



National Missioner to The Society

One full-time or two half-time posts, lay or ordained

JOB DESCRIPTION

Line manager: The Director of Forward in Faith

Wider oversight: The National Missioner Steering Group, chaired by the Bishop of Burnley

Salary / stipend: To be negotiated & dependent on whether the successful applicant is lay or ordained. In the case of a layperson, the post would be at National Church Institutions (NCI) Band 4, which currently equates to a salary of up to £41,216 per annum. In the case of an ordained individual, a stipend and housing / a housing allowance would be offered.

Location: Flexible

Terms & conditions: Two-year fixed-term contract with a three-month notice period. The National Missioner will be employed by an appropriate Diocesan Board of Finance.

Background

This new post, generously funded for two years by the Archbishops' Council, is a unique opportunity for a passionate person, lay or ordained, to equip the 424 parishes of The Society, which is supported by Forward in Faith, in recovering a Catholic vision for evangelism.

Reporting to the Director of Forward in Faith, who also acts as Secretary to The Society's Council of Bishops, and with wider oversight provided by the National Missioner Steering Group, chaired by the Bishop of Burnley, you will work closely with the Council of Bishops to promote a confident mission agenda and support local churches in prioritising growth.

The postholder will also work closely with the newly created role of Communications Manager for The Society.

The purpose of the role

In 2017 the Council of Bishops approved its mission strategy 'Forming Missionary Disciples' which identified six key priorities (see appendix). However, in the absence of any infrastructure, this strategy has not yet been formally launched or had the desired impact.

The Society bishops have identified some key areas of focus drawn from the strategy and with the help of Archbishops' Council strategic capacity funding, the purpose of this new role is to begin to realise the statement's vision of forming a movement of missionary disciples.

Key responsibilities

The postholder will:

- Oversee a bold launch of The Society's mission strategy, 'Forming Missionary Disciples', and prepare resources to support parishes in responding to it.
- Develop a vision for a movement of missionary disciples by laying the groundwork for a Rule of Life for lay Christians that will support them in living out their faith in their daily lives.
- Call together and facilitate groups of priests to grow in confidence and seek fresh joy in developing the life of the local church.
- Build networks with the Church House Evangelism and Discipleship Team, with the four part-time diocese-based Catholic missionaries and other groups, organisations and resource providers.

In addition, the postholder will:

- Explore a proposal to identify key, strategic parishes in different regions of the country.
- Identify what initiatives and ideas are working in a Catholic context and collect and share good practice nationally.
- Appropriately link with initiatives and ideas that are working in a national context and identify opportunities for learning from other traditions.
- Draw together a network of Catholic missionaries from across the dioceses, organising meetings to support and learn from each other.
- Network with staff at Church House, Westminster to ensure the work connects with activity overseen by colleagues from the Evangelism and Discipleship team, Renewal and Reform, Setting God's People Free, and the Strategic Development Unit.
- Work closely with the Bishop of Islington as an Islington Partner and liaise with him on following up shared initiatives.

Key partnerships

- The National Missioner Steering Group
- The Society's Council of Bishops
- The Communications Manager for The Society
- Catholic missionaries working in Dioceses and the Ebbsfleet Parish Development Mentor
- The members of the Church of England's Evangelism & Discipleship and Strategy & Development teams
- The Bishop of Islington
- The Catholic Societies
- The network of Bishop's Representatives
- Resource providers such as Leading your Church into Growth and Divine Renovation

Outputs and outcomes

After two years, the National Missioner Steering Group would expect:

- ‘Forming Missionary Disciples’ to have been confidently launched with parishes encouraged to respond to it.
- A clear set of priorities and a plan drawn up for taking forward practical implementation of ‘Forming Missionary Disciples’.
- At least five groups of clergy meeting together to support and be accountable to each other in leading their churches into growth.
- A pilot of an intentional community of lay people, associated with The Society and with a Rule of Life which would emphasise witness to have been established. An evaluation of the progress, impact and outcomes of this pilot and assessment of whether or not, and how, to take this forward will have been completed.
- An assessment of initiatives/projects which are working in Catholic contexts, and a list of projects which can be applied across other Society parishes will have been undertaken.
- An established network of Catholic missioners from across the dioceses, which will have met regularly and have clear terms of reference
- A legacy plan for the future of the work which may include:
 - a proposal to create ‘centres of excellence’ by identifying key strategic parishes which can model the Catholic life, form priests and lay leaders and resource other parishes across a region.
 - a list of initiatives which are working across the Church in other traditions and proposals on how these might be applied in a Catholic context
 - identification of areas of activity where further investment might best be deployed to accelerate mission and growth

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The successful candidate will:

Essential criteria

- It is an occupational requirement that the postholder will be an Anglican in the Catholic tradition in sympathy with the aims of The Society and, if ordained, will be a priest or deacon of The Society.
- Have experience in church growth and/or in sharing faith
- Have the ability to enthuse and inspire clergy and laity
- Be willing to travel nationally
- Have skills to build positive relationships quickly
- Be able to work with and learn from Christians of other traditions

Desirable criteria

- Research and evaluation skills
- Fundraising experience
- Project management skills

Configuration of the role

There is a degree of flexibility in how the post might be configured. It could be:

- A priest or distinctive deacon working full-time.
- A layperson working full-time.
- Two people, lay or ordained, working together but with a clear division of responsibilities, in which case a specific set of terms and conditions would be agreed.

IDENTIFYING CANDIDATES

Our desire at this stage is to speak to anyone who feels they may have gifts to offer. Even if you feel you have some but not all of the skills or experience required, please get in touch.

For more information, or to express an interest, please contact Tom Middleton, Director of Forward in Faith, via either director@forwardinfaith.com or 07368 124811. Please also get in touch should you know anyone who might be suited to this role.

TIMELINE FOR THE APPOINTMENT

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Friday 21 May 2021 | Closing date for applications |
| Friday 11 June 2021 | Face-to-face interviews in a central London location |
| Early Autumn 2021 | Successful applicant starts in post |

INTERVIEW PANEL

In alphabetical order:

Fr Philip Barnes
Amanda McIntyre
Tom Middleton
+Philip North – Chairman
Fr Tim Pike

HOW TO APPLY

Please email your up-to-date CV along with a short statement of up to 500 words, setting out why you think you are suitable for this role, to director@forwardinfaith.com by **5pm on Friday 21 May 2021**. Thank you.



FORMING MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

A Mission Strategy for The Society

Led by the Holy Spirit and formed by the scriptures and the sacraments, our task as Catholic Anglicans is to draw all people to new life in Christ who is the Living Bread. Strongly committed to working with and within the Church of England, the Bishops, Priests and Parishes of The Society to dedicate themselves afresh to the mission of God's Church and in particular we will prioritise:

1 Forming God's People

We will:

- a) Form all the baptised as missionary disciples through worship, prayer, the study of Scripture and pilgrimage
- b) Set laypeople free for witness and service in the world and the church and seek the renewal of the Religious Life
- c) Draw people from BAME backgrounds into leadership roles
- d) Produce new catechetical materials and a rule of life

2 Nurturing Young Disciples

We will:

- a) Call and train paid and volunteer youth and children's leaders
- b) Better equip parishes for ministry to schools
- c) Teach the faith more effectively to the young through special services, events, pilgrimages and written materials
- d) Give young people a voice in the life of the Church and nurture them as leaders

3 Offering Excellence in Worship

We will:

- a) Encourage every local Church to assess its worshipping and devotional life
- b) Develop those who have a ministry as preachers
- c) Celebrate the beauty of holiness through music, art and sacred space

4 Celebrating Sacramental Priesthood

We will:

- a) Build confidence in the identity of the Church and the nature of priesthood
- b) Take active steps to foster priestly vocations
- c) Use teaching days, conferences and learning communities to encourage lifelong priestly formation

5 Being Intentional in Evangelism

We will:

- a) Support every parish in planning for growth
- b) Create in every local church a culture of invitation and warm hospitality
- c) Encourage evangelistic and teaching events
- d) Plant new Eucharistic communities

6 Serving the Common Good

We will:

- a) Be a prophetic voice for the poor and vulnerable
- b) Re-commit ourselves to service and proclamation in the most deprived parts of the country
- c) Protect the integrity of creation