

BESTWOOD PARK CHURCH

Welcome Home



**We are recruiting a Key Leader
for Bestwood Park and Top Valley Estates,
Nottingham to be appointed as Priest in Charge,
The Parish of Bestwood Park in the Diocese of
Southwell and Nottingham**

**Come to an exciting area of Nottingham
and lead a new chapter of growth and opportunity
in God's Kingdom**



THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWELL & NOTTINGHAM GROWING DISCIPLES WIDER, YOUNGER AND DEEPER

A statement from the Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham, the Rt Revd Paul Williams and Archdeacon of Nottingham, the Ven Phil Williams

The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham incorporates the City of Nottingham, the whole County of Nottinghamshire and five parishes in South Yorkshire. The population is 1.15 million – 51% live in the greater Nottingham conurbation, 31% in ex-mining areas and 18% in rural. There are 305 churches (252 parishes), served by 142 stipendiary clergy and licensed lay workers.

In 2016 a refreshed diocesan vision was embraced across the diocese, recognising the imperative for ‘Growing Disciples: wider, younger, deeper’.

- **Wider** in that we will seek to grow disciples in every part of the diocese, with no retreat from any community: urban centre; outer estates; rural villages; or market towns.
- **Younger** in that we will seek fresh ways to harness the boldness and creativity of children, students and young people across the diocese, not least in Nottingham which is the 4th youngest city outside London.
- **Deeper** as we grow in knowing Christ, so that as his disciples we can be an increasing blessing to the people among whom we live and serve in the workplace, family and community.

Compelled by the love of Christ, we are seeking to:

- Welcome 7000 new disciples into the fellowship of Christ and his church
- Commission 1000 younger leaders (especially 15-30 year olds) equipped and inspired to serve the purposes of God in the Church and society.
- Plant or graft 75 New Worshipping Communities (NWCs) across the diocese to increase our reach in telling the story of Jesus to all.
- Grow 25 larger Resource Churches with clear commitment to develop leaders, plant New Worshipping Communities, and disciple the young.
- Serve and pray together as 1 Church contending for the gospel in every community and sphere of public life in our city, county and region.

If you would like to understand our approach to new worshipping communities, please [click here](#) where we share some of our stories. It is possible to apply for a grant to assist the costs of setting up a new worshipping community.

Every parish is encouraged to create its own 'Growing Disciples Plan' so that it can play a significant part in the strategic commitment to 'Growing Disciples wider, younger and deeper.' This may include identifying the opportunities to reach new people within the parish through a new worshipping community. The diocese has a 'Growing Disciples Fund' so that each parish can apply for up to £2000 per year to support its Growing Disciples Plan.

As a diocese we are seeking to invest in the post at Top Valley and Bestwood with the expectation that the following three objectives set around three core values will be met.

Grace (local ministry team equipped and inspired, not dependent on stipendiary leadership)

Growth (clear numerical growth)

Generosity (financial sustainability, working towards meeting direct ministry costs*)

*Where a parish is in an area designated a 'lower income community' (subject to financial support from Church Commissioners funding) then an agreed level of contribution to local ministry costs will be identified.

Bishop Paul has said: "It is my hope that each worshipping community will develop a compelling picture of its own future in God's purposes with an expectation of growing numerically and in the scope of its mission. It is my prayer that the new priest-in-charge of Bestwood Park will have the creative leadership and imagination to develop discipleship, plan for growth and reach out to the unchurched of all ages in its locality."



The Archdeacon writes, "The benefice of Bestwood Park offers so many opportunities, where the new priest-in-charge can draw on the sustained and effective mission work already happening. The task will be oversee the next stage of growth for the church and the encouragement of God's people in this new season of growth."



NOTTINGHAM NORTH DEANERY



This is an exciting and challenging time to be joining in God's mission in Nottingham North Deanery. The Deanery, which has a population of some 180,000, includes parishes which are located in an area running from the south-west of the city centre, up the M1 corridor to Kimberley, and around the north of the city to Sherwood.

Around the Deanery a good range of initiatives have emerged in recent years and some exciting missional developments have been established, including the creation of a grouping of 8 churches in the heart of the Deanery, known as "Woven". A number of other initiatives are being progressed in other parts of Nottingham North and there is a genuine sense of hope and expectation shared across the Deanery.

As a Deanery we aim:

- to encourage larger churches to act as resource churches for others
- to see curates trained and released to plant or graft new worshipping communities
- to equip church members for a range of ministries to serve our wider communities
- to train younger leaders to contribute to enabling the church to grow younger

Despite the significant deprivation in many parts of the Deanery, there is a strong commitment to generous giving, and we have made good progress in contributing to mission and ministry through the deanery share. As a Deanery we are also committed to keeping prayer central and to seeking God's will as we move forward and play our part in realising the Diocesan vision, "Growing Disciples: Wider, Younger, Deeper".

The Area Dean and the Deanery Leadership Team will seek to offer support and encouragement to the new incumbent in fulfilling the objectives set out in the Parish Profile, and we hope the person appointed to this exciting post will be committed to the wider life of the Deanery, including attendance at the Deanery Synod, Chapter and monthly prayer meeting.

The parish of Bestwood Park has become an increasingly important part of the life of the Deanery over the years as it has grown in number and in innovating links with the community around and we are looking forward with hope and expectation to see what God will do under the prayerful leadership of the person appointed as incumbent.



BESTWOOD PARK

Bestwood Park Church is an Anglican and Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership based on a large outer estate in the north of Nottingham. The church was built in the 1960's, at the same time as the surrounding housing estate. The church is in a central location and is very much a 'hub' for the local community. Before Covid hit the church was growing in numbers (in all ages and diversities). We are starting to see people slowly return to the church as people feel more comfortable to meet again in person. The church has good relationships with the five local primary schools and local services for children. Many local community groups are based at the church and over the past five years the church has set up a number of projects which happen at the church.



In 2017 we started a weekly social eating event called Bestop Kitchen, linked in with FareShare, which was in response to the growing sense of isolation many people were feeling within our community. Each week around 50 - 60 people are coming along and eating with us. In January 2020 we started a Place of Welcome cafe on a Thursday afternoon. This was set up after conversations we had with many people in our community who were struggling with mental health issues. Through those conversations we discerned that people needed a safe space and place to go to that enabled them to "get out of their four walls".

In October of 2021 our Eden Team Leader and first Eden Team members moved into the community and became part of the church. A summary of their first year here is enclosed.

The Methodist church recently purchased the building next door which was the former housing office for the area, and the church has now moved into this building (Sep 2022) and it is becoming the new larger worship space for the church, community café which will be open five days a week, plus offices and rooms for meetings & conferences. The church's original building will be used for children's & family work, youth work and space for community groups to use. The church has also launched a community garden on its grounds.

Bestwood Park Church is centrally located and at the heart of the estates. We partner with Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire Police and local charities, schools, churches and organisations. The population of Bestwood Park is 7,040. The Index of Multiple Deprivation ranks the parish as 11,916 out of 12,660 parishes in England (where 1 is the least deprived parish). Over 45% of children live in poverty and we have issues of high unemployment, high levels of debt and increasing isolation amongst the elderly.

HEADLINES TO THIS APPOINTMENT

Key Leadership in the southern half of Bestwood/Top Valley:

- Start as Priest in Charge at Bestwood Park Church
- Help recruit an Associate Minister for St Philip's with St Matthews Top Valley
- Become, in addition, Priest in Charge of St Philip's with St Matthews Top Valley, once Associate is in post
- Build on the existing Anglican-Methodist partnership (see further below)

Emphasis on Oversight and Team building, following on from the growth achieved under the previous lay pioneer minister:

- Oversee and grow Bestwood Park Church in number, in deeper discipleship, in younger age profile, in generosity and social engagement
- Line Manage the Eden Team leader (established 2021)
- Oversee the development of mission opportunities and church re-vitalisation in Bestwood Park and in Top Valley and the old Bestwood Estate, teaming up with and overseeing the Associate Minister for St Philip's with St Matthews.
- Recruit a Children and Families Worker, with funding from the National Church, then line manage this post

The following things were established under the previous leader:

- Revitalisation of the church in number, in younger age-profile, in ethnicity, in style of worship.
- Very good relations made between several primary schools, with plenty of engagement within the schools for assemblies, community events and church visits
- Good links with a range of community groups
- Bestop Kitchen (Fareshare), popular weekday cooked meal
- Community Garden project
- Youth Discipleship group
- Procurement of the adjacent City Council property – now the new place of worship (as of Sep 2022), with the existing church building becoming the 'Community Hub'
- Establishment of the local Eden Team, securing funding for the first 3 years





STRUCTURE OF THE POSTS WHEN THEY ARE RECRUITED:

01.

Priest in Charge of Bestwood Park and St Philip's with St Matthew's Bestwood

- Oversight of the whole
- Responsible for Bestwood Park Church
- Releasing Associate Priest for responsibility at St Philip's
- Line manager for Eden Team and for potential Children & Families post holder

Key gift mix – teacher/discipler, strategic leader, evangelist, unity/inclusive style, good with children/youth

Associate Priest for St Philip's with St Matthew's Bestwood

- Reporting in to priest-in-charge
- Responsible for St Philip's and growth of new worshipping community
- Partner with Eden team, B&B foodbank, Children & Families postholder
- Pioneer something new in old Bestwood Estate (St Matthew's area)

02.

Key gift mix – evangelist, youth and children, worship/discipleship skills, innovator/creative, highly relational

BESTWOOD PARK CHURCH ANGLICAN/METHODIST LEP (LOCAL ECUMENICAL PROJECT)

Whilst some churches struggle for identity and clarity of leadership in an LEP, Bestwood Park Church has grown because of a very good missional partnership between the 2 denominations on the ground.

Bestwood Park Church has benefitted from the framework of the Anglican and Methodist forms of service, led in an informal manner, participative and contemporary in expression

The gospel imperative of welcome, inclusion, spiritual and physical transformation, and compassion for the poor is shared across the partnership



On a practical level, ministerially, this has worked out with the Anglican minister living in situ in the vicarage, and with them and ministry team on the ground taking the majority of the Sunday morning services, with a regular monthly service taken by the Circuit's Methodist minister, who lives out of parish. The previous 2 Anglican leaders have been lay pioneer incumbents, and so the communion service, twice-monthly, has been facilitated by a mix of the Methodist ministers and retired Anglican clergy.

The Anglican leader has been the chair of the wider leadership team (PCC), which includes the offices of both wardens and stewards. Share payments go jointly to the Diocese and the Methodist Church.

On the buildings front, the Methodist Church already owned the older building, and when the neighbouring building became redundant from the Council, they purchased this, enabling the church to make use of the new space and fulfil the vision to extend the church's ability to be a community hub, and to give space for a church congregation outgrowing the existing space. At the same time, the Methodist Circuit administration have moved into the new building and it is used regularly for circuit and district training and meetings.

Safeguarding procedures and safer recruitment are currently handled through the Methodist system.

CURRENT OFFICE HOLDERS



Rev. Yanyan Case
Methodist Minister

Yanyan shares her ministry between Bestwood Park and 2 other churches in the Methodist Circuit



Rev. Francis Wainaina
Retired Anglican Priest & Current
Chair of Church Council

Francis is a retired Anglican priest, helping lead the services at Bestwood Park and offering pastoral care



Regina Soyoo Nartey
Churchwarden



Celma Gasper
Secretary and Bookings Manager

BESTWOOD & TOP VALLEY

The Bestwood area has historically consisted of 6 parishes which over the years have been grouped together in different ways. Currently they operate in a '2-lots-of-3' structure. Nikki Bates is incumbent of the top half of Bestwood, consisting of Emmanuel, St Mark's Bestwood Village and the Church on Rise Park.

The bottom/southern half of Bestwood (informally referred to within the Deanery as 'Bestwood South') represent the 3 areas known as Bestwood Park Estate (where Bestwood Park Church is), Top Valley (St Philip's Church), and Bestwood Estate (St Matthew's Church). These estates were all built at slightly different times originally as part of re-locating people out of impoverished city centre areas. But construction has continued across the parishes for both privately owned homes and social housing. St Matthew's Church was demolished following a fire in 2004, and a new vicarage is now located near St Philip's Church. St Matthew's and St Philip's parishes amalgamated a few years ago. The Bestwood & Bulwell Foodbank, operating out of St Philip's is the busiest foodbank in Nottingham and is a separate trust led by Nigel Webster, with local trustees. Born out of a missional partnership project between the 6 Bestwood parishes, it has become the defining ministry out of St Philip's Church in recent years and is well supported by both the small congregation there and by a far wider set of volunteers from across the area. The work of the foodbank is widely regarded in the area, and Nigel has formed links into schools and other community groups over the past few years.

The parishes of Bestwood Park and St Philip's & St Matthew's cover the housing estates of Bestwood Park, Bestwood Estate and part of Top Valley estate. The total population of these two parishes is approximately 22,000 with plans for up to 600 new homes to be built in the next few years. The majority of these new homes will be built on the Bestwood Park estate/parish or on the edge of it.



All three of the estates are in the bottom 10% on the index of multiple deprivation with part of Top Valley estate being in the bottom 3%. As in other housing estates, there are high levels of unemployment, debt, addiction, anti-social behaviour and mental health issues, a high number of single parent families, and lack of aspiration/hope.



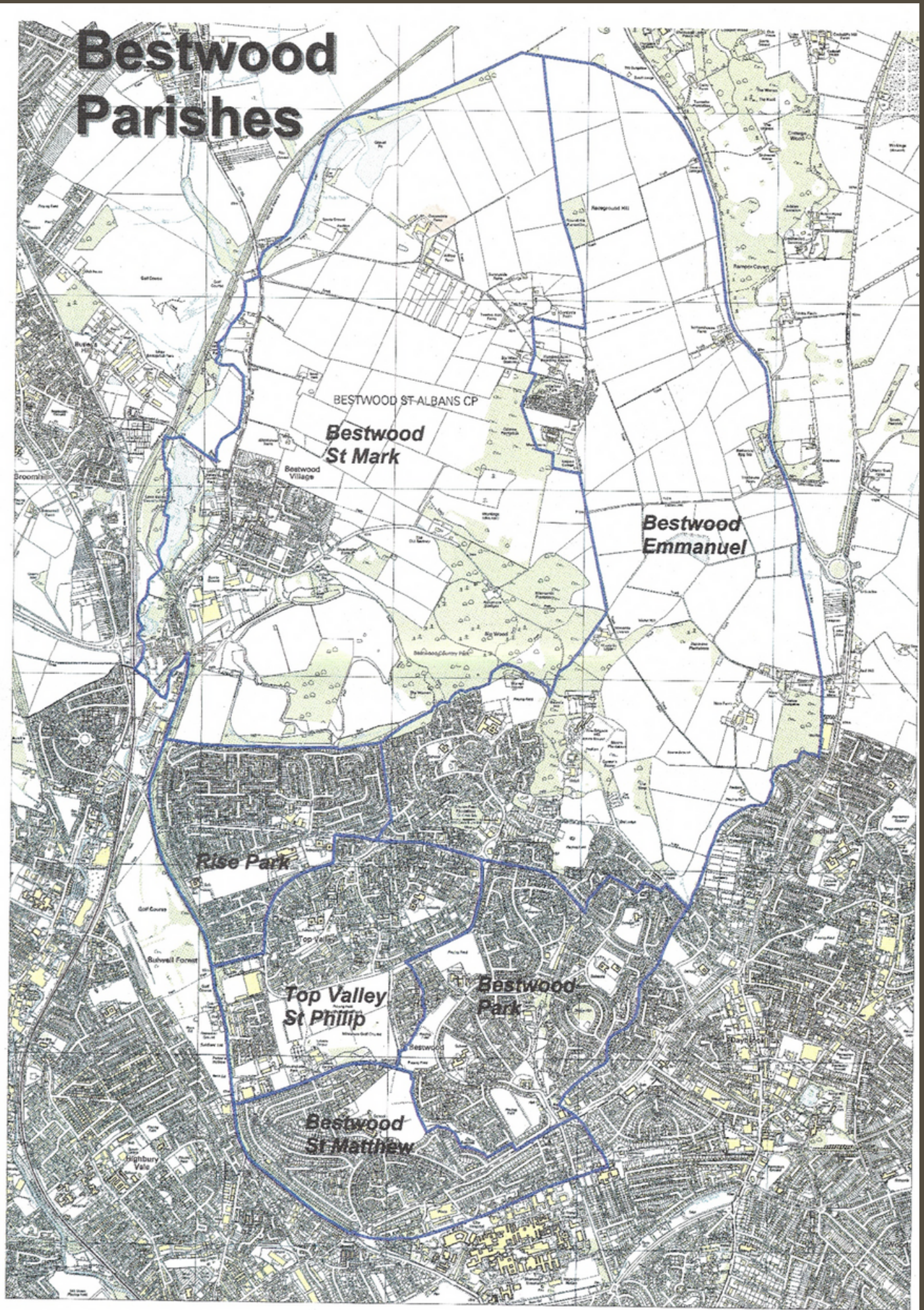
Bestwood Park Church building is in a central location. The distance between Bestwood Park Church and St Philip's Church is just over 1 mile. It takes 2 - 3 minutes to drive between the churches and 10 - 15 minutes to walk between them. As well as the other Anglican and Methodist churches, our neighbouring churches are the People's Church (Pentecostal), with whom we have had a good relationship over the years, and Arnold Road Evangelical Church on the edge of the estate.

Located on the older Bestwood Estate, there are also two community centres, Henry Whipple Primary School, Bestwood Advice Centre, and Bestwood Partnership. Bestwood Partnership are based at and run the Bestwood Estate Community Centre. We have had a strong relationship with the primary school and these organisations. Bestwood Advice and Bestwood Partnership were both set up by St Matthew's in the 1980s.

Bestwood Park Church is ideally positioned to be a hub for renewing the mission back into Top Valley and Bestwood estates, for overseeing the re-vitalisation needed at St Philip's church, along with supporting the missional focus for the Foodbank and the community it supports.



Showing the boundaries before the amalgamation of St Matthew's & St Philip's parishes





EDEN: ONE YEAR ON

by James Willis, Eden Team Leader

We have been here as an Eden team since October/November 2021. We currently have a team of 5 and 1 key volunteer who we work with on a regular basis. We have been able to set up and develop some exciting projects for young people and their families in this community.

After School Hot Chocolates

We have been amazed at how well our Hot Chocolate outreaches have gone. We currently run sessions on Friday at Bestwood Park Church and on Wednesday at Southglade Park, both from 3-4pm. We have seen over 150+ young people attend our sessions since the beginning. Our Wednesday sessions at Southglade Park see more secondary school young people attend. We see an average of 30 young people attend each week. A large group of our Year Elevens has moved on now and we are getting to know the new Year Sevens.

Our Fridays have developed into a place mainly for families from our local Primary Schools. We see an average of 30 people attend on a weekly basis. And we have journeyed with some of these families since it launched last year. These families have come to special events at the church, and we have had 3 families attend our Church services on a Sunday morning.

Beyond Youth Event

In April we ran a Live music event for young people at our church. We saw 50 young people come along from our hot chocolate sessions and youth club. At this event we also talked about mental health and had some great conversations with young people at the end. This led to three of them coming to our youth club because they wanted a place to get to know new people their age.

Social Action Week

In June we ran a week of social action, detached youth work and a community fun day. This was because we had a gap year team from London come to join us for a week. On this week we painted subways and had local young people come and help us. Nottingham City Council provided us with the paint and all the equipment we needed. We also had some of James and Beth's Neighbours come and help us. We also ran games and activities after school at the local park and saw up to 100 young people. We saw a lot of our regulars who come to Hot Chocolate.



Youth Club

We currently have 15 young people in our club. Our team has been able to build good relationships with the young people and build trust. As a new team, we are enjoying getting to know our young people better. We have seen a deepening in conversations about life and God. We have recently started a monthly initiative called Inspiration Sunday. On these Sundays, we look at fun and engaging ways to learn more life skills and find out more about Jesus. We do this with games, stories and getting people in who can share more about what they do/their faith in Jesus. We have seen some good engagement from our young people on these Sundays. We try to plan a special event/outing with our young people every month. and we always have more young people attend these ones. Recently, we did a Bake Off with our young people and we baked brownies together. For some of them this was the first time they had done this.

Community Events

In June we had a double decker bus come to the estate for 2 days. On this bus there is a slide, climbing wall and various gaming consoles. The young people and wider community loved hanging out on the bus. We saw around 150 people come to our Community Fun Day. There was the bus, craft, outdoor games, and face painting. It went down very well in our community. In Easter we also ran a Good Friday event which Beth headed up. We had just under 100 people attend the event. There was craft, refreshments, egg hunt and a Easter message from Michael Burt. He used his magic tricks and funny stories to engage well with the families present.

GROWTH AREAS FOR EDEN IN 2023



Youth community: The aim is to develop the existing youth club, named the Three20 Youth Community (Ephesians 3:20), and grow this in number and in opportunities for sharing Christian faith. We have identified a couple of young people who we would like to invest in more. We would like them to be able to learn what is to serve, love and grow in their gifts by joining in on what we are doing as a team.

Friday after-school: The after-school hot chocolates are popular with families and primary-age children. We will look to develop this further into bible-themed messy-church style occasions

Toddler Group: We have identified a big need for a community run toddler group in our area and we have already been sowing the seed with mothers in the area about helping us to set one up.

Foodbank at St Philip's: I have started to volunteer in the foodbank on a Tuesday afternoon. I am meeting new families from the estate, and we are hoping to support the foodbank by putting on events, clubs and more for the families and individuals who attend.

Secondary Schools: At the end of November me and Nigel from the Foodbank are about to go into Oakwood Academy to do an assembly. We are still trying with Park Vale Academy. These are our two main secondary schools on the estate. Our goal is to build better links with these schools and be able to do more assemblies and lessons.

Lunch Clubs and Community Events: In February we have gap year students coming from Trent Vineyard to help run a Holiday Lunch Club and some community events for people in Top Valley and Bestwood Park.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Pre-Covid we worked with a group of local residents from the Bestwood Ward and explored the idea of setting up a community garden for the area. The group decided to base the community garden on the grounds of Bestwood Park Church as this land was no longer needed for the church redevelopment project. In March 2020 the group planted 12 fruit trees on the site. In the October 2020 the group planted over 200 bulbs.

The vision for this garden is to bring people together to build a greater sense of community within the Bestwood ward and surrounding areas.

- To develop a community garden to include food growing, a wildlife area and communal spaces, creating a strong sense of community, responsibility and ownership.
- To support healthy living by creating a safe outdoor space for all ages and abilities to come along to, enjoy and be part of.
- To provide opportunities for local people and the wider community to learn about, and be involved with, the growing of food and to have greater access to fresh fruit and vegetables.



Funding was granted for us to employ a Lead Gardener, and his role includes:

- To plan, coordinate and supervise the systems and production of fruit and vegetables
- To maintain the grounds and facilities for the security and safety of the site and its users
- To promote and sustain the ethos of Bestop Community Garden
- To work with staff, volunteers and other agencies
- To work in partnership with the Development Worker and Trustees to plan and deliver a programme of activities and learning opportunities to encourage improved health and well-being
- To be available as required to work alongside other staff members and volunteers to enable the extension of the Gardens' opening hours in the evenings and at weekends.
- To supervise volunteers and support the Volunteer Coordinator
- To oversee the Health and Safety procedures on the Bestop Community Garden on a day to day basis.

The side part of the community garden is 1100 square foot on size and is being developed with a polytunnel, raised beds, seating area and new fencing. Work is also happening to refurbish the garage next to the side garden to create a secure store room and base for the community garden.

To help this project and Bestop Kitchen and other future social initiatives, the church has set up (August 2021) a separate charitable trust called Bestwood Park Church Community Projects with its own bank account and ability to fund raise.



QUALITIES WE ARE LOOKING FOR IN THIS ROLE



- A personal devotion to the Lord reflected and rooted in prayer
- A vision for, commitment to, and experience of, evangelism and church growth across all ages
- An aptitude, experience and gifts in exercising strategic leadership, especially towards vision and implementing plans for growth and discipleship pathways.
- Excellent relational gifts, emotional intelligence, tenacity and resilience, to be a uniting force bringing together people with strong passion for God's work.
- The ability to discern, develop and deploy the gifts of others in mission and ministry from a whole range of diverse backgrounds.
- A strong instinct to work in partnership with the capacity for working collaboratively to build and sustain life-giving teams
- A commitment to, and expertise for, engaging biblical teaching and whole-life discipleship
- The ability to relate to, and inspire, children, young people and young families
- The capacity to see new missional opportunities and implement them
- A good track record of line management and supervision

The post holder will be:

- A visionary leader able to motivate and foster a pattern of shared leadership
- Humble and hopeful, a person of peace.
- At home with a holistic view of mission, including evangelism with social justice
- Eager to learn and grow in faith and ministry, naturally welcome coaching and mentoring
- Friendly, approachable with a sense of humour and full of the love of God and enjoy being with people.
- Keen to welcoming all people on the journey of discipleship wherever they are in life, and whatever their needs and means.

PRAYERFUL OUTCOMES AFTER 5 YEARS

5 years into the post, our prayer is for the following outcomes:

1. Bestwood Park Church regular congregation, growing in number and in engagement with children and young people
2. Bestwood Park Church operationally working well across the 2 buildings
3. Bestwood Park Church community hub well used with plenty of cross-community engagement
4. Eden Team continuing and enlarging its scope, with on-going stream of funding
5. New worshipping community for young people established and growing under the Eden Team
6. Strong links established with the schools in Bestwood Park and Top Valley with a funded Children and Families Worker recruited and in post
7. Associate Priest for Bestwood St Matthew with St Philip recruited and in post, with BPC Priest-in-Charge becoming Priest-in-Charge for Bestwood St Matthew with St Philip.
8. St Philip's becoming re-vitalised, both as a building and centre, and as a worshipping community, with a growing congregation in number and in lowering age profile
9. Bestwood & Bulwell Foodbank missional opportunities grasped and an integral part of the growing disciples plan for the area
10. Free flowing partnering in mission between Bestwood Park Church, St Philip's Top Valley, The Eden Team, Bestwood & Bulwell Foodbank
11. Church Planting opportunities explored in old Bestwood Estate or at community hubs like Tesco or Southglade Leisure Centre.
12. Robust structure of line management in place for staff and volunteers
13. Giving increased to a significant level for sustainable ministry going forward.



ST PHILIP'S CHURCH TOP VALLEY AND SURROUNDING AREA



VICARAGE

The Vicarage is on Cherry Orchard Mount – a short walk from the church







CONTACT US



For an informal conversation, please contact:
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