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**JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Job Title Research Fellow in New Places for New People (NPNP), Evangelism and Growth (4 year post fixed-term post)**

**Location** Cliff College, Calver, Hope Valley, Derbyshire S32 3XG

**Responsible to** Vice Principal (Mission) (VPM)

**Internal relationships** VPM, Mission and Evangelism Team, Faculty and Vice Principal (Academic)

**External relationships** Methodist Church in Britain (MCB): Pioneering and Church Planting Officer (PCPO) and Church at the Margins Officer (CMO), New Places for New People Guiding Team and projects, Evangelism and Growth Team

**Purpose and Objectives** To undertake research work investigating the Methodist Church in Britain’s initiatives in forming New Places for New People (NPNP) and Church at the Margins (CM), as part of MCB’s broader ‘God for All’ strategy for evangelism and growth.

To contribute to the development of a centre for evangelism and mission research at Cliff College by planning, coordinating and implementing research projects and by associated teaching in evangelism and growth in the Wesleyan and Methodist traditions.

**Overview**

Cliff College is seeking to invest in excellence in academic research into the challenges and opportunities of evangelism and mission in the contemporary context, particularly in the Methodist and Wesleyan tradition. Through an exciting part-funded collaboration with the New Places for New People initiative of the Methodist Church in Britain, the College is undertaking a 4-year research project helping to excavate learning about evangelism and growth from NPNP related pioneer projects, and the College’s wider missional engagement. This 4-year Research Fellow post will be focused on delivering the NPNP research (50%), as well as contributing to the College’s broader research, publication and teaching in evangelism and mission (50%).

**Vision 21**

Vision Cliff College: A Global Centre for Evangelism and Missiology

Aim To be a Methodist evangelical learning community, rooted in God’s Word and Spirit for the purpose of equipping God’s people for practical ministry and cutting-edge missional engagement.

Objectives To enable an **encounter** of God in an array of places, contexts and environments, offering the whole Cliff community the opportunity to grow and develop as disciples.

To **equip** individuals, as disciples, through a wide range of formal and informal, validated and non-validated, onsite, online and hybrid learning opportunities.

To **engage** individuals and groups through a variety of evangelistic and missional opportunities at Cliff, throughout the UK and across the globe.

**Main Responsibilities**

1. To act as principal researcher on the New Places for New People research, including:
   1. coordinating research activity with NPNP projects in order to deliver agreed project aims and objectives, including visiting projects as required
   2. disseminating learning from research through reports, publications and presentations
   3. contributing to the development of fresh insights in evangelism and growth for both ecclesial and academic audiences
2. To collaborate with College and Church leaders in establishing Cliff College as a centre of research excellence in evangelism and missiology, through:
   1. curating a culture of research excellence in the area of evangelism and missiology
   2. developing a distinctively Wesleyan and Methodist approach to thinking about and articulating evangelism, mission and growth in contemporary contexts
   3. planning, coordinating and implementing research initiatives, including projects, seminars and conferences
   4. contributing to the College’s teaching through curriculum design and teaching delivery
   5. supervising the research of others, as appropriate
3. To model excellence in theological and practical research, by:
   1. contributing positively to the discourse of the Methodist Church in Britain about mission, evangelism and growth
   2. participating constructively in relevant research networks, including with the University of Manchester
   3. fulfilling a key role within the community of Cliff College, including through the leadership of worship and via engagement with students in tutorials
4. To complete any other reasonable duties, as required by your line manager

**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

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| **Attributes** | **Essential** | **Desirable** | **Method of Assessment** |
| **Education and training** | First degree and higher degree in the area of theology, practical theology, or missiology |  | A, Q |
| PhD (completed or in progress) in a relevant area of theology, practical theology, or missiology |  | A, Q |
| **Proven ability** | Experience in academic and/or practical research, including awareness of a variety of research methodologies. | Experience of developing and reporting research to ecclesial/academic institutions and funding bodies | A, I |
| Practical experience of evangelism or Christian leadership in contemporary society. | Experience in pioneering or leadership in missional innovation or Church planting. | A, I |
|  | Experience of teaching theology, practical theology, and/or missiology in the context of higher education. | A, I, E |
| Proven experience of ability to work closely as a team with a range of people and interests, including those with differing perspectives. |  | A, I |
| Proven experience of managing a budget |  | A, I |
| Ability to work effectively with Microsoft Office 365 applications including Word, Outlook and Excel | Ability to work with a range of software, including an online learning platform | A, I, E |
| Good administrative ability |  | A, I |
| Good planning and organisational skills |  | A, I |
| **Special knowledge and skills** | Awareness of major trends and trajectories in contemporary research in evangelism, missiology and church growth/planting | Proven engagement with theological and missiological trends through writing and presenting | A, I, E |
| Good communication and interpersonal skills, both verbal and in (academic) writing |  | A, I, E |
| Ability to convey complex and conceptual ideas to a variety of audiences |  | A, I, E |
| Ability to maintain confidentiality and discretion |  | A, I |

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| **Attributes** | **Essential** | **Desirable** | **Method of Assessment** |
| **Special qualities or aptitudes** | Fully in sympathy with and supportive of the vision, ethos and charisms of Cliff College and the Methodist Church in Britain |  | A, I |
| Understanding of issues related to the Wesleyan tradition of renewal, holiness and the Spirit-filled life |  | A, I |
| A willingness to play an active role in the life of the Cliff community | Experience of working with volunteers and students | A, I |
| Ability and willingness to work in a collaborative and flexible way |  | A, I |
| Proven awareness of, and sensitivity to, issues of equality, diversity and inclusion and a commitment to the unique value of the individual in all aspects of the Church’s life |  | A, I |
| A willingness to work irregular hours including evenings, weekends and overnight |  | A, I |

Evidence: A - application form; I - interview; E - exercise; Q - proof of qualification

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**Terms of appointment** Fixed term, 4-years, due to funding

**Hours of Work:** Full-time

**Remuneration:** £30,000 per annum

**Health and Safety** The post holder will be subject to Cliff College’s Health and Safety policy

**Equal Opportunities** The post holder will be subject to Cliff College’s Equal, Diversity & Inclusion policy

**Physical Conditions** Office accommodation at Cliff College

Disclosure: Due to the nature of this post, appointment will be subject to a satisfactory disclosure from the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS)

Work Permit: Appointment will be subject to documentary evidence of the right to live and work in the UK

**Holiday Entitlement:** Your holiday entitlement is dependent on your years of service:   
Years 1-4: 25 days annual leave + 8 bank holidays = 33 days;   
Years 5-9: 28 days annual leave + 8 bank holidays = 36 days;   
Year 10 onwards: 30 days annual leave + 8 bank holidays = 38 days.

All Cliff College staff are required to work the second May bank holiday as this is Cliff Festival

**Sick Pay:** Entitlement in accordance with Cliff College’s terms and conditions of employment

**Pension:** There is a defined contribution pension scheme to which eligible lay employees will be auto-enrolled. Employees who do not meet the auto enrolment criteria are eligible to join the Scheme, subject to certain provisions

**Probationary Period:** Appointments for lay employees are made subject to the satisfactory completion of a probationary period, normally six months

**For Methodist ministers:** For Methodist ministers, standard terms and conditions of appointment (including stipend) apply. This appointment is within the control of the Methodist Church - for information about the nature of this appointment contact the Director of Learning for Ministry in the Connexional Team, Revd Jonathan Dean at [deanj@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:deanj@methodistchurch.org.uk)

There is an Occupational Requirement that the postholder is a Christian. Regulation 7(2)a of the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003 applies.