

Job Description: Director of Ministry

Contact: info@acornchristian.org

BACKGROUND

Acorn is a National Network of Healing Hubs, founded in 1983 by Bishop Morris Maddocks, then the Archbishop's Advisor in Health and Healing, to resource the work of healing in the Anglican Church and ecumenically. He was followed by Revd Dr Russ Parker, and the current director, Revd Wes Sutton, who retires at the end of this year.

Acorn Christian Healing Foundation is engaged in sharing the healing presence of Christ and retains the vision of its founder in working and praying for health and wholeness in the Church, and in God's world, through

- Healing
- Education
- Listening
- Reconciliation

Working in the UK and overseas, Acorn provides people, regardless of their circumstances, background or life choices, with the opportunity to experience the "shalom" that is at the heart of the Christian message. We believe that God desires and offers wholeness in body, mind, and soul, and it is our privilege to partner with Him in this work. We also believe that healing is often a way in which God draws people to Himself; and again, it is our privilege to come alongside and prayerfully support God's work in the lives of the guests we encounter.

In our 40+ years in ministry, we have gone through several transitions. Originally based in Whitehill Chase and offering most of our ministry/training from there, staff now work remotely, and we hold most of our training/education online, while equipping Healing Hub Coordinators to start and maintain their in-person local Healing Hubs across the UK. We are also seeing some international growth beginning to take place.

Acorn is directed by a Board of Trustees, who all actively seek the healing heart of God. We are privileged to have a Board with a depth of experience in healing and wholeness that contribute to Acorn's ministry. This includes Trustees with expertise in tech and web design, theological education, and grant funding; and we are privileged to have a medical doctor who consults with the ministry. Additionally, several Trustees are also Hub Coordinators or Prayer Volunteers, providing important first-hand insight into the ministry. We have a solid reputation as a safe and trustworthy prayer/healing ministry, which has been cultivated over many years and is carefully stewarded.

The day-to-day operations of Acorn happen through a small staff team which includes a Director of Operations, and (soon) an Administrative Assistant, and a fantastic group of volunteers across the UK (and world!). The Director of Ministry will function in a co-directorship with our Director of Operations.

Acorn lives out its calling in a variety of ways, including providing training and written and digital resources, giving direct support where it is needed, and through our prayer ministry. While the Healing Hubs operate locally, much of our training is offered online, and our Staff Team and Trustees work remotely, while setting aside time at regular points to meet in person.

Acorn's Mission: To encourage, equip and resource local churches and Christians from all walks of life to become agents of God's healing, reconciliation and care in their homes, churches, workplaces, and communities. We want to see more people praying for more people!

Acorn's Vision: Healing & Wholeness for all.

JOB SUMMARY

The role is to co-lead the work of Acorn. This will involve providing co-leadership with the Director of Operations for staff, Hub Coordinators and prayer volunteers, leading the educational aspects of Acorn, networking with other Christian organisations, and representing Acorn in the Christian healing community, health care, and secular worlds. Though Acorn is primarily a UK-focussed ministry, it has given birth to similar ministries in countries across the world. Support for this international work will be provided by an Acorn Ambassador, whose work will be coordinated by the Co-Directors. Someone with international connections, or an interest in pursuing such, would be welcome.

This role also includes development and strategizing to find the means and resources to make a reality of Acorn's vision in contemporary society, alongside creatively pursuing new ministry opportunities for Acorn. Both Co-Directors are well supported by actively engaged Trustees in these processes.

The post is advertised as a part-time role (3 days/week), perhaps fitting well alongside a part-time church role; but could be converted to a full-time post under appropriate circumstances.

Staff and Trustees all work remotely with some regularly scheduled in-person meetings. While some aspects of the work schedule are flexible, others are currently fixed. This includes our monthly Healing Academy trainings (first Saturday of the month, 10am–1pm). Evening and weekend working hours are essential.

APPOINTED BY

The Board of Trustees.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. To provide "first chair" cover in leading the ministry team in training and ministry events (in person and online).
2. Working in partnership with our Director of Operations to provide active pastoral cover for Hub Coordinators and their hub teams. This currently includes 11 regional Hubs/Coordinators and 40 volunteer Prayer ministers.
3. To lead the educational component of Acorn, including our monthly online Acorn Healing Academy training; Acorn Listening. Academy Training; and our shorter offerings, including our Podcast, Acorn Christian Live, Acorn Shorts, and Acorn Christian Lite videos. To regularly review and refresh training material, ensuring Acorn's training portfolio is up to date and fit for purpose, with all revisions to be agreed in consultation with the Trustees.

4. To be the face of the Acorn's ministry within the wider Christian community, and the resolving factor in troubleshooting situations if required.
5. To broker new Hub initiatives for those approaching Acorn and those whom Acorn approaches; and to build relationships and partnerships with other Christian organisations that may contribute to Acorn's objectives.
6. To regularly provide prayer ministry, modelling Acorn's best practice.
7. In a partnership with the Director of Operations, and accountable to the Trustees, lead the ministry to promote the Healing Ministry of Jesus in and through the Church.

PERSONAL QUALITIES AND COMPETENCES

The successful candidate will have the following qualities and skills.

Personal Qualities

An ordained Church of England/Anglican minister eager to work ecumenically, for whom a rhythm of prayer is fundamental to all relationships and decisions.

Someone who views themselves as a pastor and effective theological educator, and as a shepherd, not a manager.

A person with a biblical grounding who would describe themselves as evangelical and charismatic, open to the gifts and leading of the Holy Spirit.

A creative person who will bring fresh perspectives and new gifts to the organisation.

A person with an ability to work collaboratively, and a good listener with an ability to explain complex matters simply.

A gifted leader with evidence of an ability to inspire, motivate, and encourage, as well as being a gentle and creative problem-solver.

A self-motivated person, with enough personal confidence to be open to continuous learning and development.

A mature sense of their own strengths and weaknesses.

Someone comfortable with a faith ministry concept.

Committed to Acorn's stated Hub vision, and with a vision for ongoing Hub growth across the UK and internationally. As we regularly say, we desire to equip more people to pray for more people!

Someone looking to make a long-term (+/- 10 years) investment in Acorn, giving shape to the exciting new chapter and season of expansion into which we are entering.

Someone able to work remotely alone yet collaboratively with others.

Experience, Skills, and Training:

A person with preferably 5–10 years' experience in Christian ministry, with a vision for, and some experience of, the healing ministry.

Preferably someone educated to MA level (though not required), or eager to pursue ongoing formal or informal education/training

Someone who is tech-savvy, as the role requires the regular use of Zoom; podcasting; and YouTube video creation.

Experience of leadership, team working, and envisioning ministry with a healing dimension.

Supervision, management, and organisational experience.

An effective speaker able to promote Acorn nationally and internationally.

An aptitude for writing, including regularly revising our training materials.

Clean UK Driving Licence.

Someone who can travel and stay overnight when required.

Salary: Upon application

To apply please send a covering letter, CV, and two professional references to info@acornchristian.org