



The Methodist Church

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	District Evangelism and Community Engagement Enabler
Location:	Work base - the District Office in Darlington with travel around the district and beyond as appropriate.
Responsible to:	The District Vision and Strategy Team, line managed by the Chair of the Darlington District.

Purpose and Objectives:

The Darlington District is in the process of re-interpreting its mission strategy in the light of the Methodist Church's reaffirmation of *Our Calling*. As a district we want to go deeper with *Our Calling* and develop a 10 year focus under the title, 'Every church growing'. The District has a considerable Methodist heritage but whilst there are several pockets of energy, talent and growth, membership (c. 5150) has been in decline for several decades and the age profile of our congregations continues to grow older. Our aim is to reverse these trends and to see long term growth in numbers even if numbers continue to decline in the short to medium term. There is a realistic recognition that growth will require pain and pruning and that in reality many congregations feel tired, discouraged and overloaded. We believe that change in this context requires a consistent, long term approach committed to the nurture of an outward looking, hope filled and confident culture.

Main Responsibilities

The role will help to focus on the following areas which underpin the wider District vision:

- Enabling circuits to live out their calling, supporting churches to assess their health, vitality and viability for the future with a particular focus on evangelism and community engagement.

Charitable Trust Registered Number 1133814

District Chair: Rev Richard Andrew, 2 Edinburgh Drive, Darlington, DL3 8AW, 07854 451921, richard.andrew@methodist.org.uk

Synod Secretary: Mrs Anne Offler, 42 John Street North, Meadowfield, Durham, DH7 8RS 0191 378 2883, anneoffler56@talktalk.net

District Admin: Miss Rebecca Catford, Dist. Office, Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Carmel Road South, Darlington, DL3 8DJ, 07484 886006, dmd13office@gmail.com

- Supporting Superintendents, Circuit Leadership Teams and staff teams in the development of circuit and local church mission plans with a particular focus on:
 - enabling churches to focus their resources – people, property and finance – on mission
 - the identification and development of local opportunities for community engagement and evangelism
 - planning and resourcing specific mission oriented projects and opportunities
 - community engagement and outreach
 - intergenerational mission
- To identify and develop opportunities in the district for fresh expressions, new church plants and grafts.
- To share insights and examples of best practice from across the connexion, ecumenical partners and the world church.
- To facilitate courses, events and innovative evangelistic approaches in the District in response to the changing context of its mission and ministries.
- To nurture, resource and encourage individuals in the development of evangelistic, community focused and pioneer ministries.
- To encourage work in partnership with other churches, faith groups and community groups as appropriate.
- To act in accordance with all safeguarding and GDPR requirements.
- To maintain and develop links with connexional and regional mission and evangelism groups, and with the regional Learning Network team and the District Missioners' Community.
- To report to the District Vision and Strategy Team, District Policy Committee and the Synod on a regular basis.

Terms and conditions

- Terms of appointment: fixed term until August 31st 2024 with the possibility of a further extension.
- For a lay employee, a salary of £26,600 - £32,250 per annum pro rata is offered depending on skills and prior experience. For a Methodist minister normal terms and conditions apply.
- Normal working pattern: 37 hours per week, including evenings and weekends as required.
- For ministers usual stipend and terms and conditions will apply.
- Opportunities for in service development.
- All reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

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- There is a contributory pension scheme to which eligible lay employees will be auto enrolled. Lay employees who do not meet the auto enrolment criteria are eligible to join the scheme subject to certain provisions.
- 28 days statutory annual leave entitlement per year plus bank holidays.
- Appointment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure & Debaring Service (DBS) disclosure.
- Appointment will be subject to satisfactory references
- Appointment will be subject to the satisfactory completion of a three-month probationary period.

Management

- The work will be overseen by a management group meeting quarterly
- The District Evangelism and Community Engagement Enabler will be line-managed on a day to day basis by the Chair of District or other nominated person whose responsibilities will include:
 - Determining priorities for the work in consultation with the District Evangelism and Community Engagement Enabler.
 - Preparing a personal development plan with the District Evangelism and Community Engagement Enabler
 - Monitoring and evaluating progress with the District Evangelism and Community Engagement Enabler on a regular basis (meetings will take place at least monthly during the probationary period and at least bi-monthly thereafter).

Person Specification

Attributes	Essential	Desirable	Method of Assessment
1. Education and Training	Degree or equivalent higher professional qualification in a relevant field to specialism or be able to demonstrate substantial equivalent experience (e.g. evangelism, church planting, teaching, adult education/training, community development, community & youth work, social work, change management, missiology)		A, Q

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		Formal theological training	A
		Experience in project management or organisational development and consultancy	A/I
	Evidence of commitment to lifelong learning and professional development		A
2. Proven abilities, knowledge and skills	Experience of work in evangelistic and community building contexts and, as appropriate, work in fresh expressions, church planting and pioneering		A/I
	Management of volunteers		A/I
	Evidence of delivering work plans according to guidelines and agreed standards		A/I
	Proven ability to form good working relationships with internal and external partners		A/I
		Proven ability to work in an ecumenical context	A/I
	Proven experience in designing and delivering high quality training/education, community development and mission activities		A/P
		Ability to design and evaluate review processes	A
	Ability to reflect theologically and enable other Christians to do so		A/I/P
	High standard of written and oral presentation and consultancy skills		A/I/P

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	Ability to think strategically		A/I
	Ability to use ICT systems competently and creatively		A/P
	Use of PowerPoint, word processing and email		A/P
		Experience of work in a variety of Christian contexts or other voluntary organisations	A/I
		A good working knowledge of the Methodist Church and its systems	A/I
	Ability to plan own work but also to collaborate flexibly with others and be able to adapt to complex and competing priorities		A/I
	Ability to travel independently, both extensively within the district and occasionally beyond		A
	An awareness of, and sensitivity to, issues of equality, diversity and inclusion and a commitment to the unique value of the individual in all aspects of the Church's life		A/I
	An awareness and understanding of the particular issues and cultural context in the district and region		A/I
Personal Qualities			
	In sympathy with the ethos of the Methodist Church as expressed through <i>Our Calling</i> and <i>Priorities for the Methodist Church</i>		A/I
	Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues, and others, including volunteers, throughout the Methodist		A

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	Church		
	Professional and positive approach, with a commitment to professional development and self-improvement		A/I
	Openness to and understanding of different theological approaches to mission		A/P
	Member in good standing of a church in association with CTBI or equivalent and able to articulate own faith experience		A/I

Method of Assessment: A – Application Form; I – Interview; W – Written exercise; P – Presentation;

G – Group exercise; Q – Proof of qualification (certificates or transcripts)

(We reserve the right to assess any other aspects of the role in a format not previously described)

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