

The Diocesan Evangelism Team Draft Information Sheet

Following on from the Crossroads mission with Archbishop Sentamu and the Northern Bishops in 2016, we are looking at options for continuing to resource evangelisation within Blackburn Diocese. We have been encouraged by our Bishops to ensure Crossroads leaves a legacy and does not become a “one off” event in our Diocese. As part of the Crossroads legacy, we are taking steps to create a Diocesan Evangelism Team (DET).

This DET will consist of people who have an active commitment to mission, outreach and evangelism. The team will deliberately be diverse in its make-up; containing people who are lay and ordained, male and female, from a spread of ages and church traditions. The team will contain a mix of people with a variety of gifts and skills, including: music, drama, sharing their testimony, delivering talks, experience in youth and children’s ministry and people who are good at chatting with people one to one. The uniting factors within the team will be a living faith in Jesus and a desire to help others encounter God’s love in Christ.

The team will be available to help with “one off” outreach events, Mission weekends and other mission programmes.

The aim is to serve the parish church and provide the resources to help in evangelisation at a local level. This will be achieved by

- Supporting outreach in the local church
- Building confidence in outreach and evangelism within the team
- Building confidence in outreach and evangelism in local congregations
- Creating opportunities for people to put gifts and skills to work in The Kingdom of God.
- Developing and enhancing a culture of faith sharing and personal invitation in the life of the diocese.

Frequently Asked Questions

How will the DET work?

The DET will work in a variety of ways. Some members may be invited to support outreach by participating in “one-off” events, whilst others may support evangelisation over an extended period, for example as part of a Bishop’s Mission Weekend.

As part of our Vision 2026 commitment to being witnesses to Jesus Christ, our Bishops and Archdeacons have committed to making themselves available to engage in mission in a parish setting. These Bishop’s Mission Weekends (BMW) will run from Friday through to Sunday, with a range of different outreach activities being organised over the three days. In 2017 there are four mission weekends planned; March, April, September and October, and there are currently eight potential mission weekends pencilled in for 2018. The DET for each weekend will be comprised of a Bishop, and/or an Archdeacon, the Diocesan Missioner and DET members.

DET members will also be involved in “one-off” events and other focussed outreach. These events could include youth and children’s work. Overall, DET members will be encouraged to use their gifts to share the Good News. Gifts

in music, drama and public speaking are welcome, as is the ability to get alongside folk and just chat to them, sharing testimonies and answering any questions.

Who can be part of the DET?

We are approaching a wide range of people to be part of the DET. This includes lay people, ordinands, curates in 2nd year onwards and clergy with particular gifts and skills. The key qualities will be a living faith in Jesus and a desire to help others encounter him.

What's the commitment?

We recognise that many people have busy lives with a range of family, work, church and leisure commitments. We suggest that offering to be involved in one weekend or two one-off events in a year is about the right level of commitment. We understand DET members are volunteers and as such will be invited to share their availability with the DET coordinator, Lesley Hinchcliffe.

What training will be given?

Training events will be offered to DET members in addition to experience gained 'on the job'. We are committed to develop a range of ministries to serve the needs of our Diocese.

What do I gain?

Being a member of the DET will give you the opportunity to serve God and to exercise your God given gifts. DET members will grow and develop their ministry as they help to fulfil Vision 2026 for Blackburn Diocese.

How do I become a DET member?

Complete the Register of Interest form and return to siobhan.trickett@blackburn.anglican.org. This helps build up a list of potential DET members.

What next?

You will be invited to come along to a follow up event in which will be part of the discernment process in building the team. This event will include group work, conversations with other potential DET members and prayerful listening. DET members must be able to work in a team as servant and leader.

What if it's not for me or I want to leave?

It may not be the right time for you to commit or you may feel "it's just not for me". Similarly, you might attend the follow up event and then decide it's not for you. At any point, you are under no obligation to be a DET member.

What if I have suggestions for team members?

We are very happy to have suggestions for potential team members. Please send any suggestions to the Diocesan Evangelism Team Coordinator

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