



Job Description

Job Title: Church Relations Manager

Reports to: Engagement Director

Direct Reports: Programme Officer: Eco Church (subject to funding)

Location: Southall, west London (flexible working options available for the right candidate)

Salary: 26k - 28k, depending on experience

Contract type: Full Time, Permanent

Context:

A Rocha UK is mobilising Christians and churches to take care of the natural world. We believe that doing so is an essential part of our worship and witness as Christians. Our Eco Church award scheme helps churches of all different shapes, sizes and traditions along the journey of caring for the world we've been given—from making rural churchyards wildlife-friendly to installing solar panels on urban rooftops. The scheme is well established with nearly 700 registered churches, over 100 of which have already gained at least a bronze award. There is considerable support for the programme from senior leaders in several large denominations.

We are now seeking a Church Relations Manager to grow and develop the programme further. We are also in the process of securing funding for a Programme Officer to handle the administration of the scheme, releasing the Church Relations Manager to develop and grow the programme further.

The successful applicant will build on the work A Rocha UK has begun to change the trajectory of the UK church on the issue of caring for nature and the environment.

Job Purpose:

To assist in the delivery of our strategic aim of inspiring and equipping churches to protect and restore the natural world by:

- leading, further developing and managing A Rocha UK's flagship Eco Church programme
- developing relationships with key church influencers at denominational, regional and local levels to move the church towards care for creation as an integral part of their faith and witness
- monitoring and reporting on current trends, thinking and concerns in the UK church in order to inform ongoing strategy development for both Eco Church and A Rocha UK.

Key responsibilities

- Grow and develop the Eco Church programme
- Develop resources to help churches integrate care for nature into their everyday life and witness
- Organise annual conferences for those involved or interested in Eco Church to meet, learn and share their experiences
- Personally promote the Eco Church programme, including representing A Rocha externally and speaking at events

- Develop effective relationships with leaders and influencers across the different denominations
- Manage the church speakers coordinator (a volunteer)
- Recruit and line-manage a Programme Officer to cover the administration of the Eco Church programme (subject to sufficient funding being secured)
- Work with the conservation department to ensure the scientific validity of all activities recommended to churches

General responsibilities

- Contribute to the life and community of A Rocha UK
- Commit to praying for A Rocha UK's work

Person Specification

Essential

- Educated to at least degree level or equivalent
- Understanding of the variety of churches across the UK
- Ability to develop relationships quickly with people at all levels of seniority
- Ability to speak to large and diverse audiences, both in a church setting and elsewhere
- A strong interest in conservation or wider environmental issues and/or social justice
- A commitment to the Christian faith: A Rocha is a non-denominational Christian charity with a deep commitment to our faith, community and cross-cultural collaboration. This requires all staff to be willing to and able to participate fully in the spiritual life of the organisation, including regular collective prayer and reflection, annual staff residential retreat etc.

Desirable

- Line management experience
- Volunteer management experience
- Project management experience
- Experience of church preaching

Key Competencies & Skills

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including public speaking
- Confident and competent in speaking to church audiences, including using theological concepts
- Organised and self motivated
- Strong IT skills, ideally including experience of working with content management systems
- Ability to travel/current driving license
- Availability to do some evening and weekend work (with time off in lieu as appropriate)