

Youth Worker Role Description



Our Vision

Christ Church Downend is a growing evangelical Anglican church on the outskirts of Bristol. Our vision is drawn from John 10:10 with its emphasis on life in all its fulness, and our current aspirations are to **go deeper** with God, **reach wider** into the community and **grow younger** through intentional investment in our youth, children's and families' ministries.

We are seeking to employ a part time youth worker (16-20 hours per week) to help grow our youth ministry, further developing the existing provision, and engaging more with unchurched young people through outreach and investment in the local secondary school. This is a key part of Christ Church's stated aspiration to 'Grow Younger'.

We currently run an activity based youth group on a Thursday evening and a discipleship/teaching session on a Sunday morning for young people age 10-18. We are exploring the possibility of establishing a Youth House Group, and have invitations to link with the local Secondary School.

We are blessed with a purpose built Youth Hub to the rear of our Parish Hall, which hosts the majority of youth activities. This is well equipped and conducive to effective relational youth ministry. We currently have a volunteer team comprising of 6 church members and a congregation fully supportive of youth and children's work.

Key Responsibilities

- To develop the existing programmes of activities to ensure a dynamic, relational youth programme where young people feel safe, loved and able to invite their friends.
- To invest in young people in such a way that helps them grow as disciples of Jesus and step out in service
- To build on links with Downend Secondary School
- To lead or assist in the planning and delivery of sessions for young people, and to empower key volunteers
- To participate in residential activities as availability and other commitments allow.
- To pray regularly for the young people and for fruitfulness in the youth work at Christ Church.
- To seek to be a role model for young people at all times, living a life consistent with Christ's teaching and seeking to exercise the fruit of the Spirit in all interactions.

Our expectations

As Youth Leaders at Christ Church, we seek to be men and women of deep faith and integrity, leading by example, who take responsibility for continuing to grow in our own personal faith. We have hearts to serve the Lord and have responded to his calling to serve young people in the Church and community. We are fully committed to the work we have been called to do and are fuelled by the desire to see the Christ Church Vision 'Learning to live the Jesus life' fulfilled in the young people we serve. The PCC has approved a clear set of expectations for all key leaders to ensure consistency of approach.

Youth team members are encouraged to take responsibility for their own spiritual wellbeing through involvement in a home group or other accountable small group, and to access external support through mentoring and/or spiritual direction. To ensure that the youth worker is able to participate in the regular Sunday worshipping life of the church, they will not usually be expected to serve across more than three Sunday sessions a month.

All members of the youth team are expected to work within the relevant safeguarding policies and procedures, and to attend all required safeguarding training. An enhanced DBS check is required with children's barred list checks.

The person appointed will be based at Christ Church Downend and the role will require some evening and weekend working.

Training and Support

Christ Church will ensure that suitable training opportunities are provided for the Youth Worker and that appropriate pastoral support is offered. Depending on the age and experience of the candidate, there may be opportunities to link with SWYM's training programme.

There is a possibility of board and lodging with members of Christ Church.

Accountability

The Youth Team Co-ordinator is Rev Paul Peterson

Person Specification

This role requires someone who:

- ✓ Has a secure and growing Christian faith
- ✓ Is passionate about seeing young people grow in faith
- ✓ Works well as part of a team
- ✓ Is committed to good safeguarding practice
- ✓ Builds good relationships with tact and sensitivity
- ✓ Is an encourager, able to nurture skills in others
- ✓ Is approachable and empathetic
- ✓ Is willing to develop skills and to engage with training
- ✓ Treats everyone with respect and dignity
- ✓ Has access to the internet and is confident using email
- ✓ Has good communication skills

The salary/support package will be dependent on relevant experience. We are willing to consider both a one year post or a three year contract, subject to a 3 month probationary period.

Christ Church Downend participates in the Pension Builder scheme section of CWPF for lay staff.

For an informal conversation about this role please contact Rev Paul Peterson
paulpeterson@christchurchdownend.com or 07939 125375