

JESUS SHAPED PEOPLE

Recruitment of JSP Team Leader

JSP Background Information



Jesus Shaped People describes itself as a 'whole church discipleship adventure'. It offers a unique and innovative way of encouraging churches, particularly those serving marginalised communities, to re-shape their vision and work based on five priorities that Jesus adopted in his three year ministry. In doing so, JSP aims to refresh and inspire spiritual renewal, and facilitate 'culture change' and missional transformation in churches so that they can be 'Jesus-shaped' for the service they bring to their local communities.

The story of how this has come about is an intriguing one. Jesus Shaped People began in 2005 as a 'home-spun tool' to enable the churches of a largely urban housing estate parish of Tong and Holme Wood in the diocese of Bradford gain a better grasp of Christian discipleship. It proved to be highly effective in enabling the congregation to become more wholehearted and single minded in 'following Jesus'.

In 2011 the Diocese of Bradford asked if JSP could be made available more widely, and the Church Commissioners were invited to include JSP in their 'Church Growth in Deprived Communities' scheme that was seeking effective models to halt the steep decline of church membership in such communities. The Commissioners' grant award, plus generous support from the Diocese of Bradford/Leeds helped JSP to be remodelled, so that it could be adopted more widely. Initially this took place in five Anglican churches serving areas of social housing in Bradford. The Church Commissioners evaluation concluded: 'JSP has achieved comparatively significant growth, not just about numbers but embedding discipleship and mission into the fabric of the local parish church and its congregation'.

Interest in JSP from other churches in Anglican and other denominations grew steadily, and in 2016 led to the formation of a Charitable Trust (CIO) to oversee future JSP growth and development. Since then the Trustees have built on the sound foundation that had been laid, maintaining a high priority for re-energising churches in disadvantaged areas, and helping them to realise the vital place they have in Jesus' heart as he longs to 'walk their streets', offering peace to their people, and bringing purpose to their mission.

Steady growth of interest and adoption of JSP over the past three years has been strong in the new Diocese of Leeds, in Birmingham, and has steadily developed in Manchester, Lancashire, and Cheshire. More recently JSP has been introduced to Northampton, Southwark, Lichfield and Rochester, and wider interest is continuing.

During this period the Trustees have actively invited individuals, churches and charitable trusts to offer financial support to JSP that can enable JSP to grow in its capacity to meet growing interest across the UK. From the outset the Trustees have had a vision for the recruitment of a small core team made up of a FTE Team Leader, a part time Children's Advisor plus a part time Administrator who will also oversee website design and management.

Growth in JSP's financial capacity since then, by all three sources, has enabled the recruitment of an IT consultant and website designer, and the appointment of a part time National Children's Advisor. Both staff members have enabled good progress in resource improvement and development, extending and improving JSP children's resources, and in the launching of a new and improved website with better data and communication facilities.

The above has greatly benefited from a strong and committed prayer-base, with a regular Prayer Newsletter being published every two months and steady growth in the number of people keen to commit to this.

Generous financial support has now enabled the Trustees to offer a FTE Team Leader post that will enable JSP to further extend its spread across the UK, and grow its capacity to facilitate culture change in the church. Our vision is for the post to facilitate the spread of JSP across the UK, and to extend its capacity to stimulate spiritual renewal in the church, by improving its effectiveness, and by working in appropriate partnerships.

The Leadership Team will respond to initial JSP enquiries from churches across the UK, and establish models of good practice for churches in their own dioceses/regions. The Team will steadily recruit, train, equip and support a network of JSP Regional Coordinators and Companions who will sustain and expand growth in their areas with children and adults. The Team will maintain the development of high quality JSP resources and training provision.

This JSP Team Leader post(s) is/are a fine opportunity for the right individual(s) to oversee the next stage in JSP development, ensuring its spread to other parts of the UK, and spearheading a radical culture change in the mission of the church, especially within churches that serve socially disadvantaged areas.