

**Buildings for Mission Adviser: background paper**

**Introduction**

The Diocese of Chester has reconfigured the way mission and social responsibility are supported and encouraged across the diocese, combining the departments of Mission and Social Responsibility into one team that works to the five marks of mission, and appointing a Director of Outreach to oversee delivery across these five marks.

The five marks of mission, which sit at the heart of the department, are these:

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 first mark of mission is the cornerstone of the 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.”

**The Department of Outreach**

The Department itself is currently made up of:

* Director of Department for Outreach (f/t)
* Mission Adviser (p/t)
* Youth, Children and Families Adviser (f/t)
* Christian Giving and Pastoral Reorganisation Adviser (f/t)
* Digital Giving Adviser (f/t)
* Engagement and Inclusion Adviser (p/t)
* Head of Counselling Services (p/t)
* 2 Outreach Administrators (p/t)

**Buildings for Mission Adviser**

For seven years the Diocese has employed a Buildings Adviser, supporting churches in maintaining and developing their buildings. Initially this was part-funded by Historic England and focused to some degree on church buildings as heritage assets. Over time funding was taken on wholly by the Diocese and the role developed a more missional focus, helping churches to use their buildings more effectively in reaching out into their communities.

This missional emphasis is one that we are keen to continue. The Buildings for Mission Adviser will work as part of the Outreach team. We aim as a team to help churches to think about their purpose and vision in mission: the Buildings for Mission Adviser will help in this, and enable churches to develop their buildings in ways that serve their mission. They will offer practical help in project planning, and support churches who are looking to find grant funding for buildings development. They will offer training, where appropriate, for those responsible for managing and developing buildings. Church buildings are sometimes the source of concern for parishes, taking up time and money they would rather dedicate to other ends. The Buildings for Mission Adviser will help parishes to identify realistic developments that can turn a burden into an asset.

We are aware that effective support for churches requires a collaborative approach across Church House: the Buildings for Mission Adviser will work closely with the Archdeacons of Chester and Macclesfield and with the Diocesan Advisory Committee, who provide technical advice on many aspects of building management and are responsible for the permissions that churches need under the Faculty process.

This is a role for a committed Christian, who cares about the health and the mission of the local church. While technical understanding will be helpful, of greater significance is the ability to connect with people from differing backgrounds. The role will involve building good relationships with Vicars, PCC’s and other church leaders and understanding the varying challenges that churches face. We are eager to see applicants from a variety of backgrounds and would encourage applications from those who are younger and those from UKME/GMH backgrounds, both of whom are under-represented currently in the Department and the diocese.

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