



DIOCESE OF COVENTRY
DIOCESAN DESIGNATED MISSION HUB CHURCHES
ASSOCIATE MINISTER

ROLE DESCRIPTION: Ordained Anglican Associate Leader within a Diocesan designated Mission Hub Church

LOCATION: Coventry

BACKGROUND TO POST

‘Growing the heart of England’ Vision for 150 new worshipping communities by 2032

This post is one of six posts (Alcester, Leamington, Rugby, Bedworth and a further Coventry one already recruited), each funded by the Diocese, as part of an exciting and adventurous mission strategy to see Healthy churches, propagate, plant, or graft 150 new worshipping congregations / communities / church plants over the next ten years.

The Appendix gives further information about our growth strategy: Growing the Heart of England.

A Mission Hub Church is a parish church (or Benefice), but one where a leader and its congregation have a developed sense and vision for sharing in mission locally, and a clearly expressed desire, ability (or potential with added investment) to resource others in mission, evangelism, and enabling new ways of being church such as Fresh Expressions.

Some hubs churches will have larger, more gathered congregations, with those coming from beyond the parish, but having a growing desire to help grow the church in the community they live in too, and to be in a wider enabling partnership with others irrespective of tradition or style of worship. Some will have leaders with particular charisms that facilitate leadership with a wider emphasis than parochial leadership in a parish / benefice.

To achieve good coverage of the diocese we have identified 6 potential locations for our regional mission hub churches. Due to population density 2 hubs are proposed to serve Coventry, 1 in Nuneaton / Bedworth, 1 in Leamington Spa, 1 in Alcester (but possibly working with Stratford-upon-Avon too), and a sixth situated in Rugby. The locations enable us to offer enabling support to other parts of our diocese including rural areas.

A Mission hub church will offer a gathering point and a focus where people can come from local churches that the hub is seeking to enable and support. They will facilitate learning together, (especially for lay leaders/teams), encourage and share good practice, develop local mentoring between churches. They will be a little like a modern day version of a minster church to serve and equip churches around them. They will accompany and enable development of new congregations and ensure that central resources are drawn on in the right way to support this work. (If you think of a wheel then there is a hub connected by spokes to a rim. The design (connection) enables the wheel to rotate and perform its role.)

Any church can work with their nearest mission hub church, identify what needs they have in

order for them to grow, and what gifts and experience they could share with others via the hub network. This will enable the sharing our gifts for mission and ministry in new ways between different churches and traditions. A mission hub church can also work with a church in any other part of the diocese that it has a particular relationship with that could facilitate mission.

Summary of Role

a) A Diocesan Partnership

The post holder will help grow a new network to resource mission across the diocese that will grow our confidence in evangelism, living out every day, realising the potential to found new churches covering a variety of expressions and traditions

b) A Local leadership and partnership / collaboration

- Facilitate learning for faith sharing
- Growth in baptismal call/discipleship
- Enabling and growing Fresh Expressions
- Pioneering support
- Lay enabling/mentoring
- 'Growing Faith' – children/family/school
- Young adults
- Promote and facilitate a Diocesan 'Mission apprentice' scheme
- Initiate new congregations themselves (Church plants)

Person specification

We are seeking colleagues who:

Self- starters who are good team players, but also with the skills and an ability to take on individual responsibility for key church growth projects

Have experience in leadership in a missional church

Teaching, enabling and facilitating in evangelism, every day faith

Experience of leading or responsibility in a church plant, fresh expression or re-imagining the mission of the local church

Comfortable to work in a breadth of tradition to resource contextual mission

Engaging preacher and communicator

Experience of developing and leading digital church services

Key requirements for this role:

Build good relationships with:

- Incumbent, PCC and Congregation of Hub Church

- Archdeacon Missioner, Director of Healthy church & New worshipping communities, Programme manager New worshipping communities, Area Deans and central resource team (Mission and discipleship team)
- Local churches – incumbents, lay leaders
- Other mission hub church leaders / teams
- St Marks City Centre resource church

Working with Director of HC&NWC, NWC Programme Manager and others to identify which churches are seeking resourcing and enabling to explore, initiate or develop a new congregation / worshipping community or church plant.

Working in a contextual mission approach will be very important. Respect for church tradition, theological difference and contextually appropriate mission and evangelism strategies are an essential element to good working relationships between hub churches and local parishes they engage with.

- With the Incumbent, develop an agreed '150 Vision' Resource Plan with the Director of NWC / NWC Programme Manager (signed off by the Archdeacon Missioner)
 - 4 month meeting with Steering Group / Dir NWC / Programme Manager
 - Agreed report for BCST / Bishop's Council / Diocesan Synod at agreed intervals
 - Annual progress review with Archdeacon missioner and team
- Identify and plan with central team, local staff what specific Learning communities, Training events, On-line learning, evangelism resourcing etc
- Inform planning for short, medium and longer term opportunities for new congregations
- Work with partner local churches in accompaniment, training, mentoring in different phases of thinking, praying, envisioning, launch and development of new congregations.
- Identify potential planting opportunities that the hub might want to plant.
- Identify specific training needs with central team to enable churches to grow
- Help develop and support pioneer / fresh expressions resourcing and training in the diocese
- Share learning across the Hub network
- Participate fully in the regular steering group meetings, strategy development and relevant training and resource events

Additional Information

This post will be a fixed term Common Tenure post under the Interim ministry measure
No guarantee is made regarding funding of the post beyond the interim period.

The stipend is at incumbent level and includes housing in the hub parish or in a convenient location in order for better performance of duties of the role.

The office holder will be appointed under Common Tenure on an interim basis. (The initial license will be for three years with an extension to the four year period requested in year three. Under the interim measure an interim post can only be initiated with a three year reviewable term).