

## **Background**

An increasing majority in our churches and communities are deeply anxious about climate change and environmental degradation and there is a growing realisation of the uneven way that the climate crisis is affecting communities across the world. Christians are ever more aware that this is an issue of faithful discipleship: generous Christian living clearly requires us to change our lifestyles for the sake of the created order and the imperative to love our neighbour.

As a diocese we share this concern and have shown our commitment to safeguarding God's creation by registering as an EcoDiocese and by agreeing a Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030. Our work towards Net Zero Carbon has been furthered by the appointment of a full time Net Zero Carbon Project Officer, but this focussed work needs to sit alongside a wider ambition aimed at changing attitudes. We hope that the appointment of a Diocesan Environment Adviser will help facilitate this goal, by encouraging and enabling individuals, parishes, diocesan structures, schools and chaplaincies to go further in caring for the created order and showing compassion towards other people.

## **Role**

To date, this support for creation care has come from volunteers sitting on the Diocesan Environment Forum or as part of the wider role of those working in CSR or Outreach. The DEA will support the Environment Forum as it continues to share ideas and encourages broadly across the Diocese as a whole. More significantly, they will work with the newly formed Eco Diocese Group as they inspire, encourage and support individuals, churches and other Christian communities to cherish creation, live responsibly and speak up. They will do this, in particular, by helping advance the Eco Diocese status of Chester Diocese to Silver by Easter 2025 and by enabling greater and more effective participation in the Eco Church initiative by individual parishes and deaneries. They will aim to realise 50% of churches registered with the scheme (currently 34%), 30% of churches achieving an award (currently 17%) and 10% achieving a silver award (currently 5%). In doing this they will pay special attention to land management and biodiversity, in pursuance of the motion passed by General Synod in March 2024.

## **Responsibilities**

In order to achieve this, the DEA might use a number of means:

1. Developing an informal network of trusted relationships with clergy, lay leaders and church communities, providing practical support in their work relating to creation care, and, in particular, towards Eco Church status.
2. Speaking and teaching in churches, church groups or deaneries to encourage a practical response to the call to cherish creation, live responsibly and speak up.

3. Working with the Diocesan Communications Team, ensuring a supply of information, stories, messages and news.

At a Diocesan and national level the DEA will:

1. Connect with, and participate in, the national Diocesan Environmental Officer network on issues relevant to the role.
2. Provide relevant committees and groups with data and reports, undertaking analysis and research where required.
3. Play a leading role in helping to implement the overall diocesan vision and strategy for the environment as required.

### **Relationships**

They will report to the Director of the Department for Outreach but will develop a wide range of working relationships across Church House and the churches and institutions within the diocese. In particular, they will support the work of the Environment Forum and the newly formed Eco Diocese Group, working in close collaboration with the Net Zero Carbon Project Officer and the Building for Mission Adviser. They will work in collaboration with other Church House Departments, particularly Diocesan Advisory Committee, Ministry and Education and the Strategic Programme Director.

### **Salary and Cost.**

A salary of £28 - £32,000 pro rata meaning that a two day a week role would receive a salary of £11,200 – 12,800.

Date: June 2024

*Note – this job description does not form part of your Contract of Employment.*