



The
Children's
Society

Could you be a Diocesan Ambassador?

Volunteer Role Information Pack

Fighting
for
Hope

We hope you can join us

Do you have amazing communication skills and enjoy talking with passion to audiences both large and small?

Do you have excellent networking and engagement skills, coupled with a knowledge of the Church of England and how dioceses and parishes work?

Are you able to work collaboratively with senior diocesan staff, clergy and our volunteers, as well the staff of The Children's Society, in particular the local Relationship Manager?

Would you like to help the most vulnerable children in the UK by engaging your church network?

If so, then you should consider being an ambassador for The Children's Society in your diocese!

We need people like you to make a real difference by increasing awareness of our vital work in your diocese. You will thank existing supporters and motivate new people to get involved in our work and donate their time and money.

We want your time with us to be enjoyable and rewarding as well as impactful, which is why we will provide you with all of the support and training you need to be effective in your role and to get the most out of volunteering.

Welcome!

At The Children's Society we want every child to have hope for the future. Our vision is a society built for all children, where every child can grow up to fulfil their incredible potential.

- The Engagement and Income Directorate is focused on building positive relationships that maximise the impact our supporters are able to achieve for children and young people. Volunteers are a fundamental part of this team, who help us reach out to communities, especially across The Church of England.
- Our Diocesan Ambassadors enable a partnership between the Diocese and The Children's Society so that we can maximise opportunities for supporters to give time, money and voice.
- We are looking for individuals who share our values of being Brave, Ambitious, Supportive and Trusted and who want to stand with us, giving us a real chance of bringing support and hope to this country's vulnerable children and young people.



Changing Lives Together

*Jamie's story

Jamie was bullied throughout school, leaving him feeling isolated and alone. Jamie's mental health declined further at college when he began to struggle with anxiety. *'My life circumstances were not great. I kept on leaving classes. I felt like I didn't want to live at that time.'*

He was referred to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and then to a drop-in service run by The Children's Society, where he had access to support.

Jamie has been attending the service for the last three years, as he knows it's a place where he can talk to someone, he trusts about how he is feeling. He is now also a passionate speaker and advocate for young people experiencing mental health issues. *'I feel like you need a voice because some adults, they don't want to listen to you, because you are young and you don't know what you are saying. I have had good experiences with The Children's Society and college because they are both a very supportive network to me.'*

*(*Jamie's name has been changed to protect his identity.)*



Our Vision and Goal

Despite the challenges we all currently face, our determination to support this country's young people is stronger than ever.

As such our organisation's core values – to be Brave, Ambitious, Supportive and Trusted – will be at the heart of all our future work. These values, along with the voices and views of children and young people, will be at the front of our minds as we set to work developing our new five-year strategy.

We have recently held an extensive consultation with staff and supporters in order to establish a new shared organisational vision and goal. These have now been confirmed, and we are happy to share them with our staff, partners and supporters:

Our vision:

A society built for all children.

Our goal:

By 2030, we will have overturned the damaging decline in children's well-being, setting a path for long lasting growth.

With this vision and goal as our guiding principles, we're determined that in the future life will be better for every child in this country, especially those who are most vulnerable.

In 2019/20

We worked
directly with

11,513

children and young
people in our
services

We partnered with

6,313

Church of England
Churches

...and over
9,000 amazing
volunteers
helped to make
this possible

Diocesan Ambassador Spotlight: David – Northern Diocese

I had to take early retirement from my job in 2009 for health reasons and shortly afterwards we had a talk from The Children's Society at my church in which an appeal was made for anyone willing to be a speaker in the Liverpool Diocese.



I had a long-time interest in social justice issues and had been a supporter of the Society and their values of love, justice and forgiveness for many years through my own church. This request struck a chord with me, and as I had some experience of public speaking, I decided to offer my services.

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A couple of years later I was asked to be the Diocesan President. I had built up a network of contacts in the diocese through other roles in the church which helps when representing the Society within the diocese at all levels, in churches, synods and with personnel. When we were offered the chance to change the title to Diocesan Ambassador, I felt it was entirely appropriate as it more accurately reflects what I do.

It's very important to have a passion and enthusiasm for the work of The Children's Society and this should be apparent when giving information about what they do. This may involve issues which can be difficult for some people to hear but I've always felt that if this is handled sensitively, it's important that people understand we often work with vulnerable children and young people in very difficult circumstances.

The groups I speak to are always appreciative of receiving information about all aspects of the society's role and often generous in their response to requests for support.

The support Diocesan Ambassadors get from their Relationship Managers is vital and knowing there is someone available to ask for advice is really important.

I always find it fulfilling to give these talks, particularly at Christingle time. These are joyful occasions, often alongside Nativity plays, when an appropriate message can be given about The Children's Society.

Diocesan Ambassadors play a very important part in The Children's Society and knowing about the work done with some of the most vulnerable young people means I've found it one of the most rewarding roles I've played.

Diocesan Ambassador Spotlight: Ian – Southern Diocese

How did you get into volunteering as a Diocesan Ambassador?

Children and young people have been a significant part of my life for over 40 years. I am a parent of three children who are now adults. I've been involved in church-based youth work, led Christian holidays for young people and I have worked as a secondary school teacher.

While a school leader I became increasingly aware of the social, mental and physical hardships that some young people face. The troubles may be due to their personal circumstance, arise from their family setting, or more worryingly, at the hands of others. I was also aware that the normal routes of support are not always able to help. Schools and children's services don't always have the capacity to offer what these young people need and so the work of The Children's Society is increasingly essential.

I currently have greater flexibility with my time and have been inspired to offer some of it to be an advocate for these vulnerable young people: so that other people can appreciate more about the disadvantaged youngsters who are so often unseen and unheard. I want people to understand that they can support the young people through prayer, campaigning, volunteering and giving.



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I am also inspired by Jesus, who had endless compassion for the vulnerable, challenged people of all classes and status to think differently about their responsibilities towards the weakest and who wasn't afraid to confront injustice with honesty and action.

What are the skills and tasks needed for a DA?

Work on being informed and knowledgeable about the work of the Society. Skills include: the ability to speak to audiences of various make-ups, in a range of settings: church services, Christingles, church meetings, school assemblies and so on.

There is also the work to support local Children's Society groups, helping to enable those who are working week in and week out to promote the Society in parishes throughout the diocese. Being a resource for the diocese, being willing to attend meetings and events on behalf of the society. Holding resources and being prepared to give an account of the impact the Society is having on young people today. There is also the need to network within churches, the diocese and the wider community.

What about support? What are the joys of fulfilling the role?

The role of DA is extremely well supported by a Children's Society Relationship Manager. They provide very regular updates from the Society, so you are informed about events, projects and publications. They meet with you once or twice a year to discuss plans and often to deliver resources. There are also regular network meetings where you meet other DAs and can share stories and problems.

It is good to be part of an organisation, whose values I believe in and support. It is a privilege to be invited to churches and other groups to meet people and to present the work of TCS. I'm grateful for the opportunity to do something that helps to make a difference for the most vulnerable in our society.

Diocesan Ambassador Spotlight: Karen – Midlands Diocese

Why did you volunteer as a Diocesan Ambassador and how did you get into it?

I have been on our local Shipston-on-Stour fundraising committee for the last 20 years and have a friend on a neighbouring committee who was the last Dio for Coventry. She was retiring and asked me if I was interested to take on the role. As I have been a teacher all my working life in a variety of schools, city and rural, and saw the problems and issues that crop up time and time again with young people and their families needing support, it was an opportunity to do a bit more to help.

The Children's Society is a charity that I have admired and have great faith in. I like its ethos and approach in how it works with vulnerable children from disadvantaged homes and how it campaigns for change to laws surrounding the welfare of vulnerable youngsters. All children should have the opportunity to a good start in life.



What are the skills needed for a DA? What tasks do you carry out?

The role is very much of your own making and I do very different things to my predecessor. I love meeting new people and am very happy to talk about the work of the charity and local projects and issues, so for me the speaking role is very much part of what I do. I assist my locally based Diocesan Relationship Manager, by keeping in touch with local fundraising groups and helping them feel connected to TCS. I attend some of their meetings to fill them in on what we are doing and keep them involved. I will try to link with local clergy and churches to speak and inspire them to hold Christingles and also local Church primary schools to go in and give a talk or take a Christingle for them. Raising the profile of the charity in any way I can is what I feel I can bring to my role. It really is something you can develop using your own strengths.

What are the joys of fulfilling the role?

I get immense satisfaction from knowing that the little I do to spread the word means that TCS can continue to support children and young people in need.

I continually find that very few people know about TCS and I always say they work 'under the radar'. There is so much going on that I love to be able to tell people about our success and our work. People not connected to their local churches are surprised to hear about a charity that many didn't know existed and how important the work is and our 'Good Childhood Report' is always a good way to make people realise how much we are needed and how much Government looks to us to supply information about what help young people require.

TCS staff are all brilliant to work with, hugely supportive and very friendly and very grateful for anything that volunteers can do. Every year they look after us with a get-together to share information and friendship and this usually involves large amounts of cake and coffee! Volunteering as a DA has been a very rewarding and satisfying role and in future years I know I shall look back on it very happily when eventually I hand my role over.

What you'll be doing

- Strategically engaging with the Diocese, the Bishop and his/her senior staff, its parishes, clergy and our volunteers about the work of The Children's Society.
- Proactively finding opportunities for people to support The Children's Society, including sourcing and delivering inspiring talks.
- In conjunction with the regional Relationship Manager, inputting into plans for the Diocese, including agreeing an annual Diocesan Ambassador's activity plan.
- Attending and speaking at Diocesan and Deanery Synods and Clergy Chapters to represent The Children's Society.
- Representing The Children's Society at local events, engaging our fundraising groups, local schools, businesses and churches.
- Helping the Relationship Manager in your area to identify potential speakers and volunteers for the diocese.
- Engaging with your local The Children's Society projects (where appropriate), attending their meetings and working with them to gain a better understanding of our direct work.
- Working with the Relationship Manager and our services to organise activities in the local community.

'It is a privilege to help raise the profile of a charity which does so much to help.'

David
Diocesan Ambassador

Who are we looking for?

To be a great Diocesan Ambassador, you'll need to have:

- The confidence to network and influence at a high level within the Church of England and to understand its structures, in particular your own diocese.
- Great public speaking and relationship building skills to engage a variety of audiences.
- A proactive and independent attitude with excellent time management skills.
- A desire to use your skills and experience to make a difference to children and young people.
- A commitment to give 2-3 days per month to the role.
- An understanding of social policy and its effects on young people in this country.
- Knowledge about the local area and its various communities.
- A willingness to engage with people from all backgrounds.
- A willingness to do your role in partnership with the Relationship Manager in your diocese and to keep them regularly updated.
- Basic IT skills (including the use of email and online video conferencing platforms) as well as confidence in using the internet and social media channels.
- The ability to organise your own transport (either a full driving licence and access to a car or access to public transport).



What we can offer you

- **A full induction to your role and to The Children's Society.**
- **All the training necessary to be effective in your role and access to a wide range of further training opportunities through our online Learning Zone.**
- **Ongoing support from your Relationship Manager as well as our Church Engagement Team.**
- **The opportunity to get involved in other opportunities within the organisation.**
- **Reimbursement of all reasonable expenses as agreed.**
- **A free confidential counselling service is available to all staff and volunteers.**
- **A reference to support your ongoing career when you have been with us for a period of time.**
- **The satisfaction of knowing that you are making a difference to the lives of vulnerable children and young people.**

Next steps

If you are interested in becoming a Diocesan Ambassador, we will ask you to complete a short application form, including providing at least two references covering the last two years. This will be followed by an informal chat with your Relationship Manager to talk more about the role and to find out more about your interests and skills.

Appointments as Diocesan Ambassadors are made in conjunction with the Diocesan Bishop, who you would meet as part of the recruitment and appointment process.

As we're a children's charity we are committed to following the safe and inclusive recruitment processes outlined below, and will fully support you through the steps.

Our commitment to Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment

As a children's charity, our top priority is the protection of the children, young people and vulnerable adults who interact with us in any way, and we take all necessary steps to safeguard them and promote their welfare. This includes obtaining information about criminal convictions and, if the role is supporting young people in our services, a criminal records check before offering a volunteer role. The information is processed and stored securely and confidentially in line with General Data Protection Regulations. It is used for assessing the volunteering application only and will not be shared with any third parties.

We assess every case individually in a fair, consistent and compliant way, and in line with Safer Recruitment principles. Applicants will not be prohibited from volunteering because of a conviction which does not indicate they may be a risk in the role for which they are applying.

The Children's Society is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and families and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Our commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

The Children's Society will treat all potential and recruited volunteers fairly and with respect. We will not discriminate on the basis of disability, ethnicity, marital status, pregnancy or maternity, gender, sexual orientation, religion or faith, or gender reassignment. We will not discriminate on the basis of age, unless the responsibilities of a role require us to do so in order to safeguard our volunteers and/or service users.

The Children's Society and our supporters have been there for vulnerable children and young people for more than 130 years.

We believe that every young person should have the support they need in order to enjoy a safe, happy childhood.

That's why we run services and campaigns to make children's lives better and change the systems that are placing them in danger. Together with our supporters, we're improving the lives of children today and long into the future.

**The
Children's
Society**

**No child
should feel
alone**

Find out more about volunteering at The Children's Society on our website:
childrenssociety.org.uk/what-you-can-do/volunteer