



# The Role of a Deanery Mentor

# About *Some Definite Service*

The Archdiocese of Southwark is being called to be a missionary and evangelising Archdiocese. Each Catholic in Southwark is, therefore, called and invited to play their part.

Developed by the Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis, the *Some Definite Service* vision document outlines support for parishes in their efforts to evangelise, to catechise and to form adult disciples.

There are three fundamental elements to *Some Definite Service*: the parish plan; the volunteer network and prayer for diocesan, parish and personal renewal.

# About the Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis

The Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis exists to serve the parishes of the Archdiocese of Southwark in terms of Evangelisation, Catechesis and Formation.

The Agency comprises a team of highly-trained advisers whose role is to encourage and help in the development of each parish's own plans; the training and formation of a volunteer network, as outlined in *Some Definite Service*, and the recommendation and creation of resources and courses for parish and individual use.

For more on the Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis, please visit our website: [aec.rcaos.org.uk](http://aec.rcaos.org.uk) or follow the Agency on our social media channels: [@aecsouthwark](https://twitter.com/aecsouthwark)

'God has created me to do Him some definite service.  
He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission... I shall do good; I shall do His work.'

*St John Henry Newman, Meditations on Christian Doctrine, 1848*



## What is a Deanery Mentor?

A Deanery Mentor is an associate member of the Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis, commissioned by the Archbishop, who is committed to sharing and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Chosen from the parishes of the diocese, the Deanery Mentors will have a privileged position in supporting the renewal and growth of our parishes and communities.

A Deanery Mentor needs to be someone who is:

- A practicing Catholic who strives to live according to the truth that is taught by the Church and who has a deep love for Jesus Christ.
- Available to support Parish Leads (key volunteers in each parish), with the assistance of the diocesan advisory team; good at building and maintaining relationships with others.
- Enthusiastic for the Gospel and and open to the Holy Spirit.
- Happy to grow alongside others and willing to learn and help others learn. The Agency will provide training for each of our Mentors.

*Some Definite Service* expects that each deanery (of which there are 20 in Southwark) will have a Deanery Mentor for Evangelisation, a Deanery Mentor for Catechesis and a Deanery Mentor for Formation. These will support parishes in their deanery and will be expected to share their experiences and wisdom with each other.

In total, there will be a large team of 60 Deanery Mentors supporting Parish Leads in the diocese, and supported themselves by our clergy and the diocesan advisory team.

# Am I being called to be a Mentor?

The kind of person we are seeking to be a Mentor will be faithful to Jesus and his Church, available to others, contagious in terms of their enthusiasm and teachable. The role is an important one and it is vital that you know what is involved before you start your adventure with us.

Here are the six core responsibilities of a Mentor:



Maintain regular contact with the Parish Leads within your deanery and specific to your area of responsibility, i.e. Evangelisation, Catechesis or Formation.



Support the development of bespoke parish plans related to Evangelisation, Catechesis and Formation and maintain excellent relationships with the clergy in the deanery.



Undergo periodic training organised by the diocesan advisory team whether online or in-person.



Participate in online meetings and assist in the communication of the range of activities and initiatives present in the diocese to Parish Leads.



Be attentive to the importance of safeguarding and the right of access of all people - no matter their ability or stage of life - to Christian formation.

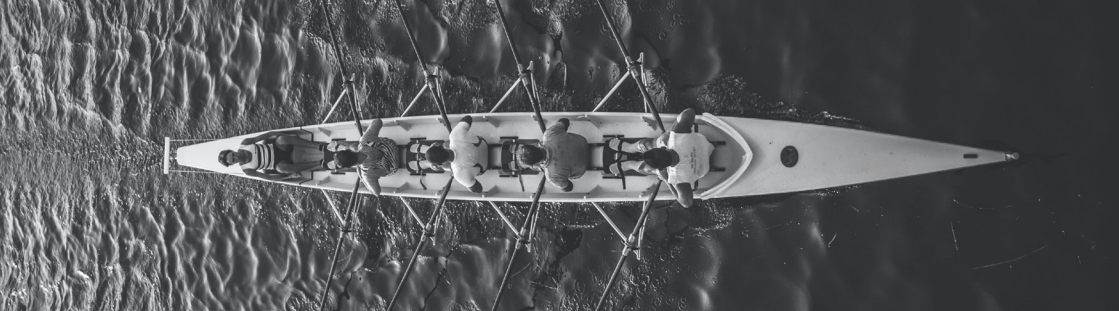


Pray regularly that the gift of faith which we all receive in Baptism may realise fruitfulness across the Archdiocese.

‘Evangelization aims at a process of growth which entails taking seriously each person and God’s plan for his or her life.

All of us need to grow in Christ.’

*Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, 168*



## How will I be helped to grow?

It is the goal and intention of the Agency and the diocese to invest time and energy in all involved in *Some Definite Service*. Your effort and gifts will never go under-appreciated.



Regular contact and support from the relevant member of the diocesan advisory team (depending on your specific area: Evangelisation, Catechesis or Formation).



Being part of a large and highly-skilled, diocesan-wide team, seeking to bear fruit for the glory of God in Southwark. Ministry can often be isolating, *Some Definite Service* seeks to address this in a meaningful way across the Archdiocese.



Access to workshops from the Catechetical Institute at Franciscan University, thanks to the Agency's institutional relationship.



Various training opportunities and gatherings for formation, prayer and social reasons.



Discounted or free access to all Southwark diocesan courses, including the basic online and short-form courses, and the highly-respected Archbishop's Certificate.



Experiencing the real joy of seeing the faith come alive in the hearts of people in the parishes; knowing that what you do has eternal value.

Becoming a mentor:

[aec.rcaos.org.uk/sds-mentor](http://aec.rcaos.org.uk/sds-mentor)



# What will be asked of me?

**3**  
years

After a period of mutual discernment by the candidate for Deanery Mentor and by the Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis (involving the Dean), and a period of initial training, a Deanery Mentor will be commissioned for a **3-year term** (renewable for a total period of 6 years).

**12**  
hours

Given the contacts that need to be maintained and the support offered by and to the Deanery Mentor, we expect around **12 hours minimum each month** (4 hours per week) though Mentors may wish to give more time. In the first year, an extra hour per week, connected to training, may be required.

The Diocesan Advisor for your respective area (Evangelisation, Catechesis or Formation) will be a key point of contact. They will assist you with your training and encourage you. They will help you report your activity, challenges and successes to the Agency, the Dean and the local clergy.

When supporting Parish Leads the main focus remains on the level below. The task of a good Deanery Mentor is to help the Parish Lead to have a meaningful impact on those they assist at a grassroots level. Similarly, the focus of the diocesan advisory team, in conversation with their Mentors, will be fruitfulness of the Parish Leads.

Becoming a mentor:

[aec.rcaos.org.uk/sds-mentor](http://aec.rcaos.org.uk/sds-mentor)

‘Spiritual accompaniment must lead others ever closer to God...

We need men and women who are familiar with prudence, understanding, patience and docility to the Spirit.’

*Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, 170-71*



## OK, I'm interested. What do I do?

That's wonderful to hear! In the first instance, we ask you read through the following steps which provide a path to Mentorship.



Bearing in mind the qualities outlined on page 3 of this booklet, download and complete an Initial Statement of Interest and Suitability for the role of Mentor from [aec.rcaos.org.uk/sds-mentor](https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/sds-mentor). Upload the Statement, highlighting the specific area (Evangelisation, Catechesis or Formation) for which you are hoping to be considered.



Continue to pray for personal, parish and diocesan renewal (you may consider using the prayer on the back cover).



The Agency will consider your application with care and contact your Parish Priest for a reference. Accordingly, you will be invited to an introductory discussion with the diocesan advisory team.



Next comes a period of discernment and training (duration 6 weeks) which will include participation in a faith study group with other candidates as well as an exploration of the mission of the Agency and what Mentorship will mean.



When both you and the Agency are confident in moving forward, your application will be put to the Dean and the Area Bishop. If successful, you will be commissioned by the Archbishop as a Deanery Mentor for an initial period of 3 years for your chosen specific area.



Training and support will be given at every stage. Email [aec@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:aec@rcaos.org.uk) if you want to discuss any of this further.

Almighty Father,  
in every age you call people to love you and to serve your will,  
in every age your people face challenges to this call.  
I pray for your Spirit to unbind us all from these challenges  
and to breathe new life into our diocese,  
into our parishes and into each one of us.

I pray for the Archdiocese of Southwark:  
that it becomes the missionary and evangelising Archdiocese  
that it is being called to be.

That every organisation, agency and commission  
embraces and embodies the mission to learn,  
teach and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

I pray for our parishes:  
that they truly become and remain  
places of creativity and fellowship,  
beacons of light, hope and growth in faith.

For me: that I truly accept your call to be a disciple  
of your Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ.  
That I grow in holiness and be ever more determined  
to share the Gospel with others.

I make this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Lady Immaculate, pray for us  
St Thomas of Canterbury, pray for us  
St Augustine of Canterbury, pray for us

**Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis**

website: [aec.rcaos.org.uk](http://aec.rcaos.org.uk)

social media: @aecsouthwark