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**Flourish enables, encourages and nurtures the growing of innovative community spaces for all to encounter, journey with and experience God's love**

We seek to appoint a community pioneer to launch ‘Earthed’, a new initiative that seeks to work across the Almondsbury and Severnside area (South Gloucestershire)

The successful applicant will be supported fully so they are free to wander and seek to respond to where God is calling. Applicants will be creative visionaries, who are resilient and able to respond to the challenges such a unique role will uncover.

The successful applicant will join a team of pioneers and will be line-managed by the Flourish Co-ordinator.



Earthed will seek to ensure that our rural areas are not overlooked or suffer from neglect. We understand that deprivation and need in rural areas can be as acute as is present in larger cities and towns. There is a lack of services and transport, and this can increase a sense of isolation and compound problems further. In providing spaces where people can gather, we begin to walk alongside people and share experiences. In sharing experiences people can become change makers in their stories. Lives can be transformed by being present, hope-filled and by amplifying the voices of those in these communities.

Our vision for Earthed:

* Spaces to gather and share time and life.
* Spaces which calm and enable.
* Spaces of encouragement, inspiration, and transformation.
* Spaces that use the natural world to enable people to slow down, breathe and encounter God.
* Spaces which are open and willing to work with other agencies and individuals to challenge the status quo and seek long term solutions for local issues.
* Spaces which explore how new ecclesial communities could gather and develop in smaller dispersed rural/remote towns and villages?
* Spaces which explore how existing sites and buildings could be reimagined or repurposed in creative ways.

All the Flourish spaces will hold a set of values which we believe intentionally point towards a lived-out faith, one which seeks to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Earthed will hold these core values:

In the Flourish community we value:

* Being genuinely bothered about people we meet.
* The gifts and uniqueness each person bring to this community and their place in it.
* Making time to be with people and sharing life.
* Vulnerability and genuiness.
* Supporting each other in the wonderings and wondering of life.

We believe that by being intentionally and unreservedly present and by paying attention this speaks to the core of people, and they gain a sense of something ‘bigger’. Genuine, intentional hanging about carries with it an energy that illuminates in ways which are difficult to capture in words.

In each community we will seek to:

* Build relationships of trust,
* Listen without judging.
* Walk and share life with people.
* Demonstrate the love of God though action.
* Be prepared to share our stories.
* Look where God is present and point to that in relevant and accessible ways.

As community pioneers we need to ensure that we are present, patient, and observant. When we are present in spaces, we expect God to be present. We try to point towards this through conversation and action.

We are prepared to engage in open and challenging conversation and use these opportunities to share our faith stories and experiences.

We move at the pace of those in the community, we do not rush or pressure people into conversation or participation.

We offer opportunities where people can develop deeper relationships with others for instance: sharing food or an activity such as gardening etc.

We offer to share in acts of ‘worship’, such as: labyrinths, lighting candles, spaces of

We ask if people would like to celebrate significant festivals together (Christmas, Easter, Pentecost) and we ensure that these are collaborative enterprises.

