



**Director of the Free Church Track, Cranmer Hall, St John's College, Durham University**

<b>Job Details</b>	
<b>Job Title:</b>	Director of the Free Church Track
<b>Department:</b>	Cranmer Hall
<b>Responsible to:</b>	The Warden of Cranmer Hall
<b>Grade:</b>	Lichfield Scale for Theological College Teaching Staff
<b>Contract Type:</b>	Three years fixed-term (due to external funding)
<b>Working Arrangements:</b>	Full-time
<b>Closing date:</b>	Midday on Tues 23 June 2020
<b>Start Date</b>	The successful candidate will ideally be in post by 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2020, but we are willing to flexible for the right candidate.

### **1. Introduction**

Founded in 1909 as an evangelical Anglican foundation, St John's College has over the years pursued a two-fold vision: to offer training for church leaders within a world-class university while also offering Christian hospitality to students from a wide range of academic disciplines at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Cranmer Hall, the theological college within St John's College, offers theological training for both Anglican ordinands and also trainee Free Church ministers, in addition to independent undergraduates and postgraduates studying theology, ministry and mission within a confessional context. Rooted in an evangelical tradition, Cranmer Hall has over the years proved a generous home for people training from a range of Christian backgrounds.

### **2. Free Church Track – Background and Vision**

The Free Church Track (FCT) was established at Cranmer Hall in 2015 to train missional leaders in and for the North East. It offers students the opportunity to deepen their faith and understanding through the world-class theological resources of Durham University and put it into practice through mission and ministry in local churches and regional ministries. Over 40 women and men have come from a range of independent churches and denominations and have pursued studies at undergraduate and postgraduate level, going on to fruitful leadership across the North East and beyond.

While the students pursue different academic courses flexibly suited to their needs, all FCT students take part in the weekly Missional Leadership Seminar on a Tuesday afternoon, which provides an important chance for mission-focussed leadership training and peer-based support and prayer. We believe there is potential to develop this course from autumn 2020 through a renewed focus on Bible, leadership and church planting/pioneering, and increasing access across a range of Christian leadership contexts.

Alongside partnerships with a range of local churches, we have established a formal partnership with the Northern Baptist Association and Northern Baptist College, enabling students to train towards ordination as Baptist ministers on a Cranmer course while taking part in sessions at NBC. Revd Linda

Donaldson serves as the Baptist Track Hub Tutor and we are keen to see this partnership grow and develop in the years to come.

Within Cranmer Hall's overall vision of expanding our capacity to resource the church in theological formation and training, we are keen to make the most of online learning possibilities to expand the reach of the FCT within the North East and beyond. This is likely to involve greater access to single modules, training for lay leaders and continuous development opportunities for church leaders. We expect a FCT Director to contribute positively towards this.

Overall, we are very excited about the next chapter in the life of the FCT. The new full-time FCT Director will have the opportunity not only to develop the delivery of the Free Church Track within Cranmer Hall but also work creatively in partnership with others to see potential leaders and ministers from free churches identified and trained across the North East and beyond. We believe that greater engagement with local churches and other partners will be a blessing not only to the FCT but, more importantly, to the mission of God in the region and beyond.

#### Comments from FCT partners

The first five years of the Free Church Track at Cranmer Hall have made a great contribution to preparing new leaders for the task of pastoral and missional leadership faced by the free churches of the North East. The appointment of a new FCT Director is key to the anticipated development, strengthening and growth of the FCT in the years to come.

Dr Mark Bonnington, Senior Minister, King's Church, Durham

'Through the Free Church Track Cranmer Hall provides an excellent opportunity for leaders from the free churches to access the excellent theological and missional resources of St John's College, and to develop and grow in ministry. It has been particularly encouraging to see members of our Baptist churches engage with this opportunity and to see the way that they have developed in their gifting and ability, and through the partnership with Northern Baptist College and the Northern Baptist Association to see a such gifted people become ordained Baptist ministers'

Revd Dr John Claydon, Regional Minister, Northern Baptist Association

The FCT at Cranmer Hall is a place where serious students and seekers of God find not simply a welcome but a home and a safe place to grow as disciples commissioned to make disciples. The combination of rigorously enjoyable and excellent theological education with tutorial and peer support through student-led discipleship groups means that students bring their learning into conversation with their own contexts in challenging, fresh, and thoroughly innovative ways. This post-holder will have the opportunity to help influence and shape the missional leadership of the North East church at this crucial point in 21st century history.

Revd Linda Donaldson, Minister, Portrack Baptist Church and Baptist Hub Tutor, Cranmer Hall

As someone who has exercised the whole of their ministry here in the North East, pioneering, planting and pastoring, I am delighted by what Cranmer, through the Free Church Track, offers in partnership with churches across the North East. The Free Church Track, offered in a college that is rooted in a generous evangelical tradition, provides a great opportunity for training in spiritual formation, theological reflection, biblical scholarship and missional leadership for established, emerging, Fresh Expressions, pioneering and planting contexts. Cranmer has the potential to

develop further into becoming a major training hub for much needed future generations of missional leaders to face the challenges and opportunities of a changing world.

Revd Roy Searle, Northumbria Community

During my three years training on the FCT at Cranmer Hall, I was able to gain both knowledge in missional leadership and also the practical tools to apply to my community. I could also see the potential for many more Free Church leaders to emerge over the years serving the kingdom of God. The appointment of Director of the Free Church Track will build on the foundation already laid down and leave a legacy that sees Northumbria once again seeing the power of God at work as more missional leaders are trained and sent out.

Revd Caroline Friend, Co-Minister, Alnwick Baptist Church

For more information, including on the confessional commitments which are the foundation for the Free Church Track, please see here <https://community.dur.ac.uk/cranmer.hall/study-with-us/free-church-track/>

### **3. Role Overview**

With the support of the Vardy Foundation we are pleased to be appointing the first full-time Director of the Free Church Track at Cranmer Hall (the previous Director oversaw the FCT alongside wider teaching responsibilities within Cranmer Hall.)

The role of Director of the Free Church Track at Cranmer Hall will be to lead the further development of the FCT within Cranmer Hall, increasing its capacity to serve the local and wider church through being a place of outstanding theological and missional training for Christian leaders. The role will involve an equal focus on external engagement (including networking and building relationships with leaders, churches and missional initiatives across the North East) as it will on internal programme delivery and pastoral support.

### **4. Key responsibilities**

- To oversee the strategic development and effective delivery of the Free Church Track at Cranmer Hall. This will include developing and communicating a clear vision to students and stakeholders.
- To develop strong relationships with key stakeholders (e.g. church leaders) throughout the NE and beyond. This will involve preaching and teaching at churches and ministry events as opportunities arise, and also exploring new ways to bring theological training and resourcing into the life of local churches.
- To further strengthen and develop the partnership with the Northern Baptist College and Northern Baptist Association.
- To articulate to potential students a compelling vision for training at Cranmer Hall, leading to effective recruitment from across the North-East and beyond. This will involve creative strategies to work with local churches to identify men and women as future potential leaders and develop their sense of call.
- To lead an effective recruitment process for new students, working with the Admissions Secretary of Cranmer Hall.
- To lead the Missional Leadership Seminar, a two-year ministry training course that takes place weekly during Michaelmas and Epiphany terms. Teaching may be delivered by the FCT Director,

other Cranmer staff members and some outside, significant missional leaders. The FCT Director would be responsible for marking assignments set during the course.

- To serve as a pastoral tutor for up to 12 FCT students and ensure all FCT students have a pastoral tutor, and that reporting processes are in place.
- To explore, over time, and in conversation with the Warden, areas of interest and expertise where teaching could be offered to the wider Cranmer Hall student body.
- To promote a continued awareness of the vision and values of the FCT within the life of Cranmer Hall as a whole.
- To participate in the regular prayer and worship life of Cranmer Hall, as agreed with the Warden
- To serve as a full, prayerful and constructive member of the Cranmer Hall staff team, participating in the weekly staff meeting.
- To provide occasional guest lectures on other modules as agreed with the Warden.

## 5. Person Specification

The person appointed to this post will have

Essential	Desirable
Demonstrable passion for, and skills in, supporting men and women training in Christian leadership and mission, with a vision for God’s work in the North East	Experience of overall leadership in a local church or pioneering context
Significant experience of fruitful missional leadership within a free church context and of developing leadership in others	Experience of teaching within a TEI and via digital platforms
Proven strategic and decision-making skills and capacity to develop and implement successfully new initiatives	
Capacity to build effective relationships with new and existing stakeholders, and represent the FCT within the North-East and beyond	
Masters-level theological qualification and capacity to teach in TEI context	
A mature and committed evangelical faith, in line with the EA Basis of Faith and Relationships Commitment, and the capacity to work constructively within the Anglican and ecumenical tradition of Cranmer Hall	
An exceptional level of self-awareness and ability to serve in a collaborative and resilient manner, including working effectively within teams	
A disciplined prayer life that includes a commitment to daily prayer, weekly College worship and the integrity of Christian living	

## 6. Salary and Benefits

The post is being offered on full-time basis for a fixed-term of three years. Salary, pension, grants and allowances (book and car) will be on the Lichfield Scale for the Theological College Teaching Staff. This

includes e are a salary of £26,700, a book allowance of £753 and an entertainment allowance of £152. A car allowance of £1,495 may be claimed and further mileage claims will be reimbursed at 10p per mile. Without a car allowance mileage claims will be reimbursed at 45p per mile. The pension will be provided through the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS).

### **7. Housing**

The post carries with it a taxable housing allowance of £13,925.

### **8. Meals**

Collegiate meals are provided free of charge in the college communal dining rooms in term-time and during periods of 'vacation residence' (subject to availability) for the better performance of college duties. A spouse and dependent children are included in this provision when accompanying the post-holder.

### **9. Annual leave**

The post holder is entitled to 27 days annual leave plus statutory holidays and University customary holidays (or days in lieu of those, which fall in term-time).

### **10. DBS Disclosure**

A satisfactory DBS declaration is required at the time of taking up the post.

### **11. Date of Appointment and Tenure of Office**

It is intended that the person appointed shall take up the post in September 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter. The post is subject to a probationary period of one year. This is a three- year fixed term position due to external part-funding of the role. Continuation of this post beyond three years would be dependent on either renewed external funding or a business case for internal funding being approved.

**Closing date for applications:** Midday Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Date for interview:** Thursday 2 July 2020

Applications should be by email with an accompanying CV and should contain the names, addresses, email details and telephone numbers of three referees. All documents should be emailed to:

[cranmer.warden@durham.ac.uk](mailto:cranmer.warden@durham.ac.uk)

For an informal conversation, please email the above address to arrange a telephone or Zoom conversation with the Warden, Revd Dr Philip Plyming.