

THE MISSION BASE RICCARTON: “LOVE RICCARTON”

Seeking an Expression of Interest to commence developing this missional ministry

Our Story

Once upon a time there were two parishes either side of a railway. On February 2011 the Earthquake happened in Christchurch and that changed everything. St James Church in Riccarton became unsafe to enter and was deconsecrated subsequently in 2018. Christchurch spent the next five years in grief and recovery (and for many a lot longer). In 2015 Vicars Les Memory and John DeSenna, at a clergy conerence, were each given a vision by the Holy Spirit to join as one parish. And so it came to pass. In 2017 the new parish of Riccarton Spreydon was formed.



Our Kaupapa (values)

Our overall parish ministry is focused on cultivating a culture of discipleship and mission, whilst being attentive to the call of regeneration through people who are followers of Jesus called to live by three key values.

1. **Prayer and Praise** – The rhythms that we maintain set us up for a lifestyle where we are able to live the kind of life that Jesus calls us to in his Gospels. Prayer pushes our focus upwards as we look to God to sustain, carry and guide us. A shared life those things inside us that God wants to develop, grow and heal. Connected to our parish and serving in communities means we are living a life that is outwardly focused to a broken and hurting world.
2. **Family/Whānau** - Building strong Christian families and disciples is core to our parish, whether biological families or providing to people who are on their own,

the love, acceptance and being valued that is part of a family. Our new property provides a basis for growing a wider family life.

3. **Community** - We are called to serve our community in whatever way is appropriate. We are in the process of discerning how this will work in Riccarton. We know that this is an area where there are many students, single parents and older people living alone, and around a large commercial shopping mall. Riccarton is a multi cultural community where many people speak English as a second language.

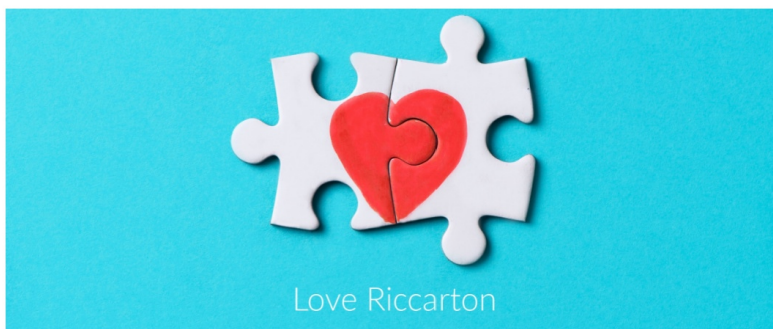
Discipleship - Discipleship is in the DNA of the combined parish, through the ministry of Godly people who have gone before us. From 2019 the Parish began the “School of Good Soil” (disciples making disciples training school born out of the Good Soil Collective). A number of people have joined the Good Soil Collective training as disciples in the way of Jesus.

The parish is fully committed to mission and ministry in the Riccarton area. We have spent time dreaming, visioning, imagining, listening to the Holy Spirit and researching the needs of the area. We have continued to pray, discuss, discern and prayer walk.

We have been led to purchase the property at 200 Riccarton Road, to be a home running as a Mission base intentional community: a beautiful place for people from all walks of life to come and be whānau/family and experience the hope of God.

Property

The property has a large house, 4 bedroom and 2 bathroom, and a 2-story lodge, surrounded by a large, mature garden. It is central to Riccarton. We have established a small chapel in the lodge



The purpose and goal of the ministry

Some statistics about Riccarton:

- A high level of single people, and a high proportion are young adults
- A high number of people who identify as Asian.
- Generally low-income levels
- A large retail and industrial area.

Our purpose is to serve the people in our communities, meet needs and provide community connections in Riccarton. 'Love Riccarton' will be missional and attractional as community through the 5 Marks of Mission:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

Community Connection - When people connect with people. Love Riccarton is a place where we encourage the mystical and beautiful moments that occur when one person meets another. Our example and witness, God does not want a perfect example but a living example. E.g. Alpha Prayer, Alpha Life Course.

Hospitality - When someone opens up their home and life to another. Love Riccarton is space for an open door for people to share life.

2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers. Establish a base for disciples making disciples. And teaching and living the way of Jesus. We think everyone has something to offer and that God creates everyone with unique talents, callings, gifting's and strengths – when it comes to discipleship and mission - everyone gets to play.

3. To respond to human need by loving service

Acts of Service - When we apply action to our words, and serve others above ourselves. Love Riccarton is a place where people are encouraged and given opportunity to serve others through action in some of the following ways: Mums and Bubs groups, English Conversation Class for internationals – spouses and children, parenting classes with 'The Parenting Place' designed to inspire, encourage, and support the strengthening of whānau relationships. We make sure it is fun and entertaining along the way too. New residents will have space to discern who and what they are called to also.

4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation

Social Justice - When humanity works to make things right. Love Riccarton is a safe place for people to explore and share their heartbreaks and find others who carry the same passion for change.

Generosity - When one person puts the needs of others above the wants of self.

Love Riccarton is founded on generosity. This is a place where one can give as well as receive.

Gratitude and Creative Expression - The voice that exists inside everyone being expressed by everyone in their own way. Love Riccarton is a safe place to find, develop, and share your creative voice.

5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth - Environmental Awareness - When we look after the world that we live in. Love Riccarton is where we encourage, discuss, and learn how to be good stewards of the things we have been given.

We are seeking a married couple/family, or a small group of people, to live at 200 Riccarton Road and commence developing this missional ministry. This is a strongly relational ministry and having an understanding of and experience in multi-cultural life/missional ministry/intentional community living would be very helpful. This is a volunteer role (unpaid), and we would expect the persons to be in some form of external work, yet with sufficient capacity and some time during the day for ministry/mission. Affordable living costs would reflect the ministry situation. The ministry and mission would be well-resourced by 'Love Riccarton'.

We are flexible in how the ministry will be set up, as we see that we need to be open to the giftings, situation and experience of the residents and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

We are looking to finalise the expression of interest by the end of May 2021.

If you consider that you may be called to this ministry, and would like to hear more and discuss with



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