

STEEPLE ASTON COMMUNITY WELLNESS GARDEN

A partnership between The Parish Church and the
Allotment Society, Steeple Aston

Lead gardener

Location: Steeple Aston Allotments, Fir Lane, Steeple Aston, OX25 4SF

Details Summary

Purpose of the Role

- The Lead Gardener will organise and coordinate seasonal gardening and any relevant allied activities for adults. The activities will enable the (users/clients/gardeners) to engage with horticulture according to their abilities and to contribute to the maintenance of the Allotment garden. The Lead Gardener will work with volunteers who support this initiative.
- Love and friendship will be at the heart of this garden working towards the calm effectiveness of the project.
- The Wellness garden is a project to help people and accompany them as they make their own journey towards wellness. It should be stressed that this is not a mental health therapeutic role.

What the Role Involves

- The post holder would work 6 hours/week possibly over two morning sessions of three hours each. These will include 1 hour for preparation, administration and briefing the volunteers on site... There will be a maximum of 6 (clients) who will attend for two hours per session.
- The work will not run into the lunch time. (Users) will be asked to not stay over any such period. It is therefore suggested that morning sessions are more appropriate.
- Planning and delivering a selection of garden and nature-based activities through which the Allotment Garden will be maintained in collaboration with the users
- To be physically fit and able to undertake safe manual handling practices
- Be observant, empathetic and sensitive to the (users) needs and walk alongside them as they work on their journey to wellness

- Organising volunteers to work with and support the (users)in their gardening activities

About You

- An experienced gardener able to take a completely new Allotment plot eventually to a garden that gives warmth and wellness. Also able to plan the garden overall with suitable spaces for rest and communal activities.
- You need to be able to work creatively and independently able to give your attention to both the garden and the (users) as needed.
- The following characteristics are central to this: *empathy, understanding sensitivity, compassion, insight, and fellow feeling.*
- You will need your own 3rd party single worker insurance.
- Keep your own confidential records to which the Rector and Allotment chair should be able to request access.
- To set up informal reviews of progress as appropriate. This will be work undertaken in association with members of the (team)
- Whilst you do not need to be a member of the church flexibility of approach towards the Allotment and Church community will be needed and the Wellness Garden itself will be a member of the Allotment Society and its rules.
- Organising relevant maintenance and repair of equipment as necessary.

What we offer

Hours: Part Time, self employed daytime- preferably mornings- with possible occasional evening meetings.

Remuneration: 6 hours per week at £31 per hour for 40 weeks per year (£7440 per year)

Contract length: Initially 1 year leading to permanent position after review.
The post does not attract holiday pay

The Church's Role includes

- Paying the fee as claimed by the Lead Gardener at the appropriate intervals.
- Keeping a budget within the church accounts and managing that as needed for equipment; garden goods , etc.
- Support for those involved in this.
- Safeguarding as set out by the Church.

The Wellness Garden Team's Role includes

- To undertake the administrative processes necessary including:
- welcoming and supporting new users
- Monitoring the budget in association with the church administration and fund raising
- record keeping in conjunction with the Lead Gardener
- liaison with the Parish Church Council and Allotment community

The Allotment Society's role

- To offer to the Wellness Garden the same facilities and support that all Allotmenteers enjoy and to supply the plot upon which the garden is based.
- The use of the club house for inclement weather and some storage
- The use of some tools belonging to the Allotment Society as appropriate in common with other allotment members. Health and safety issues and food hygiene/manual handling practices as relevant to the garden and its activities
- Safeguarding in discussion the church.