this is not known at this stage.

More information about the Diocese of Leicester can be found on our website:

<http://www.leicester.anglican.org/>

More information about Festival Churches can be found at:

[Festival Churches - Diocese of Leicester](#)

How to apply

Apply via the Pathways recruitment website.

For an informal conversation about the role, contact Gill Elliott, Church Buildings Enabler (up to 1 July or 13-17th July)

Tel: 07947 353129

Email: Gill.Elliott@Leicestercofe.org

Closing Date: Sunday 19th July

Shortlisting date: Wednesday 22nd July

Interview Date: Friday 31st July

Anticipated Start Date: Autumn 2026