

 **Churches Together in Lancashire**

**Social Justice/Inter Faith**

**Development Officer**

**Job Description**

***This is a half-time post (20 hours a week)***

**Job title**: Social Justice/Inter Faith Development Officer for

Churches Together in Lancashire

**Location**: The officer will work from his/her home

**Accountable to**: Churches Together in Lancashire (the employer) c/o its Chair

who will meet with the Officer on a regular basis

and will put into place effective line management and support for the Officer.

# Overview

The dual aspects of this role mean that:

The Social Justice/Inter Faith Development Officer shall facilitate and support the churches of Lancashire in their wider mission in the world, particularly with regard to social justice, public policy and partnerships, by encouraging and developing community engagement, social action, project development, and commitment to social justice and environmental sustainability throughout the life of the Church in Lancashire.

The Social Justice/Inter Faith Development Officer shall lead on inter faith matters for Churches Together In Lancashire, working closely with Churches Together in Lancashire Church Leaders, Member Churches, the Officers of Churches Together in Lancashire and local Churches Together groups to increase understanding and hospitality, to enable dialogue, respect and collaboration for the common good between Christians and people of different faiths.

In particular, s/he will:

* Work in partnership with the Ecumenical Facilitator and alongside other colleagues within Churches Together in Lancashire (CTL )
* Increase the engagement of the Church in Lancashire in public issues through appropriate representation, participation and partnerships.
* Promote and support local ecumenical action on social issues.
* Increase the engagement of the Church in Lancashire in inter faith relationships

# Tasks

1. The Social Justice/Inter Faith Development Officer shall assist the Churches at all levels in Lancashire to engage with their local and wider communities in social action and social issues as a key part of their outreach.
2. S/he will participate in core meetings of Churches Together in Lancashire to ensure in conjunction with the Ecumenical Facilitator that the member churches are so enabled to be effective partners in this work.
3. The Social Justice/Inter Faith Development Officer shall ensure effective and strategic representation and participation of the faith community in the work of partner organisations and agencies both public and third sector. The Officer will sometimes be required to liaise personally with these bodies but also to identify appropriate volunteers from within the church community to undertake a wide variety of representative roles as part of a collaborative style of working.
4. S/he will encourage and develop engagement of the faith community with both political representatives and policy development, for example through arranging meetings with MPs and through responses to statutory agency consultations.
5. From time to time the Social Justice/Inter Faith Development Officer may be required to initiate county-wide projects, in partnership with appropriate public and third sector agencies.
6. S/he will support the development of social action and community outreach by local church communities through the provision of information and resources for networking.
7. Together with the Ecumenical Facilitator, the Social Justice/Inter Faith Development Officer will oversee all CTL publications, including the newsletter, annual report and the website. A key task is to communicate good news stories.
8. To respond, in collaboration with Church Leaders, to local, national and international developments and incidents with inter faith implications, and support Churches Together groups and local churches in their response.
9. To continue and develop work with statutory authorities and voluntary agencies and to enable Churches Together in Lancashire to respond to government initiatives in the inter faith area.
10. To take an active role on behalf of Churches Together In Lancashire in the Lancashire Forum of Faiths, and similar local bodies, as well as at significant inter faith events in the county.
11. To monitor and evaluate the activities and attitudes of Churches Together In Lancashire in the area of inter faith relations, to make recommendations for future policy decisions and report periodically to Churches Together In Lancashire's Church Leaders..

The Social Justice/Inter Faith Development Officer works in a wider context of ecumenical engagement supported by Churches Together in England most usually via its Field Officer for the North and Midlands. S/he will attend annual meetings of Intermediate ('County') Ecumenical Officers and related staff and will meet with those in the region two or three times a year for mutual support, help and collaboration.

# Other requirements

This is a half-time post and much of the work involves travelling in the CTL area and beyond. The Social Justice/Inter Faith Development Officer will work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends – this is not a 'fixed hours' job.

An Occupational Requirement exists for the post-holder to be a Christian in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

The post is subject to an enhanced check by the Disclosure and Barring Service.

22 August 2013