

## **Student Evangelism, Alton College, The Kings Arms and Youth Work in The Parish of the Resurrection**

### **A way forward.**

On 17th July I received an email from Revd Canon Mark Collinson from the Diocesan School of Mission saying that they were relaunching the student evangelism project for Higher and Further Education establishments and would be interested in working with the parish to connect with Alton College. The project funding is from the Strategic Development Funding given by The Church Commissioners to the Diocese. The offer is for £14,800 per year on a two year project.

My email reply was to say that we would be interested and have been providing chaplaincy to the college over 10 years in different forms and with different outcomes. I said that we didn't have anyone in place to be part of this project at the moment as we had put our Youth and Families Worker appointment on hold at the beginning of lockdown. I did respond with information around the establishment of The Kings Arms and how we may be in a position to work in partnership with them to provide the student evangelism. I then had a Zoom conversation with Mark Collinson (Canon Principal of School of Mission) and Mark Lowman (Head of Strategic Projects) to ascertain that the Diocese would be happy to pursue this. They were in agreement that it sounded promising, that a team approach had potential, and they would be interested in the learning from providing this project in partnership with another local agency.

Conversation was then held between me and Caroline Aeschilmann (Kings Arms Operations Manager) and Lisa Hillan (KA Alton Development Officer) as to the idea of working a partnership between POTR and KA to undertake the Student Evangelism. The answer was yes and that KA would be able to provide a team of three of their youth work staff.

Subsequently a Zoom Meeting was held between Mark Collinson, Caroline Aeschilmann, Lisa Hillan and me. It was agreed that KA should write a project proposal outlining how their team would be able to meet the agreed objectives for the funded project. This is now in process.

The paper from the Winchester Diocese regarding the Student Evangelism Project is supplied to the PCC members.

Separately Caroline and Lisa had a conversation with me regarding the KA Team members who they would like to be involved in this work. The £14,800 would enable KA to increase some members hours of work and to release them from other areas.

Team Members would be:

Ben Stickler

Hannah Dendy

Martha Lloyd

And the work for the Student Evangelism would be supervised by Lisa Hillan.

Martha Lloyd has been working with the KA as an intern for the last year and she has had a very successful year. In order to keep Martha available to be the lead Student Ambassador for the Evangelism Project she would need more work to sustain her living and working in the area.

This led to a thought about our own POTR Youth Work vision. The PCC had agreed at the beginning of 2020 to fund, advertise and appoint a Youth & Families Worker. We put this on hold at the beginning of lockdown for practical and financial reasons.

A question. Could we employ Martha on a part-time basis for a two year period (alongside the Student Evangelism Project) to provide some of the agreed work of the job description we had written?

She would be offered 14.5 hours of work with KA which encompasses being part of the Student Evangelism Team. If we were to offer 20 hours that would be almost full-time work for her.

Positive Reasons to go forward (not in particular priority order):

- Martha would be a vital part of the Student Evangelism Project
- It establishes a good working relation between POTR and The Kings Arms - something we have desired
- Lisa Hillan is part of the KA Team and also a member of The PCC - good for partnership arrangements and agreements
- We need to continue a Christian presence at Alton College
- It would be beneficial to continue with the youth work we do provide - Robin & Sally Kemp have done a fabulous job
- If we carried on with a job recruitment process we possibly would not have someone in post until mid way or even late 2021
- Martha comes highly recommended by Caroline and Lisa. Gordon and I have met her and after some questions would recommend her to the PCC
- POTR has the money available in our PMAP Fund to fund the appointment of a part-time youth & families worker - we have not used any of this fund during the period of church building closure
- We would not be spending as much of the PMAP Fund in the next two years as originally envisaged. This might lead to further opportunities.

Practical Considerations:

- We would need to take HR advice on the appointment - can do this via the Diocesan HR Adviser
- Suggest that Martha is paid at £11 per hour - her KA salary will be £9 after probation. Maybe we start at £10 and raise it after a probation period?
- We would need to adapt the Job Description from before
- Line Management - suggest that Lisa Hillan does it for POTR to align with KA but perhaps there is a support group basis that works with this - may two others who work with Lisa. Lisa would be happy with this approach
- A small group from the PCC meet with Martha to ratify her suitability.

I believe this is a God given opportunity borne out through the process that has been growing through the summer. The doors have blown open by the Holy Spirit and we now need to discern if this correct together. May I ask you over the next two days to pray earnestly and come to the meeting on Thursday ready to make a decision. This has come at us quickly, so I thank you for your time, prayers and eagerness to entertain taking this forward.

There seems a willingness to meet in a socially distanced manner for this PCC meeting. We will do this in Holybourne Church on Thursday 27th August at 7.30pm.

There will be two other quick items on the agenda. The service pattern for September and when and how to hold the APCM. I hope we can conduct our business in less than hour for COVID safety reasons.

Andrew Micklefield  
25.08.20