

**Mission adviser post: draft background paper**

The Diocese of Chester has been working to reconfigure the way mission and social responsibility are supported and encouraged across the diocese.

To this end they have agreed:

* To combine the departments of Mission and Social Responsibility into one team that would work to the five marks of mission.
* To appoint a Director of Outreach to oversee delivery across all five marks of mission.
* To appoint two part-time officers to have responsibility for 1 and 2 of the five marks of mission, each to be not less than 3 days per week.
* To integrate other existing officers in Mission and Social Responsibility within the new departmental structure.

**The Five Marks of Mission**

The five marks of mission will sit at the heart of the new department:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ.

The first mark of mission will be the cornerstone of the new department’s work. As the Anglican Communion website puts it:

“The first Mark of Mission, identified with personal evangelism at the Anglican Consultative Council in 1984 (ACC-6) is a summary of what all mission is about, because it is based on Jesus’ own summary of his mission. This should be the key statement about everything we do in mission.”

Within this context both mission and social responsibility are to be honoured. The shape of a new team must seek to maintain the balance of the five marks of mission so that evangelism is not lost in a focus on social responsibility, nor that social responsibility is lost in a focus on evangelism.

**The Department of Outreach:**

 This is currently made up of:

* Youth, Children and Families Missioner (f/t)
* Welcome and inclusion Adviser (p/t)
* Christian Giving and Pastoral Reorganisation Missioner (f/t)
* Church Buildings Development Officer (f/t)
* Diocesan Worship Advisor (p/t)
* Transforming Lives Together Community Builder (p/t)
* Head of Counselling Services (p/t)
* CSR Administrator (3 days)
* Mission Administrator (3 days)

It operates under the recently appointed Director of Outreach, whose responsibilities include

* Overseeing delivery across all 5 Marks of Mission in parishes, deaneries and diocese and that the balance of evangelism and social responsibility is sustained.
* Overseeing and line managing the other stipendiary/salaried posts in the department and overseeing the assessment and use of accurate statistical information in liaison with the national church.
* Identifying gaps in mission delivery across the diocese and advising as to possible responses.
* Playing a key role in contributing to the shaping if diocesan missional approaches and advising on possible diocesan missional strategies.

**Mission advisers**

The Department will be joined by two part-time mission advisers who will have differing but related responsibilities in regard to the first two marks of Mission.

One will support the establishing of new Christian communities.

The other, and the first to be appointed, will focus particularly on existing local churches. The adviser will aim to support parishes as they follow the Great Commission, helping them to welcome and nurture disciple-making disciples of Jesus Christ.

It is this role that is currently being considered. It is a new role, in a reformed department, under a new Director: this means that there is a lot that is still to be worked out. The successful candidate will, though,

* Share convictions about the urgency of the missional task facing the church and the significance of the local congregation in meeting this challenge
* Have experience in encouraging discipleship in a local church context and in enabling ministry teams that do this.
* Be adaptable, as we develop a strategy to support mission across the Diocese.
* Show evidence of the ability to work well relationally, understanding different contexts and working sympathetically within them
* Be committed to working as part of a team and supporting the work of others within the department

We particularly welcome applications from candidates with experience in

 discipling online and through social media

 and/or

 effective change management.