

**Digital Giving Adviser post: 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)
* Church Buildings Adviser (f/t)
* Engagement and Inclusion Adviser (p/t)
* Head of Counselling Services (p/t)
* 2 Outreach Administrators (p/t)

**Giving Advisers**

The Department includes a Christian Giving and Pastoral Reorganisation Adviser. This is an unusual role which has developed around the abilities of the current adviser. Currently about 0.2 of his time is taken up with encouraging and supporting generosity and giving across parishes and the diocese. He has developed significant expertise in this area and is an active member of the National Giving Advisers Network. The new Digital Giving Adviser will work alongside him until his retirement in 2022.

Both his role and the role of the new Digital Giving Adviser are understood to be part of our work to foster the second mark of mission. Helping people to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ includes encouraging them to live and to give generously. It is the work of the local church to do this, but the Outreach Department offers support, in part because some find it hard to address financial issues, and in part because churches may lack technical expertise. Secondarily, we are aware that local churches and the diocese face financial challenges: part of the role of the Giving Advisers is to enable growing understanding about the funding of the church and the difference that generous giving makes to the church’s mission. The changes that the church has seen because of the COVID pandemic are a significant backdrop to this role: they underline the need for positive and creative work with local churches. The role will involve building good relationships with Vicars, PCC’s and other church leaders; consulting with them about ways to nurture generosity and giving and advising on digital issues ; speaking to PCC’s and congregations; doing these things in collaboration with the other members of the Department and Church House.

This is a role for a committed Christian, who cares about the lives of other Christians and about the health of the local church. It will require some confidence with digital technology, but we recognise that many applicants will need to learn about the particular technology that is used in church giving, and support will be given in this. More important than technical knowledge is the ability to connect with people from different backgrounds, to recognise the varying challenges that churches face, and the Christian understanding, warmth and conviction to inform, encourage and inspire. We are eager to see applicants from 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.

The post has been made possible by the generous support of the Church of England’s Giving Adviser Fund, which is providing funding for 5 years. Additional support and training, where necessary, will be provided through the National Giving Advisers Network.