Youth Leader - Job Description

Title: Youth Leader

Employer: The PCC of Christ Church Alsager

Line Manager: Rev Toby May (Vicar)

Work Base: Christ Church Office

Work Area: Alsager (Cheshire)

Hours (term & vacations): Full Time. 40 hrs per week (including 1.5 hours on Sundays) Some flexibility possible especially out of term-time. Job Share could be considered.

Remuneration: £22,000 - £24,000 pa (dependent on experience)

Training: On-going support for training and development.

Holidays: 25 days pa (pro rata) to be taken in school holidays unless otherwise agreed + 8 Bank Holidays

Aims and Objectives - Overview:

To oversee, develop and expand the ministry of Christ Church to young people aged 11-18, with the aims of...

- The young people in the church becoming more excited about God and growing deeper in their love for Jesus, such that they want to share it with their friends and families.

- The young people of our town experiencing God’s love through our work with them and being inspired to get to know Jesus for themselves.

Specific Duties and Responsibilities

To lead and develop all aspects of Christ Church’s work with 11-18s including:

1. To develop the vision and strategy for youth work and to promote and implement it within the context of the church’s wider vision.

2. To lead, motivate and work with the team of youth work helpers/leaders and to be responsible for recruiting and training them.

3. To ensure good transitions into youth work from Year 6 and then onwards into work/further education - through working in partnership with the Children & Families Leader and other church team members.

4. To undertake administration, recruiting, communication, networking and publicity as required for youth work – including via social media and website updates.

5. To oversee and develop the church’s existing youth work including:
   - ProTeens (Activities for Yr7-Yr9 on Sunday mornings)
   - TAG (a fun Bible & Life after-school group for Yr7-Yr9 on Tuesdays)
   - Youth Growth Group (Bible & Life group for Yr10-18s on Tuesday evenings)
- Revive (Open Youth Club for Yr7-Yr9 on Friday evenings)
- Youth Alpha Courses
- ALF –Year 6 course exploring faith
- Joint youth events with other churches in Alsager
- Organising trips to annual events, such as Soul Survivor (14+) and Fort Rocky (Yr7-Yr9), as well as local socials
- Leading elements of all-age services
- Taking RE lessons, assemblies and mentoring students at the High School next door.

6. To be responsible for delivering the youthwork contract with Cheshire East, including coordinating the Duke of Edinburgh Award Programme (necessary training will be provided).

7. To initiate new developments within the church, local community and High School.

8. To implement and promote Christ Church’s policy on Safeguarding, in liaison with the Safeguarding Officer

The Youth Leader will be expected to worship regularly at Christ Church throughout the term of the appointment.

As a church, we support staff members in developing their skills through relevant on-going training when appropriate. In particular, depending on the successful candidate’s skills, we may offer a relevant training course during the first few months or year of the post.

There are opportunities for the post-holder to use other gifts that they may have in the life of the church—not just be ‘The Youth Leader’ and we will encourage the use of these gifts.

In addition to support provided by the church, extra support is available from the Diocesan Youth, Children & Families Missioner and network.

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**Person Specification**

**We are looking for:**
- An evangelical Christian who is committed to seeking and serving God, living a lifestyle that promotes the vision and values of the church and sets a good Christian example to young people.
- Someone who is currently a regular and active member of their existing church and would also be comfortable working within the Church of England.
- Recent experience of church-based youth work is essential.
- A leader who can inspire and grow a voluntary team, sharing responsibility effectively.
- The ability to work both as part of a team and under their own initiative, whilst being accountable—responsible and responsive to supervision.
- A willingness to serve and to build relationships with both young people and adults.
- An understanding of, and commitment to, the needs of young people.
- An enthusiasm for sharing the gospel with others in word and action, backed up by effective communication skills—including appropriate use of social media and ICT.
- A commitment to being involved in the corporate worship of this church
- Creativity and innovation
- A sense of humour
- Relevant qualifications in youth work or schools work would be desirable.
- A full driving licence would be a benefit.

There is a Genuine Occupational Requirement (GOR) that the post-holder is a Christian.

We take safeguarding seriously at Christ Church. This appointment is also conditional upon receiving a satisfactory enhanced DBS Disclosure.
Alsager is a commuter town of around 15,000 people in the south east corner of Cheshire. It has a largely middle-class population with one comprehensive school of 1,600 pupils (rated Outstanding by OFSTED) and five primary schools. It is growing rapidly and the aim is that this growth will be done in a way that makes Alsager a sustainable, thriving and prosperous town where people can live, shop and take part in leisure, sporting and sociable activities. New housing developments also offer opportunities for mission. The part of the town covered by our parish is expected to grow by around 40% over the next few years.

Its good schools and communication links make it popular with families. It is 3 miles from the M6 junction 16 and the railway station is on the Crewe-Derby line. Regular bus services run through the town, including to Stoke-on-Trent shopping centre (Hanley) and Crewe station, from which there are connections to Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, London etc.

Christ Church is a Church of England parish church of about 170 adult members and a regular Sunday Congregation of around 100 adults plus 20 children and young people. Messy Church attracts around 80 people (adults & children). It is a growing evangelical church, with Bible-based teaching, open to the work of the Holy Spirit, with a strong family emphasis, a thriving youth work and a vision for growth.

Our aim is to follow Jesus Christ and to grow in 3 directions:

**Upwards:** deeper in our love for God

**Inwards:** stronger in our relationships with one another

**Outwards:** wider in sharing God’s love with our community.

Whilst being Church of England, we are influenced by movements such as New Wine, Spring Harvest, Soul Survivor and Alpha. Our vicar has been in post since Summer 2006 and is supported by a Leadership Team and Church Council, to whom staff are ultimately accountable.

The church has a hall on the same site which in recent years has been extensively renovated and developed, providing excellent facilities for use by church and community, including an office and dedicated rooms equipped for youth and pre-schoolers. It is situated close to the comprehensive school (Alsager School) on Church Road about ½ mile from the town centre.

The church is very active with a high level of participation from many members. We have two styles of service on a Sunday, the first is more formal with organ-led hymns, the second is linked to our children’s work with songs led by a band and regular all-age celebrations. We also run Messy Church for families 3 times a term. We strongly encourage people to be part of ‘Growth Groups’ (aka cell/home groups) and to use their gifts in the life of the church. Some groups are mixed, others are more specific. For the community, we run regular Alpha courses, socials, parenting courses, a toddler group, job club and a Monday morning breakfast. We also get involved in town events such as the carnival.

Our work with children and families is led by a full-time paid Children & Families Leader, supported by a voluntary team, some with professional expertise. It currently includes ‘Kids for God’ on Sunday mornings for aged 0-Year 6, good relations with four local primary schools (taking regular assemblies, church visits, lunch-time clubs etc), a large toddler group, Sparks and Radiate (evening clubs for primary aged children) and parenting courses. We also run Messy Church, monthly during term-time.
We have a good history of youth work in the church and we encourage young people to explore their gifts in the body of the church. For Yr7-Yr9, we run a Sunday group, a midweek after-school club and a very popular open youth club (attracting around 40-80 each week). There is also a Youth Growth Group for Yr11-Yr13. We have good links with both the local council and the secondary school next door, partnering with them on initiatives such as D of E and mentoring.

We have employed youth leaders for over fourteen years (our current post-holder has been with us for seven years and is moving on to become the Youth, Children and Families Missioner for the diocese). We also have a part-time administrator as well as our Children & Families Leader. It will be important that the successful candidate works well as part of this team.

We hope that this profile has inspired you. We are excited about this stage of growth as a church within our community and look forward to sharing that journey with the successful candidate.

To get a better feel for the church, please have a look round our website at www.christchurchalsager.uk

How to Apply

If you would like to apply for this post, then please send a current CV with a covering letter explaining your interest in the job to:

Rev Toby May at:
toby@christchurchalsager.uk

or

Christ Church Office (Youth Leader Job)
35 Church Road
Alsager
Stoke-on-Trent
ST7 2HS

Please also include details of 2 people who will give references for you – name, address, phone number & email address. At least one of the two should be a leader in a church (for example a minister, youth leader, churchwarden etc)

If you’d like to talk to us about the role, then you can give us a call on 01270-873727.

We need to receive your application by Thursday 8th December 2016.

Interviews will be held on Sunday 8th January 2017.