Churches Together in Harborough

Newsletter November 2024

Please pass on this information to your church in any appropriate way. Please check our website for any updates.

Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust- Baptist Church

We are very excited to announce that we will be hosting a 60th Anniversary event for Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust on the **5th of November.**

Please see attached poster for the event, there will be a presentation, questions, discussion time and drinks and a cold buffet.

Sophie Webster
MHBC Administrator

Fairtrade Market Place

Gifts, Drinks,Cakes and more. **Saturday 9th November 9-12.30.**
Stalls featuring, The Just Fairtrade Shop, Koseli (hand made gifts from Napal), Christmas Cards & Advent Calendars chocolate.

Methodist Youth Wing. See attached poster, please display.

Harborough Anglican Team

Please find attached a job advert for a part-time youth Minister in the Harborough Anglican Team.

Torch Trust

We have yet another posting to share with our local church community. This one is for a Resource Curator, just one day per week.

The job description and application form are attached, as well as some background on Torch Trust called "Joining the Journey".

Here are some high level details:

Resources Curator", in our context, involves having a handle on the accessible Christian literature we offer, being actively involved in selecting new titles, and obtaining permissions for transcription into braille/large print/ audio, among other things.

We are looking for book-loving individual who is comfortable establishing relationships with publishers and can give us one day a week (7 hrs) for this assignment and the other duties described. Work location is flexible.

If interested, please read our full job description in the attached file.

Employer: The Torch Trust for the Blind

Hours: Part-Time, 7 hrs/week

Location: Flexible

Salary: £27,081 per annum pro rata (Full-time is 35 hrs/week)

Submission deadline: 17th November 2024 at midnight

Email application to recruitment@torchtrust.org, attention Paul Wood

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Thank you!

Dear Friends
You are invited to our monthly coffee morning every third Thursday of each month, at Torch House from 10:30am – 12:30pm.

Our next coffee morning will be on Thursday 21st November.

Do come along for tea, coffee and cake. At around 11:30 we'll have a time of worship and prayer.
There's no need to book, just turn up, please invite your friends and you will be assured of a very warm welcome!
We do hope that you will be able to join us on November **21st.**

Fayre—23rd November—9:30-12pm at Harborough Theatre

The Bower House will be having their Christmas Coffee Morning a little earlier this year. Please come and join us on Saturday the 23rd November at Harborough Theatre for tea and coffee, bacon rolls, Bric-a-brac, a 'Boxes and Bottles' Tombola, Reindeer, Cakes and more!
We'll also be selling tickets for our Gala Night Theatre Performance of Oscar Wilde's "An Ideal Husband" (Monday 13th January at Harborough Theatre) so if you are looking for an "experience" Christmas gift – look no further!

Bower House Christmas Close Down 2024

We will be closing for our Christmas break at 6pm on Friday 20th December, re-opening to clients on Monday January 6th 2025 at 9am.

Harborough Theatre/Bower House Gala Night: Monday January 13th 2025

We are currently selling tickets for our January Gala Night at Harborough Theatre: ***Oscar Wilde's "An Ideal Husband".*** It's set to be a great night! We are planning refreshments and a raffle too. Tickets for the performance are £15 and all profits will go to the Bower House. If you want to book a seat or four, please email us on officeadmin@bowerhousecounselling.org The support worker coordinating ticket sales will be in touch with regards to payment and securing your seats. We look forward to seeing you there!

The next newsletter will be issued in December. Please send any information to Maureen Douglas at maureen.e.douglas@btinternet.com Please note that your contribution may be reduced or edited according to the space available. We are unable to reproduce posters.

Join us at **Market Harborough Baptist Church**, to celebrate...

The 60th Anniversary

of the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust

The Trust will give us a presentation about its work, followed by questions and discussion.

Please let us know if you can come, so we know how many people to cater for.

admin@mhbaptistchurch.org
robert.sulley62@gmail.com

There is no charge to attend. A donation on the day to the church for the refreshments will be appreciated.

Tuesday 5th November
7 – 9pm



Market Harborough Baptist Church,
25 Coventry Rd, LE16 9BX
Parking is in the adjacent public car park (free from 6pm)

Drinks & cold buffet

LEICESTERSHIRE
HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Fairtrade Marketplace

Fair Trade gifts, drinks, cakes and more!

Come and join us at this popular event

Stalls featuring:

- The Just Fair Trade Shop
- Koseli (handmade gifts from Nepal)
- Christmas cards, Advent calendars, chocolate

Plus, the usual delicious homemade cakes, tea cakes and toast.

Saturday, 9 November, 9-12.30, Methodist Church Youth Wing.

You'll find lots more information about Fairtrade and Fairtrade products at fairtrade.org.uk

We are a Fairtrade Community

Market Harborough – a Fairtrade Town

Job Description

Job Title: Resources Curator

Location: Flexible

Team: Technical Services

Position Type: Part Time

Hours: 7 hours /week

Salary: Band S4, £27,081 (FT – 35 hours)

Holiday: 20 days a year and statutory holidays pro rata

Main Purpose

1. To coordinate, develop and manage the process of Torch's Christian literature selection in line with Torch's strategy and Discipleship Agenda.
2. To build good working relationships with Christian publishers and stay informed about new Christian literature, books and magazines.

Main Duties and responsibilities:

1. Managing Torch's Christian literature selection

- To curate and manage Torch's collection of accessible Christian literature.
- To coordinate the process of choosing and reviewing new Christian books for transcription.
- To be aware of the quality of content, writing, production, relevance and popularity of the books we are making accessible.
- To build and maintain good relationships with Christian publishers and gain access to files for a larger collection of relevant Christian books.
- To develop the literature section of our website and introduce and manage a facility for client book reviews.
- To develop and manage a Christian book discipleship agenda so that Torch can recommend resources to people that are relevant to their stage of discipleship.
- Undertake such other duties as the Head of Technical Services or CEO may from time to time determine in keeping with the overall aim of this area of ministry.

- To work closely with colleagues and contractors to suggest book choices and give written and audio book reviews to help to promote our literature.

Person Specification:

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills demonstrating the ability to work collaboratively with a range of different stakeholders.
- Flexible approach to work and excited by the opportunity to provide accessible Christian literature to people with sight loss.
- Excellent organisational abilities, able to plan ahead, work independently and organise time effectively.
- Proactive approach to work, showing commitment, drive, a can do attitude and enthusiastic approach.
- You must demonstrate wholehearted commitment to Torch's values and evidence of an active and committed Christian faith.

JOINING THE JOURNEY 2022

Employment and Volunteering with Torch Trust

Torch Ethos

Torch has a clear purpose – we exist to enable blind and partially sighted people to encounter Jesus, grow in their Christian faith and thrive in Christian community.

Torch also has a distinctive culture that reflects its Christian beliefs and has been shaped by its history of seeking to be faithful to God's guidance. Our values inform the choices made by Torch, what we do and the way we do it.

Our Values are: Christ-centred; People-focussed; Openness; Creativity

Statement 1. We are Christ-centred

We seek to make Jesus Lord over every aspect of Torch Trust's work responding to the call he continues to give to us. Jesus is the example that we try to follow so we seek to be centred on Christ in all that we do, working to principles we find in the Bible. Torch is God's and we seek to give reality to the prayer "Your kingdom come, your will be done" in our work for him.

This means that individually and corporately we seek to remain (or abide) in Christ, listening for his voice within and through our colleagues. It means we seek to be Christ-like in our thinking, attitudes and activity, aiming to speak as he would speak and to do as he would do in every situation. We are committed to pray and stimulate prayer — faithfully and creatively.

Statement 2. We are People-focused

As Christians, we worship a Trinitarian God and see beautiful interdependent relationship perfectly displayed in the very nature of God. At the heart our faith therefore is relationship – with God and with each other and so nurturing and prioritising relationships is core in all we do.

Being Christ-like therefore means we will always seek to be caring and compassionate, respecting each other, always seeking the good of the other and offering grace. We seek therefore to prioritise the protection and enhancing of relationships and to find ways of expressing our interdependence. We will continuously strive to understand and appreciate the lives and needs of blind and partially sighted people and adapt our work to better serve their spiritual needs.

Statement 3. We are Open

As Christians, we follow a Trinitarian God who demonstrates in His own being what it means to be utterly open and surrendered. In Jesus, we have a pattern for human life lived in complete openness and honesty to everyone he encountered.

As Christ's followers, we seek always to operate with integrity in an open, honest and accessible way that creates understanding and trust. We are open about our Christian faith as the motivation and inspiration for our work; we offer our services to people of all faiths and none; we are non-denominational, seeking to work in harmony with other Christians, embracing the diversity of Christian understanding, experience and tradition.

Statement 4. We are Creative

We worship and seek to follow a God who is both Creator and Sustainer of all things. Creativity is part of the very nature of God and as people made in his image, we believe that all people have the potential for creativity expressed in a myriad of ways.

Therefore, listening to our clients we respond with creative solutions, embracing innovation, technology, partnerships and the gifts of others. We always seek to learn, develop and adapt to our current environment.

Our safeguarding commitment

Consistent with our purpose and values, we are committed to the protection and safeguarding of all. We will provide a safe and caring environment for all who use our services and all who work for us. All of our staff are given a copy of our safeguarding policy and will receive safeguarding training.

Statement of Faith

We ask anyone joining us to respect our basis of faith, a copy of this is provided at the end of this document.

Torch - The Story

In 1959 the conversion of one blind girl, Wendy, in the home of our founders, Ron and Stella Heath, led to a search for Christian literature in Braille for her. This was to prove largely unsuccessful, however the Lord seemed to be saying to them "YOU give them something to eat" (Matt 14:16).

Under the gracious hand of our God, the work has grown and developed beyond the Heath's wildest dreams.

The production of literature in audio, Braille, and giant print formats is now largely computer driven and a well-stocked lending library has been established with books available in a variety of accessible media for free loan. Torch magazines in accessible media go to readers all over the world. Torch is in touch with blind and partially sighted people in over 80 countries of the world and is producing scriptures in several languages. Torch also transcribes Bible reading notes in several media.

Many people have been helped and blessed through the ongoing programme of holidays, and Torch Fellowship Groups nationwide where blind and sighted people can support and minister to one another.

The work has extended internationally, with a partner in Malawi (Africa). Torch has other international partnerships and close links with many similar organisations in various parts of the world.

Today Torch is a vibrant organisation seeking to adapt to the needs and aspirations of blind and partially sighted people within an every changing context. The original vision is being fulfilled through producing and providing Christian literature in a form that blind and partially sighted people can read alongside the support we are able to encourage through Christian fellowship.

The present and future of Torch's programme of activity is increasingly driven and shaped by a vision of Christian community as the setting in which people with sight loss find wholeness. This has led us to the development of our Sight Loss Friendly Church initiative which aims to inform and encourage all churches of the importance of being aware of sight loss among their congregations and the support that Torch can offer.

Further detail about the current activities of Torch can be found on our website www.torchtrust.org

Working and Volunteering with Torch

Torch places a high value on everyone who is involved with Torch and seeks to ensure that they are safe and working in an environment that is purposeful, pleasant, and cooperative and where teamwork, fellowship and mutual support are an everyday part of working life. We encourage people to 'join the journey' as we travel with God on an adventure of faith, as we seek always to do His will and to work His way.

Torch is a Christian mission that seeks at all times to express the example of Jesus Christ in all its work and actions. Torch therefore seeks to set the highest standards in personal and business conduct and in relationships. Torch is prepared to listen and empathise with individual's personal circumstances but does not seek to provide professional counselling or to replace pastoral care undertaken by an individual's Church.

People may journey with Torch as employees or volunteers.

Joining the Journey is intended to give a basic overall picture of what joining Torch will be like. Specific details will be discussed as part of the recruitment process.

Christian Commitment

There are opportunities for those who do not have a Christian faith to work with Torch; however, it is important to recognise that Torch is a Christian Mission and that the Christian ethos is part of the everyday life of Torch. Daily prayer and worship are an integral part of the way we work together and the majority of our staff and volunteers see their work as an expression of their Christian faith.

All staff and volunteers who have regular contact with the users of our services are required to be committed Christians. For these roles the role description will define this as an Occupational Requirement. Those applying for such roles will be required to confirm that they are able to respect the Torch Basis of Faith and live to generally accepted standards of Christian life and witness.

Where the work involved is not defined as having an Occupational Requirement, applications are considered from those who do not have an active Christian faith.

Christianity within the life of Torch

Prayer is woven into the fabric of Torch. We engage the wider network of beneficiaries, supporters, volunteers and staff in daily prayer through a Daily Prayer Guide and Prayer Diary.

Many conversations with our clients will involve prayer or requests for prayer. Staff and volunteers are encouraged to take time with the challenges and concerns that often become apparent during conversations.

Consistent with this value is a governance and leadership that seeks always to discern and apply God's leading. We test our choices against the teaching of the Bible, by prayer and by seeking unanimity after prayer.

Employment

Recruitment Process

The seeking of the Lord's will is essential in the selection and appointment of staff.

Torch Trust seeks to ensure that throughout this process ample time is given and good opportunities for dialogue provided, so that the Lord's will can be discerned in a way that is open, equal and fair. Our experience is that this process can take time. During this time we will be pleased to welcome you to Torch House and our Chief Executive and Leaders will be pleased to talk to you. We trust in this way you will be able to learn something of the special nature of Torch Trust and to share in the excitement of working in a Christian mission environment.

Employment Opportunities

The following are the main areas of activity within Torch:

- Torch House at Market Harborough – Client Services; Editorial and Transcription; Production and Distribution; Technical, Administration, Financial; Regional Support; International Outreach, Fundraising and Communications.
- Home locations across the UK – Regional Workers and Representatives.

A team of Leaders support those involved in these activities whether they are technical staff, support staff or volunteers. Details of specific vacancies are made known through Torch publications, on our website and where appropriate by circulating to Churches local to our bases and in the press. However, our experience has shown that the Lord brings to us those called to the work and whose talents can be best used at a particular time rather than those that necessarily fit into a predefined job specification.

Salary

As a faith-based mission we are extremely reliant upon the generosity of our supporters and Torch appreciates this and engages in appropriate ways for developing ongoing sustainability.

Torch's staffing costs is our biggest single expenditure and as an expression of one of our values 'Christ-centred' we seek to always be faithful stewards of all that God provides. This will ensure we remain above legal minimum levels of wage, with salaries which whilst modest will reflect the level of responsibility; seniority of the position; and level of technical skill.

The salary for any particular role will be discussed as part of the recruitment process.

Taking Employment seriously

Torch is assisted in its HR management by Peninsula Services to ensure we offer best practise and maintain up to date and compliant employment practices. The Employee Handbook offers a comprehensive guide to working with Torch and is issued when being offered employment.

Volunteering

Why Volunteer?

Volunteers are an essential part of the work. As a volunteer at Torch you can expect:

- An opportunity to join an enthusiastic and committed team, working together to serve blind and partially sighted people.
- Support in your work as a volunteer. We will help you to develop your skills and talents within Torch, devote appropriate supervisory time to these tasks and do so in a professional, supportive and courteous work environment.
- Information and training to enable you to work more effectively.
- Specific training to help you work with visually impaired people.
- A 'Role Profile' to clarify the work you do at Torch.
- A Partnership Agreement which will affirm the importance we place on your willingness to serve.
- An invitation to certain Torch events, including training and the annual Torch Thanksgiving.
- Regular reviews with you to exchange ideas; explore ways in which you can develop your role and to provide feedback on your work for Torch.

What does Torch require from its Volunteers?

- Ensure that all duties are undertaken with respect for people and equipment and display good manners at all times.
- Make clear to Torch when you are available and maintain the agreed level of commitment.
- Advise your supervisor promptly if you are unable to undertake your duties, including sickness, holidays etc.
- Attend training and support sessions as required.
- Respect confidentiality of information you come across during your volunteering, which is increasingly a legal requirement within our environment.
- Respect the need for the security of our premises and abide by signing in and out protocols at all times.
- Respect and comply with the Torch Christian Ethos and the Equality, Health & Safety and Safeguarding policies.
- Inform Torch about any health or disability concerns that might affect your volunteering with Torch.
- Not to undermine the name of Torch either within Torch or to outside sources.
- To sign and adhere to your Torch Volunteer Partnership Agreement as required and to inform your supervisor immediately you believe you are unable to comply with its commitment.

Volunteer Recruitment Process

It is important that we take time to ensure that both volunteer and Torch fit well together, that the volunteer role is well suited to the volunteer and that they gain a real sense of fulfilment in undertaking these duties.

New volunteer applicants will therefore be invited to speak with a supervisor and as appropriate to visit Torch House to learn something about the work we do. During this visit we will explore the various opportunities available and discuss the possibilities that we believe you may be suitable for. For some roles we may visit you in your home to discuss the opportunity of volunteering.

Volunteering Opportunities

Within three categories there are the following areas of volunteer activity within Torch:

- **Torch House** - at Market Harborough – Hospitality; Audio Editing and Transcription; Production and Distribution.
- **National** - Home based - Audio Transcription; Telephone support and services; Sight Loss Friendly Church; Retreat and Event assistance and Regional support for Torch Fellowship Groups throughout the UK.

All volunteers are expected to complete some initial induction and appropriate training sessions.

Different roles will require different types of equipment and support. If you undertake tasks that require you to have I.T. access and a Torch email this will be provided for use on Torch business only. We reserve the right to monitor all e-mail/internet activity by you for the purposes of ensuring compliance with Torch Trust policies and procedures and of ensuring compliance with the relevant regulatory requirements and you hereby consent to such monitoring.

Whatever tasks you will be volunteering for you will work under the management of a nominated Supervisor who will be a Torch staff member.

Hours of Work

Our volunteers work a very flexible working pattern: -

At Torch House volunteers often work a day or half day a week or on an as needed basis between Monday to Thursday.

Working from home is very flexible but normally would involve a minimum of three to four hours per week. Or if at a holiday or event dependent upon the particular situation.

Safeguarding Checks

References, a Self-Disclosure certificate and, where required, a DBS (or equivalent) check must be satisfactorily completed before an individual can start work with Torch.

Health and Safety

Copies of the Health and Safety handbook will be provided for people working at Torch House. Whether at home, away or on Torch property you are to work safely, taking

care of yourself and others. Any concerns about health and safety are to be reported to the Head of Central Services as Health and Safety Officer.

Joining the Journey 2022

Michael Heaney
Head of Central Services
January 2022

BASIS OF FAITH

As defined in the Trust's governing documents the Torch Trust's objectives are the relief and support of blind and partially sighted people in accordance with the following basis of faith:

- Christians accept the revelation of the true God given in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and confess the historic faith of the Gospel therein set forth. They here assert doctrines which they regard as crucial to the understanding of the faith, and which should issue in mutual love, practical Christian service and evangelistic concern.
- The sovereignty and grace of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit in creation, providence, revelation, redemption and final judgment.
- The divine inspiration of the Holy Scripture and its consequent entire trustworthiness and supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
- The universal sinfulness and guilt of fallen man, making him subject to God's wrath and condemnation.
- The substitutionary sacrifice of the incarnate Son of God as the sole and all sufficient ground of redemption from the guilt and power of sin, and from its eternal consequences.
- The justification of the sinner solely by the grace of God through faith in Christ crucified and risen from the dead.
- The illuminating, regenerating, indwelling and sanctifying work of God the Holy Spirit.
- The priesthood of all believers, who form the universal Church, the Body of which Christ is the Head, and which is committed by His command to the proclamation of the Gospel throughout the world
- The expectation of the personal, visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ, in power and glory.

TORCH TRUST FOR THE BLIND

Registered Office
TORCH HOUSE
TORCH WAY
MARKET HARBOROUGH
LEICS LE16 9HL

Registered Charity No. 1095904

Company Number 4616526

Registered in England

Website: www.torchtrust.org

Email: info@torchtrust.org

Employment Application Form

Name _____

Role Applied for _____

Torch Trust

Torch House, Torch Way

Market Harborough

Leicestershire

LE16 9HL

Tel: 01858 438260

Email: info@torchtrust.org

Web Site: www.torchtrust.org

The Torch Trust for the Blind. A Charity registered in England and Wales no 1095904.

A company limited by guarantee no 4616526.

All applicants are asked to read the Torch Employment Policy – Joining the Journey before completing this form. Copies of this policy are available on our website or on request to Torch House.

First some information about you

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Postcode: _____

Tel No.: _____

Mobile No.: _____

If we can contact you by email please give your Email Address

_____

Do you have transportation Yes / No

Tell us about your experience

Concerning each statement please use as much space as you need to tell us about:

- Your education and training starting from when you left school, through college, university together with any other relative training courses

  _____

- Your current and previous employment starting with your most recent employment. Please include the reason for any gaps in employment

  _____

- Your achievements, qualifications, awards, membership of professional associations

  _____

- If you are applying for a specific job, tell us about your experience and talents that relate to the requirements of that role

  _____

- Why you are interested in working for Torch? Please give details of any other Christian organisations or charities you have worked for as an employee or volunteer

  _____

- Your hobbies and leisure interests

  _____

- Anything you need to tell us about, that may affect your ability to efficiently undertake the duties outlined in the Job description, or any disability or special need that will require particular attention for an interview

  _____

- Please confirm that you have a 'right to work' in the UK

  _____

Some information about us

Christian Commitment

As a faith based mission, daily prayer and worship is an integral part of Torch. The majority of our staff and volunteers see their work as an expression of their Christian life.

Where a role can only be undertaken by a committed Christian, the job description will define this as an Occupational Requirement. Other work can be undertaken by those of other faiths or those with no faith.

For 'Occupational Requirement' Roles

Those applying for these jobs are required to confirm that they are able to respect the Torch Basis of Faith.

Please confirm this is acceptable **Yes/No**

Furthermore please provide details of your Christian experience, including details of current Church membership.

_____

Blind and partially sighted people

As a mission focused on the support of blind and partially sighted people we would be particularly interested in any experience you have of working with blind and partially sighted people.

_____

Who can speak for you?

Please provide the names and addresses/email addresses of three referees including:

- Your current or most recent employer

  _____

- Your priest or minister – if you are applying for an 'Occupational Requirement' job.

  _____

I understand that if offered a post it will be conditional upon my completion of any safeguarding self-declaration, and agree to the conditions involving a Disclosure Check.

We would normally follow up these references after you have attended a formal interview. If this is not acceptable please tell us.

I have read (or heard) and understood the Job Description and Joining the Journey.

I confirm that the submitted information is correct and complete.

Signed (or typed signature): _____ Date: _____

August 2024

St Hugh, Market Harborough
St Nicholas, Little Bowden
All Saints, Lubenham
St Peter and St Paul, Great Bowden
St Dionysius, Market Harborough

Harborough Anglican Team
ROOTED RESPONDING REACHING

Part-Time Youth Minister

Market Harborough Anglican Team is made up of Market Harborough (a growing market town) and surrounding villages in South Leicestershire. We are four parishes and five churches who are seeking to appoint to a new role of Youth Minister serving the young people across the Team.

The main areas of focus for the role are with Limitless, a 2-year-old community of young people, comprising worship and discipleship groups meeting on Sundays and an after-school drop-in café on Fridays.

We are looking for someone who is passionate about developing relationships with and mentoring young people. Someone who is keen to build, in conjunction with the staff team, our small group of volunteers and to grow this group from the four Anglican parishes. And who is happy to work alone and with the staff team and parishes to further our aim to grow a community of young people who will know God, all within the Growing Faith strategy of the Church of England.

Are you the dynamic youth minister we are looking for?

The Harborough Anglican Team is committed to creating and sustaining a diverse and inclusive workforce. We particularly encourage applications from those with the relevant skills and experience from under-represented groups. The appointment will of course be based on merit alone.

There is a genuine occupational requirement that the post-holder should be a practicing Christian.

The appointment is subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure and completion of relevant Safeguarding training.

Salary: £17,444 based on 22.5 hour week

Part-time (max. 22.5 hrs per week including Friday afternoons, Sunday afternoons and evenings as well as some other evenings and weekends as required. Fewer hours could be negotiated for the right candidate)

Fixed term until July 2027

For Recruitment Pack please visit
www.harborough-anglican.org.uk

For an informal conversation or to explore further contact:
Hils Corcoran, Team Vicar
hils@harborough-anglican.org.uk or 07529 224368
For more information about Harborough Anglican Team visit
www.harborough-anglican.org.uk

Closing date: Sunday 17th November 2024
Interviews: Friday 29th November 2024

The role is generously funded by an external grant.