

Diocesan Interfaith Adviser

Role Description

Overall Purpose of the Post

Recognising the growing presence of members of other faith communities in the Diocese of Chester, the Diocesan Interfaith Adviser should seek to develop interfaith dialogue across the Diocese and support and encourage initiatives aimed to improve mutual understanding and collaboration.

The 2005 Report 'Presence and Engagement' identified six opportunities which should frame the way the Interfaith Adviser should work.

OPPORTUNITY 1: To encourage reflection on the theological and scriptural foundations of the Church's engagement in multi Faith areas

OPPORTUNITY 2: To develop additional means of theological and spiritual equipping and training for clergy and laity in multi Faith areas

OPPORTUNITY 3: To encourage and enable the wider Church to learn from the experience of neighbourhood ministry in multi Faith areas

OPPORTUNITY 4: To enable local churches in multi Faith areas to be connected more effectively across diocesan and other boundaries

OPPORTUNITY 5: To assist the national Church and the dioceses to develop long term strategies to support presence and engagement in multi Faith areas

OPPORTUNITY 6: To improve the availability of data and information and to help parishes and dioceses to make strategic use of it.

The work of the Diocesan Adviser will tend to concentrate on those parishes where there is a significant presence of members of other faiths. The Presence and Engagement (P&E) programme was initiated to support and resource parishes which the 2001 census revealed to have notable religious diversity. The language of 'Presence and Engagement' seeks to convey the incarnational nature of the church's life among people of other faiths. The programme focusses on the theological, missiological, pastoral and practical implications of the country's increased religious diversity. Thinking particularly about local contexts, P&E asks what Christian, and specifically Anglican, mission and ministry looks like in a multi-religious society. P&E parishes are those where more than 10% of the population self-identified in the census 2001 as being of another religion.

Principal Duties

1. To promote and encourage Interfaith dialogue across the Diocese at both local and Diocesan level.

2. To encourage reflection within the Church and with other faith communities on shared values and opportunities.
3. Develop extra-diocesan networks of contacts and to represent the Diocese of Chester on interfaith discussions in Manchester.
4. Get involved with planning interfaith events such as Holocaust Memorial Day and National Interfaith Week (mid-November)
5. Keep up to date with developments in interfaith issues and to contribute to discussion where possible.
6. Be a point of contact/sounding board to offer advice, support and guidance to clergy and lay leaders on interfaith issues, especially those parishes recognized as Presence and Engagement parishes.
7. Establish the resources that are already in the Diocese in terms of experience and existing networks and create and develop the Diocesan interfaith web pages to describe the interfaith offer.
8. Be available to speak to groups/parishes/deaneries as requested.
9. Participate in IME training as appropriate.
10. Provide an annual written report to the Diocesan Bishop and to the Outreach Committee via the Race and Ethnicity Forum.
11. Work within the Diocesan guidelines for safeguarding.
12. To be an active member of the Race and Ethnicity forum.
13. To attend training as required.

An Occupational Requirement exists for the postholder to be a practising Christian in accordance with the Equality Act, 2010.

Post subject to enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service Disclosure.

April 2021