Appointment of a

Community Pioneer for Blindwells

Closing date: November 4th 2026

Employer:

The Presbytery of Lothian & Borders, Church of Scotland

Working with the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Baptist Church, the Methodist Church

For the life you want to live...

Blindwells

EAST LOTHIAN

Blindwells lies just off the A1 near to Tranent.

The developer Hargreaves has been working on site with East Lothian Council since 2017 and around 500 houses have been completed, both social & private housing. There is however outline planning permission for many more houses over the next twenty years.

The High Street is scheduled for construction and there will be two other schools. It is intended that the Church be a key community partner and part of the long term infrastructure.

Background to this post

The local churches have, led by the local Church of Scotland churches, been engaged in welcoming new residents to Blindwells for the past three years.

The opening of the first Primary school marks an important moment in the life of this fledgling new community. With space for community development now is the time to move from providing occasional gatherings to a more day to day working on the ground with residents.

The vision is for the establishment of a new Christian community that emerges from the local context. It is intended that this community will be ecumenical and will be at the heart of the Blindwells community.

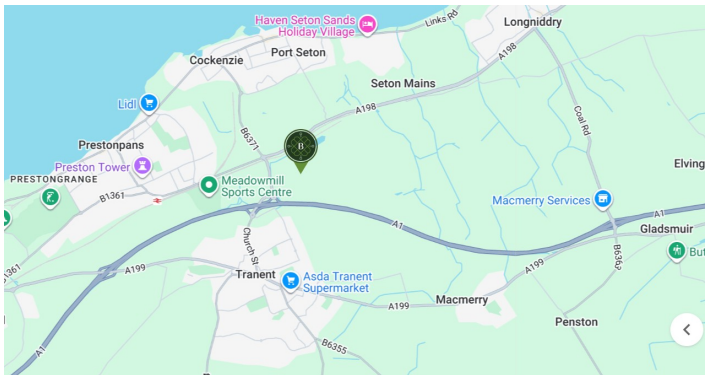
Although initiated and led by the Church of Scotland applications are encouraged widely and an ecumenical advisory group has been formed.

The Methodist Church have invited the worker to join the New People for New Places learning Network Support Group.

Role Description: **Community Pioneer**

Purpose of Post:

To lead the planning and implementation of Lothian & Borders Presbytery's vision to develop Christian witness and ministry in the new settlement of Blindwells.



Main Duties :

- Developing the existing work by the local churches and to develop & initiate plans for establishing a new Christian community
- Reaching out and engage with children & families in Blindwells to start new community groups
- Building relationships with and engagement in local schools.
- Recruiting & building voluntary teams to be part of this work
- Overseeing all safeguarding & to lead training of this work
- Liasing with other local bodies, site developers, construction workers
- Work closely with the Blindwells Beacon Leadership team & the Local advisory group
- To communicate to Presbytery regularly and to share good practice with regard to mission with partner churches
- To undertake any other duties as reasonably required by the Line Manager

Person Specification:

The successful candidate will have

A personal commitment to the Christian faith expressed through active membership of a Christian community (which is a Genuine Occupational requirement in terms of the equality act).

A vision for planting new Christian communities and a passion that others become followers and disciples of Christ.

The ability to initiate new and radical ways of being Church

...and in terms of skills, abilities & knowledge

- Ability to communicate effectively across all age groups using highly developed interpersonal skills
- Experience of Church Planting, Pioneer Ministry or starting a new mission project
- Qualified to degree level or similar or accredited training in community work, teaching project management or significant, recent and relevant work experience in this area
- Excellent planning and organising skills with the ability to prioritise workload
- Skilled in initiating and managing change, enabling and supporting others to deal with it in a flexible, balanced and creative way
- Proven ability to work creatively with colleagues & contribute to effective team working
- A commitment to partnership working, developing and maintaining links with other churches and organisations locally and beyond, sharing information and developing best practice
- Ability to work unsupervised, with readiness to use own initiative
- High level of IT literacy including social media
- Experience of working with children & families including designing activities for children, youth or families
- Ability to tailor activities to a particular context
- Experience of nurturing the faith of children/young people.

Terms & Conditions:

The Church of Scotland is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. The successful applicant will be required to be a member of the Disclosure Scotland PVG Scheme and undertake regular training.

This is a full-time post for a three year period – 37.5 hours per week

Salary is based on the Church of Scotland MDS (Ministry Development) scale £30,274-£34,224

The nature of the work calls for a degree of flexibility, thus hours of work, which are as agreed with the Line Manager, may vary from day to day

The post will involve home working until a more local base on Blindwells or Longniddry is identified.

There are 5 weeks pro rata paid leave in each full holiday year which runs from 1 January to 31 December. Entitlement is based on full weeks worked. There are also 9 pro rata statutory holidays.

Travel expenses by public transport or by use of own car at rates as agreed by your Employer and reviewed annually. Car mileage and allowance will be paid by the Employer in the first instance and re-claimed from the Presbytery.

You will be required to provide documents confirming your eligibility to work and remain in the UK if invited to attend an interview.

How to Apply

For an informal conversation please contact Abimor1808@gmail.com or PWood@churchofscotland.org.uk

Please fill out the application form which can be downloaded here

https://lothianandborderspresbytery.org.uk/home/employment-vacancies/

Applications should be sent by email to Abimor1808@gmail.com

Closing date 5pm on November 4th 2026