



# The Society

under the patronage of Saint Wilfrid and Saint Hilda

## **National Missioner to the Society of St Wilfrid and St Hilda** *(One full-time or two half-time posts, lay or ordained)*

### **JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Responsible to:** The Bishop of Burnley

**Reporting to:** The National Missioner Steering Group (chaired by the Bishop of Burnley)

**Stipend/Salary options:** To be negotiated

**Location:** To be negotiated

**Terms:** Two year fixed-term contract. The missioner(s) 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 of St Wilfrid and St Hilda in recovering a Catholic vision for evangelism.

Overseen by the Bishop of Burnley and supported by a national steering group, you will work closely with the Council of Bishops of The Society and the Council of Forward in Faith to promote a confident mission agenda and support local churches in prioritising growth.

### **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 A). However, in the absence of any infrastructure, this strategy has not yet been formally launched or had the desired impact.

The bishops have identified some key areas of focus drawn from the strategy and with the help of Archbishop's 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(s) will:

- Oversee a bold launch of the Society 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 such as the day with Fr James Mallon on 7 May 2020.

### **Key Partnerships**

- The Steering Group
- The Council of Bishops
- The Director of Forward in Faith
- Catholic missionaries working in Dioceses and the Ebbsfleet Parish Development Mentor
- The Communications Officer for Church Union
- Canon Stephen Hance and other members of the Church of England Evangelism and Discipleship extended team
- The Bishop of Islington
- The Catholic Societies
- The network of diocesan Bishop's Representatives
- Resource providers such as Leading your Church into Growth and Divine Renovation

### **Outcomes and Outputs**

After two years, the 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 missionaries from across the dioceses, which will have met regularly and have a 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(s) will:

#### *Essential Criteria*

- It is an occupational requirement that the postholder(s) will be an Anglican in the catholic tradition in sympathy with the aims of the Society of St Wilfrid and St Hilda 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

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

- A priest or distinctive deacon working full-time, in which case a stipend and housing can be provided.
- A layperson working full-time, in which case a salary of c £40,000 p.a. will be offered.
- Two people, lay or ordained, working together but with a clear division of responsibilities, in which case terms and conditions will 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 the Bishop of Burnley ([bishop.burnley@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:bishop.burnley@blackburn.anglican.org)) for an informal conversation. Or should you know anyone who may be suited to this role, please get in touch.



# 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 of St Wilfrid and St Hilda 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