

## **FAITH AND JUSTICE LINK OFFICER (SALT & LIGHT REP) GUIDELINES**

### **Profile of the role**

The role of Faith and Justice Link Officer (or 'Salt & Light Rep') is flexible, and much will depend on your own particular interests and the time that you have available. It will therefore differ from parish to parish and from person to person.

Set out below are some guidelines to help you think about some of the things you could do to best fulfil this role in your particular context. At its simplest it is about helping information flow from and to your parish, so that everyone in the network knows what is going on and we can share good ideas and help each other.

### **1. Some ideas to help with the flow of communication**

- You will receive regular mailings (email) from Church House alerting your congregation through you to local, regional and national issues of interest or concern. Link Officers will use local knowledge to work out how best to pass this information on within the parish.
- You can pass on information to your Deanery Faith and Justice Link Officer and/or Church House which you wish to be communicated more widely across the network. You can do this at any time and we will ask you for information twice a year so that we can give the Board of Faith and Justice an overview of what is going on in the parishes.
- You will receive a briefing note after each meeting of the Board of Faith and Justice to keep you and your parish informed on Salt and Light progress and activity.
- You will be asked twice a year to provide the Board of Faith and Justice with a brief report of current activity and issues of interest or concern from your parish or deanery. Deaneries will decide locally whether this will be provided directly by parish reps or collated by deanery reps. A pro forma will be produced to help you and provide guidance on what information is required.

### **2. Some ideas to strengthen the network through building relationships and sharing good practise**

- The Director of Parish Support Team will invite you to attend a meeting of the Parish and Deanery Link Officers twice a year so that we can meet and encourage each other, share news and exchange good ideas.
- Deanery Link Officers will facilitate meetings of Parish Link Officers as and when required.(see 4)

### **3. Some ideas about listening to the congregation**

The Salt and Light Strategy is based on the principle that God moves in the hearts of his people when he wants them to pray or act for a particular situation. Therefore, we need to find some ways of listening to our congregations.

Here are some ideas.

- Once a year work out with the Vicar / PCC a way to listen to the particular issues that grieve their church members about their communities and the world in which they live.
- Agree with the Vicar / PCC how these concerns can be gathered into the intercessions and prayer life of the church.

- Help the PCC to use this information in its Mission Action Planning Cycle, identifying the things your church can start to do something about.
- Identify things which you would like to work on with others within your deanery, Mission Partnership, Diocese or ecumenically, and chat about this with your Deanery Link Officer or ecumenical partner.

#### **4. Some ideas to help you communicate with your PCC a congregation**

- To be an effective channel of communication between the Salt and Light Network and your PCC. The Parish Faith and Justice Link Officer could be an elected member, co-opted member or attend occasionally by invitation. This needs to be decided locally, so chat it through with your Vicar or ask for an agenda item to be put on your PCC to discuss how to make this work well.
- Not everything sent to you on mailings from the Diocese will resonate with your church. Congregations sometimes suffer from information overload or compassion fatigue. You can help by using your local knowledge to publicise the issues which are of interest to your congregation or community. We trust your judgement to filter the information sent to you.
- Ask permission to use one of the notice boards in church to publicise faith and justice issues. Update the information regularly so that it is timely and interesting.
- If an issue seems really important ask if the information can be included in the notices, news sheets or parish magazine.

#### **Deanery Faith and Justice Link Officer**

It would be helpful if each Deanery Synod could identify a Deanery Link Officer who could encourage and support the work of the Parish Link Officers. This could be a separate role, or be carried out by one of the Parish Officers who is willing to take on this added responsibility.

- To undertake the tasks allocated to the Deanery Link Officer in points 1-4 above.
- To work with the Area Dean to explore whether there is a common issue on which a campaigning strand or joint deanery project may emerge.
- To work with the Area Dean to encourage the sharing of resources and expertise across the parishes and to identify any particular areas for joint training.