

God for All

What is the role of a Mission Community Leader?

- To embody a collaborative approach to leadership and be foremost in enabling the ministry of others
- Be an enthusiastic advocate for the Mission Community, articulating its story in a way that highlights the work of God in this place and inspires others to join in
- Be a focus for unity, holding together the different sorts of church in the Mission Community
- To advocate for effective local participation and mutually accountable decision-making

Follow Daily | Speak Boldly | Care Deeply | Tread Gently

Our commitment to you:

To recognise that the Mission Community you are leading is unique and to provide appropriate guidance and support to navigate the particular opportunities and challenges in your context. This may be provided by your Strategic Development Officer, the central God for All team or Denominational Mission Area Lead.

To set a culture in the Ecumenical County which encourages Leaders and the wider Mission Community to experiment and try things. We recognise and value that failing and flourishing in missional activity are both of equal worth because of what we will learn for next time.

To provide an annual programme of learning, development, mentoring and coaching to enable you to thrive as a Mission Community Leader.

To provide, through archdeaconry Mission Community Leader meetings, opportunities for peer support and networking, updates from the archdeaconry, diocese and Mission Area Lead as well as creating opportunities for influencing and collaboration on key strategic areas.

To ensure we provide you with an annual review (which may be part of a denominational ministry development review) which recognises your efforts, successes and challenges in ways which ensure you and your leadership is valued, nurtured and encouraged.

Mission Community Leadership: the core task

Using the Garden Planner and other strategic planning resources made available by God for All, each Mission Community Leader will have the means to support the strategic development and planning of their local Mission Community and encourage church leaders within the Mission Community team to engage in Faithful Improvisation.

As described in the Garden Planner, there are 'Six Things' which are central to growth and the responsibility of the whole Mission Community to focus on.

Of course, this all sits within our God for All vision and strategy and its four central themes – Follow Daily, Speak Boldly, Care Deeply and Tread Gently. Those themes are the heart of our work to grow God's kingdom and underpin everything we do.



It's important to emphasise the Leader is not responsible for making these happen, instead this is a shared responsibility with all church leaders across the Mission Community (MC) team:

- Prioritising **Prayer:** The MC leadership team are invited to meet regularly to pray, especially for the life and mission of the Mission Community.
- Encouraging and nurturing **Discipleship:** Church leaders will seek the development of appropriate provision to encourage the spiritual growth of all people appropriate to their stage in the journey of faith.
- Exciting **Vocations:** Make the most of the ministry gifts by which God has endowed the church by encouraging the development of all Christians in their vocation and ministry. This can be undertaken by:
  - setting a culture of mutual encouragement and discernment of the gifts of God's people
  - actively looking for ways to enable all people within the Mission Community to serve according to the calling and gifts of each, setting a culture of collaboration
  - helping one another and congregations to discern and equip a "shepherd" in every community, who need not be ordained, but will be the overseer of the Church in that place
- Overseeing **Stewardship:** churches are enabled to work together to resource the Church's Mission, including:
  - the appropriate running of the Ministry Offer or equivalent denominational process, leading to the making of a Partnership Agreement with the Diocese, Methodist Circuit or equivalent denominational body and watching over the resourcing of local ministry in the God for All partner denominations
  - the financial resourcing of MC activities, ensuring that joint funds are appropriately administered and accounted for (this may be via a CIO or equivalent charitable structure)
  - the implementation of the Buildings Strategy in the Mission Community

- **Operating effectively** with churches within the Mission Community being supported to find appropriate ways of working together without creating additional layers of governance. This should:
  - enable churches to collaborate well together at every level
  - allow them to take key strategic decisions together where possible identifying areas of fruitful collaboration, joint funding and partnerships
  - allow them to work together on their core common tasks
- Enabling collaborative **Mission** at local level: church leaders are encouraged to focus on those areas of mission where they can achieve more together and enable mission at a local level to:
  - be collaborative and effective (ecumenical where possible)
  - supplement or enhance the 'reach' and provision of the local church and/or school into the community
  - allow local churches to work together on their core common tasks

If you have any questions or would like more detailed information, please contact your Strategic Development Officer or the Director of Mission and Ministry, Support and Innovation.

For more information and contacts please visit www.godforall.org.uk

