



TWO EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES IN EAST LEAKE

We are passionate about following Jesus and sharing the Gospel, but our vision for St Mary's goes beyond this. We don't just want to see people come to faith and grow through the prayerful teaching of God's word - we want every member of our congregations to discover their vocation and be supported in developing their own calling to ministry in the Kingdom of God.

Our rationale for this begins with scripture, and the belief that Christ gave leaders and teachers of the Word 'to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ' (Ephesians 4:12).

But our reasoning is also very contextual. East Leake is becoming a town; home to thousands of people who need to hear and respond to the Gospel. Yet our church building is comparatively small. Inevitably, we will need even more congregations in multiple locations - each equipped and supported for the task ahead. We are also surrounded by smaller village communities - each one with its own church and calling to be church in that place.

We do not believe the answer to this lies in spreading out clerical ministry as thinly as it will go. Clergy aren't given to replace the people of God, but to enable them in the work of the Kingdom. Furthermore, it is through that discipleship that we discover our identity in Christ, as people who are redeemed, called and gifted by God to delight in his kingdom both now and in eternity.

That's why our vision is for St Mary's, filled with the spirit and equipped through God's word, to be a church in which people both come to faith and are identified, trained and supported to become well disciplined lay leaders, capable of releasing gospel growth in East Leake, and the surrounding community.

We want a confident pastor/teacher who can join us and in developing this exciting model of Church, and who can use the learning from our experiences to help others across the Diocese in their own discipling and journey of growth.

If you think God might be calling you to go on this journey with us, or just want to find out more, please get in touch. Together, we can pray and talk through the opportunities that St Mary's and the East Leake benefice have to offer.

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ABOUT US

We are pioneering an exciting model of gospel ministry in south Nottinghamshire. It aims to make and grow disciples of Jesus who are equipped, through God's word, to live and share the salvation found in Christ, in a way that is meaningful.

Could you be part of this vision?

Over the next four years, we will invest in St Mary's to become a full resource church. Our vision is for every one of our congregations will become the main drivers of growth - equipped for fruitful witness to the gospel and serve in leadership roles. With this plan, the flourishing congregation will seek to be a source of genuine blessing to local communities and churches in the south Nottinghamshire area.

With investment in leadership, St Mary's will have the capacity sustainably to plant or graft new worshipping communities, therefore allowing us to directly empower new and existing local missional leaders in other benefice churches. In order to enable this move away from a traditional village benefice structure and towards resource church model, two new ordained roles have been created.

TWO EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES

The first is a 'Transformational Change' Associate Minister. Your role will focus particularly on developing the discipleship stream within St Mary's. Through it, you will identify, train and offer ongoing support to lay leaders as they start new congregations in East Leake. We anticipate the first of these to be a new congregation at St Mary's for children and young families who are new to church. This would be led alongside a part-time Children and Families Minister.

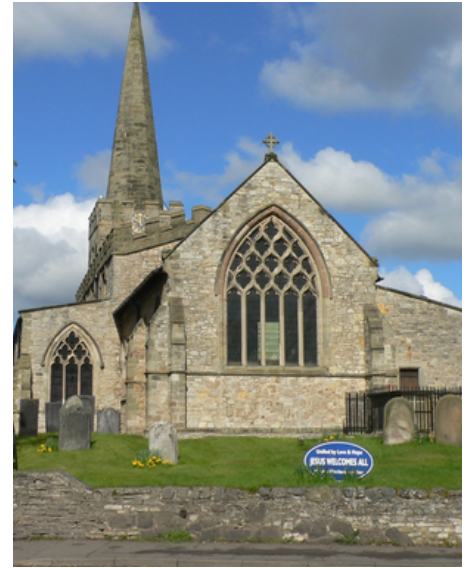
With the vibrant and innovative church of St Mary's situated in the more densely populated and expanding East Leake at the heart of this area, the second post is a permanent position of House for Duty Associate minister, which benefits from being part of the St Mary's team but also from the diversity and richness afforded by the rural and semi-rural surrounding villages, each with their unique challenges and opportunities for growth. There are few blueprints for developing truly thriving churches in our semi-rural context. So if creatively initiating new things, building on recent fruitfulness, and faithfully discipling God's people with his word to prayerfully discover effective paths for mission today, join us as we seek to take the gospel to south Nottinghamshire.



OUR CHURCHES

ST MARY'S, EAST LEAKE

St Mary's in East Leake is the largest church with a weekly attendance. On Sundays, there is a 9:15am Holy Communion, which is a more traditional service, with engaging sermons and hymns to inspire, led by the organ & choir. Refreshments are served after the service. The service is recorded and re-broadcast as our 6pm evening digital service. At 11am Morning worship, there is a relaxed and contemporary service with music group and ministry for children during every service. The bible teaching is vibrant and relevant to life today. The second Sunday of the month is 'All Age' and Communion is celebrated on the fourth Sunday. There is a communion midweek.



We have a partnership with Nottingham Youth for Christ to school's work in the East Leake Academy and some more church based youth work in East Leake. There are various auxiliary church groups such as uniformed organisations, Mothers' Union, Men's group, Women's Group, parents and toddler group, as well as Prayer and Fellowship Groups which are becoming an increasingly important part of church life.

ST GILES', COSTOCK

For nearly 1000 years, the people of Costock have gathered in their parish church to praise God and share community and fellowship together. The pattern of services is 11am Holy Communion twice a month with contemporary language, hymns, prayers and Bible readings. All denominations are welcome, and there is no need to be confirmed to take part. On second Sundays, we have a traditional service scripture is read and explained, hymns are sung and prayers offered for the community, our nation and the world. On 4th Sunday, we have Community worship which is an informal service, with a special theme each month, often celebrating a different aspect of village or local life.



ALL SAINTS', REMPSTONE



Dating back to the 1770s, All Saints' present church was built mainly from the materials of the old church. There is no service on the first Sunday of each month. Communion services are held on the second and third Sundays and a Village Worship service on the fourth Sunday, all commencing at 11.00 a.m. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided after each service over an informal chat.

ST HELENA'S, WEST LEAKE

The church was medieval, parts of the north wall dating from the 12th century but restored in 1878. St Helena's has three services a month including at least one communion. There is an emerging faith in West Leake and we continue to develop a worshipping community here, with numbers steadily increasing post-pandemic.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST'S, STANFORD ON SOAR



The Church of St. John the Baptist, Stanford on Soar is Grade I listed as a building of outstanding architectural and historic interest. It is a small Anglican church with traditional worship and a wide range of ages: young professionals to retired. They have several courses that run throughout the year and their vision is to grow their connection to Stanford and the local area. They use prayer book worship. There are a mixture of services such as Matins and Evensong each Sunday.

ST JAMES', NORMANTON ON SOAR



St James' Church stands on the River Soar, a Grade I listed building, and is known as the Boatmen's Church. The Church has a service every Sunday at 9.30, with Morning Prayer on the first Sunday of the month, Holy Communion on second, third and fourth Sundays, and "Simply Worship" where there is a fifth Sunday in the month, led by members of the congregation. Quiet Times are an important feature, with a regular Julian Group, Taize-style services, and short Evening services with poetry, prayer, meditation and music.

These attract people from neighbouring areas, and the meditations are shared more widely so that others can join from home. Music and contemplative prayer are very much part of St James' mission, with the church open every day for private contemplation, with quiet music, Julian resources, prayers, and candles available. Our support for the local Youth worker, and for the Carpenter's Arms in Loughborough, ensure that our church is very much part of the lively village and surrounding community.

ST MICHAEL'S & ST ANNE'S, SUTTON BONINGTON

Sutton Bonington is an unusual village in that it has two medieval churches, St Michael's and St Anne's, a legacy from the days when Sutton and Bonington were two separate villages. Today they are one parish with one congregation. St Anne's is used more in the winter and St Michael's is used more in the summer.



The services follow the pattern of Morning Prayer on the 1st Sunday and HC on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of each month. A further range of services is offered throughout the year including regular midweek BCP Communion in St Anne's, an annual Memorial service, and the more usual ones such as Christingle and Harvest. We enjoy good ecumenical relations with an active Methodist Church and a very vibrant Baptist Church.



These smaller village churches each have their own distinct ecclesiastical tradition, some using mainly the BCP and others with a variety of worship. Each of these churches is unique, and part of these job opportunities will be to support them to develop their Christian distinctiveness further.



THE COMMUNITY CONTEXT

EAST LEAKE

East Leake is currently a large village of around 10,000 residents. It is a commuter village, with many people having professional jobs in the neighbouring cities, Nottingham, Derby and Leicester, each of which are 10 to 15 miles away. East Midlands airport and the M1 are also close. The village has a range of small shops, cafes, post office, supermarket and a number of independent traders. Facilities include two primary schools, East Leake Academy, a Health Centre, Library, Leisure Centre and a variety of sports facilities. There is a Care Home and sheltered accommodation in the village. It has a regular bus service to Nottingham and Loughborough. Other denominations in East Leake include a Methodist church, a Baptist church and a Catholic church, which collaborate with St Mary's on shared events through Churches Together in East Leake.

COSTOCK

Costock is the next largest village, with a population of around 600. As well as the church there is a village hall, pub and a Church of England primary school. Growing relationships with the village community and school are a focus of the PCC.

REMPSTONE

Rempstone comprises around 400 residents served by the church, a new village hall and a pub. Mixed patterns of worship with a new all age service is about to be tried out in the village hall and a lively social calendar.

STANFORD-ON-SOAR

Stanford-on-Soar is a small scattered village of around 100 people who are both farmers and commuters. The church is the only public building and holds regular sung BCP worship and occasional community events. The PCC wish to encourage wider community use of the church as a meeting place.

WEST LEAKE

West Leake has the church, pub and a village hall as public buildings, serving around 150 residents. There is a small but active village community with events run throughout the year.

NORMATON-ON-SOAR

Normanton on Soar, dating from the 11th Century, is situated beside the river Soar at one of the most southerly points in the county of Nottinghamshire. The nearest town is Loughborough in Leicestershire, which is approximately four miles away by road to the south.

Normanton on Soar is a small village of about 500 residents, but very active, with a Primary School, Pub, Boat Club, the chain ferry by the church, and Village Hall hosting a Community Shop and coffee shop, a range of classes and various associations such as WI, and the Men's Association. The recently built Village Hall is opposite the church, providing a venue for wedding and funeral receptions, in collaboration with the church. The village playing field is well-used by all ages, and by visitors to the village who use the river for wild swimming and paddle boarding as well as boating. These visitors are encouraged to visit the 12th Century church.

SUTTON BONINGTON

The parish of Sutton Bonington is a rural community made up of around 2200 acres with a population of around 1800 residents. It includes the hamlet of Zouch, borders the river Soar and has many amenities including an excellent primary school, village hall with public library, 4 places of worship, a gallery/café, 3 pubs and a community run post office and gift shop as well as a general store.

It also includes the Sutton Bonington Campus of the University of Nottingham, the faculty of agriculture, food and veterinary sciences, thus doubling the village population for much of the year. There is currently a building development underway of 70 new homes at the south end of the village.

