

Rev Debora Marschner
Chairperson of M CCP
8 John Hibbard Rise, Sheffield, S13 9UX
Tel: 0114 2889993
@: debora.marschner@methodist.org.uk

To the Sheffield Methodist District
c/o Neil Harland
mission@sheffieldmethodist.org



Project Outline

for the creation of a new post of **COMMUNITY COHESION AND OUTREACH WORKER** for the Manor Church and Community Project (M CCP)

Founded in 2013, became a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) in 2015, The Manor Church and Community Project (M CCP) is an exciting local church initiative and Local Ecumenical Partnership, supported by the Church of England, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church.

M CCP seeks to bring about social justice by creating an inclusive, welcoming and flexible environment in which community can be built and thrive. The project works through a community development approach with local partner organisations and individuals to challenge inequality, address community needs, social isolation and social deprivation. It works across one of the most deprived estates in the country and is a Christian presence within the Manor and Castle Ward.

For the past 8 years, the leadership and presence of an ecumenically funded Church Related Community Worker (CRCW) has led to new partnerships and many different activities taking place across the area, reaching hundreds of people, addressing evident needs (food poverty, debt problems, social isolation, lack of activities for children and young people, adult education), creating community and providing opportunities to explore Christian spirituality (Messy Church, Godly Play, Family Church).

With the postholder leaving to take up a new role, there is a danger that much of the progress made by the Project in those years will be lost or stalled.

We are therefore proposing a **new role of Community Cohesion and Outreach Worker** to be created and funded by the three denominations. We want to build on the achievements to date, develop new community services and initiatives, promote Temple Park Centre as a community hub and become more intentional in our Christian outreach.

Prior to the pandemic, we provided a diverse range of community activities and opportunities. These included activity sessions for families, including Messy Church and Godly Play. Leadership roles were taken in the development of uniformed organisations (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts), the Manor After-School Kids Klub (MASKK), Bingo and Lunch Club. We also hosted Adult Education Classes, Stay Play and Eat sessions, Best Start, Communities Count Volunteer Training and the Tenants and Residents Association (TARA).

The project's aim is to improve life skills and opportunities, especially for young people, while promoting responsible choices, nurturing young leaders, promoting social upliftment in the community and inspiring many to look beyond what is, to what one day can be.

The role of Community Cohesion and Outreach Worker will engage with all parts of the Manor community and will seek to reach families and children, older adults, particularly those suffering from social isolation, people not in employment, education or training, people with disabilities, teenagers and young adults seeking a safe place to meet.

We envisage the three main responsibilities of the new post holder to be:

- Engagement with the community (old and new)
 - Develop new and continuing relationships
 - Build bridges between the existing and emerging new communities (new housing)
 - Develop new forms of church and worship with and for local people
- Working in partnership with local agencies and organisations
 - Maintaining and continuing to build on the good relationships with the Manor Parish and other agencies by deepening those partnerships and developing joint strategies
- Responsibilities for Temple Park Centre

They will be line managed by a named trustee of the charity and report to the board of trustees quarterly.

We believe that the nurture and growth of faith happens through the deepening of relationships with people, through journeying with them and building mutual trust. We achieve this by helping people help themselves, working with them to break out of social isolation or cycles of debt, homelessness, loss of work and income by assisting them to build resilience and re-build their lives and overcome hardship. Through this support, we can help bring about social justice which we see as an integral part of our Christian faith.

Through the different ways that the Charity through this new role will engage with our community partners, families and local residents, we strive to create opportunities to build resilience and cohesion in the community.

As a *Church* and Community project, sharing faith has been an integral part of our approach since the beginning. This happens through the work of the Anglican parish as well as through the Messy Church style craft activities MCCP has held regularly before the pandemic. We are planning to re-launch these *crafternoons* in the same format at Temple Park Centre in due course, with the intention that the Community Cohesion and Outreach Worker will become an integral part of the team going forward.

Now that the Project is moving into a new phase, we will be planning additional activities and meetings which will include a more open and direct way of sharing our Christian faith. Amongst these are Godly Play sessions around a community meal, a more specific ministry to toddlers (and their parents/ carers), holiday club work and support for older residents facing social isolation.

The salary is set at £25,000 per annum.

We hope to finance this new post ecumenically for three years. The anticipated total cost is therefore £30,000 each (if 3 partners contribute), and £45,000 each (if only 2 partners contribute).

£7,000 is reserved in the MCCP budget for start up and unforeseen costs.

We are applying for grants of the same amounts to the URC Mission Fund, the Sheffield Church Burgesses Trust and to the Sheffield Methodist Circuit and District:

£	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Option 1 – 3 partners contribute	10,017	10,185	10,496	30,697
Option 2 – 2 partners contribute	15,025	15,278	15,744	46,046

Looking ahead to the end of this fixed term contract, we are confident that we would attract further outside funding for the post to continue. We anticipate increased rental income for Temple Park Centre which will hopefully cover some of the cost attributed to this post, but given that we work across an area of high deprivation, we can expect to continuously having to rely on additional grants.

We are looking to apply to the Sheffield Methodist Circuit and District for grants in the region of £15,000 each (with 3 partners contributing) and £23,000 each (with 2 partners contributing).