

PLANTING

St Barnabas Grange Park

Since we were officially designated as a Resourcing Church in July 2018 our main focus has been preparing to plant out first worshipping congregation for over 80 years into the Grange Park Estate in September 2019. Ben and Helen Gardner are beginning to form the church planting team drawn from members of Emmanuel as well as the Good Shepherd. We think that there will be about 30 people who will form the first congregation. The congregation of St Barnabas will meet in the new community centre which is currently under construction. We are also looking at governance and other key questions. Your prayers would be really valued for the new Church Plant.

St Barnabas

There were several reasons why we recommend to the Bishop that St Barnabas would be a good name for the new church:

- Generous Discipleship

Barnabas was a disciple of Jesus Christ who knew the importance of discipleship, worship, Christian community and sacrificial giving (Acts 4:36-37).

- Church Planter

Barnabas was a pioneer and church planter. It is clear from Acts that he was passionate about reaching all people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

- Encourager & Enabler

Barnabas means 'Son of Encouragement'. He was someone who encouraged others and saw the opportunities ahead for the church to increase and spread the Gospel. Barnabas enabled others to take on roles of leadership and church planting.

We hope STB Grange Park will be able to reflect something of Barnabas' love for Jesus and passion for church planting.

Beacon Academy

As we prepare to plant our first congregation so our focus will move to establishing a new plant in the Beacon Academy Area. We trust that an appointment of a Pioneer Curate will be a catalyst for the beginning of this important mission and ministry. Again we really value your prayers as we enter into this next exciting phase of our ministry.

BUILDING UP

Associate Rector

We are already beginning to draw up plans for building up the congregations at Emmanuel as well as the Good Shepherd. The key appointment that we need to make is that of Associate Rector. Having been through several rounds of interviews an appointment is yet to be made however we trust that the right person will emerge soon. Their key focus will be on Leadership and Discipleship.

Envisioning and Support

There have been several areas where we have been receiving encouragement and support as well as sharing good practice. Our Church Weekend was both very encouraging and challenging as we began to realise the excitements as well as the cost of church planting. Lizzy Woolf as well as Daniel McGuinness were very helpful in informing our thinking, our practice as well as prayer. Martin Kadama from our link Diocese in Tanzania gave us a helpful perspective from a very different context.

Diocese

The Diocese of Leicester are also being a significant source of encouragement and support. We have joined a Community of Practice which meets three times a year, met several times with the Generous Giving Team as well as attended several conferences. Ben took a team down to London for 7 consecutive Thursdays to take part in the Church Planting Conference in the Diocese of London. This was a challenging as well as enriching time for all who participated.

Sue, Ben and I meet on a regular basis to eat, have conversation as well as prayer.

Conference

Ben and I were invited to contribute to a Church Planting Day at St Hilda's College in Sheffield where we gave a presentation and fielded some very challenging and perceptive questions.

Emmanuel

Additionally those of us who feel called to stay at Emmanuel have been considering how we can step up and step out to continue the mission & ministry here.

CONCLUSION

Overall it feels like we are in a period of planning, preparing as well as waiting. As we have said several times this is both exciting and challenging and we trust that in all we do it will contribute to people coming to know Christ as well then growth of His Kingdom. We encourage you to prayerfully consider the role you can play at this important time in our ministry.