

## **DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CANON CHANCELLOR**

This compelling new role reflects the commitment of the Diocese of Liverpool to grow a bigger church to make a bigger difference. Similarly, it corresponds to the 'promoting fairness' priority of Liverpool Cathedral, which sits within the role of Canon Chancellor.

There is already strong collaboration between the Diocese and Liverpool Cathedral. This and the significant overlap in some of the duties makes it appropriate to marry the two positions. We expect that the Director of Social Justice aspect will represent 75% of the post and the Canon Chancellor 25%. However, given the common elements between the two, this can only be a guide.

### **Job summary**

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This ground-breaking new role seeks to foster/nurture a movement of Christians concerned about matters of social justice in their community and beyond. This will include theological reflection that is rooted in practice, networking and project development and support. It will also require the ability to think quickly and creatively on issues of social justice providing advice and support to bishops and others as requested and being alert to emerging social justice issues, both those starting to feature nationally/internationally and those being experienced in parishes and projects.

There are several core elements to this role:

- Giving advice to bishops and dean on issues of social justice
- Being available to parishes for advice on issues of social engagement
- Drawing together those who seek to make a difference in specific areas of the life of the communities of the Diocese.
- Developing projects and resources for social engagement which can be replicated and used at local level across the Diocese.
- Providing and enabling theological reflection on issues of social justice and making connections with other sources of such reflection.
- Helping ensure that the common life of the Diocese and Cathedral reflect and incorporate the values and practices we advocate
- Working with partners in other Christian denominations, with those of other faiths and with all people of goodwill so as to build coalitions for change

### **Advice to bishops**

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The Bishop of Liverpool, the Bishop of Warrington and the Dean of Liverpool are prominent voices in the Liverpool city region and beyond. They are regular contributors to the local and regional media and are routinely asked to speak and comment on issues

of social justice. The post-holder will be expected to provide good quality advice and briefings, often at relatively short notice.

### **Advice more generally**

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A key part of the role is brokering advice and support for parishes, sector ministers and individuals. There are already a number of networks that are significantly self-resourcing and a range of expertise on which we can draw (including Together Liverpool). However, the post-holder will be expected to give some help and signposting support to parishes, sector ministers and individuals recognising, of course, that demand for such advice and support will always outstrip reasonable supply.

### **Drawing people together**

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There is a deep well in the diocese and cathedral of people committed to making a bigger difference in their community. Some of these are already engaged in thematic groups within the diocese (including issues affecting people in rural areas, with mental health challenges and disabilities). We need both to tap into and strengthen this network of people. The post-holder will be responsible for bringing people together to explore issues of common concern and nurture new ideas and movements.

In particular s/he will work closely with the diocesan Priorities Strategy Group, which focuses on our commitment to areas of greatest deprivation, as well as Together Liverpool and the Church Credit Champions Network, both of which are located in the diocesan offices.

### **Project development**

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There are a number of excellent projects across the diocese meeting particular needs. There are equally a whole host of significantly unmet needs. We have limited resources but want to make the biggest possible difference. The post-holder will need to be creative and proactive in identifying projects inside and outside the diocese that we may be able to replicate or adapt to help parishes and individuals respond to needs in their communities.

The post-holder will be expected in the first instance at least to chair the Hope+ Foodbank working out of Liverpool Cathedral.

### **Theological reflection**

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There is a distinctiveness to the Christian response to issues of social justice. There is also, no doubt, a myopia which prevents us from seeing the full picture. There can also be a fundamental lack of confidence in the way in which Christians feel able to engage in social justice. The post-holder will be expected to reflect theologically on matters of social justice in a way that challenges and disrupts existing thinking and also gives people greater confidence to speak and act.

## **Inclusion**

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We want to ensure that we become and remain inclusive communities and the post-holder is expected to be at the forefront of that. In particular s/he will need to work closely with our advisers on disability and among deaf people. S/he will also line manage our Safeguarding Advisers to help ensure we remain at the leading edge of safeguarding practice.

## **Canon Chancellor**

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As Canon Chancellor the post-holder will be expected to lead, on behalf of the Chapter, the Cathedral's commitment to 'promoting fairness'. As a residentiary canon and a member of the Cathedral Chapter, the post-holder will share with colleagues in shaping and delivering the Cathedral's strategic plan. This will mean playing an active part the daily / weekly round of worship (including, pro rata, Sunday duties), the weekly routine of Tuesday morning meetings, and the monthly meeting of Chapter.

## **Management and support**

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The post-holder will need to form close working relationships with the Bishops, Dean and Residentiary Canons as well as the senior managers in St James House. As Director of Social Justice s/he will be line managed by the Assistant Diocesan Secretary for Justice, Inclusion & External Relations but fully recognising the very fluid and networked nature of this role. For the specific duties which attach to Canon Chancellor s/he will be directly accountable to the Dean.

The post-holder will be based in St James House and housed (if s/he wishes) on the cathedral campus.

As a senior member of cathedral and diocesan staff the postholder will be expected to engage fully in Chapter, senior management and other meetings.