

Christ Church Virginia Water

Job Description: Youth & Young Adult Worker

Christ Church

Christ Church Virginia Water is Church of England Parish with a congregation made up of an international family drawn from over 25 different countries, many Christians of other denominations and mainly living within a 20-mile radius of Virginia Water. We rejoice in our rich diversity but are united in knowing Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour and share a desire to help one another, from God's Word, to discover our full potential in a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. We are discovering that Jesus brings meaning, purpose and fulfilment as we grow to know him, to trust him and to serve him together for his glory. This is expressed well in our vision statement "Knowing Jesus and Making Jesus Known".

Our team comprises Vicar, Children's and Families Pastor, Youth & Young Adult Worker, Operations Manager, Finance Administrator (part-time), Parish Administrator (part-time), Communications & Development Officer (part-time), one or more Apprentices and a team of committed volunteers.

Vision

To see the youth, students and young adults of Virginia Water and beyond brought into a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ and to nurture and prepare them for adulthood, as fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Aims and Objectives

To:

- reach out evangelistically to the young people within Virginia Water to expand the youth, student and young adult ministry, in and through Christ Church, nurturing the young people to maturity in the faith, and connecting with those on the fringe
- identify, equip and train new leaders to share in the youth ministry and enable church members to be involved in the student work
- support, challenge and encourage youth, students and young adults who currently attend Christ Church and those for whom Christ Church is their home church
- enable greater integration of youth, students and young adults into the church family
- successfully manage the transitions from Sunday clubs to youth ministry and from youth to student and/or young adult ministry
- assist Christian students at the local universities to grow in maturity and be active in mission
- support young adults in their transition to working life and their changing role in the life of the church
- provide a greater awareness of Christian work at the universities among church members

Principal Responsibilities:

1. Shared Ministry

Under the direction of the Vicar to:

- provide pastoral care for the youth, students and young adults within the Parish
- plan and review ways in which the Youth & Young Adult ministry work might “Know Jesus and Make Jesus Known”

2. Discipleship

The Youth & Young Adult Worker will support youth, students and young adults within the church family by taking responsibility for evangelising, encouraging spiritual growth and providing pastoral care of the youth, students and young adults of Christ Church and seeking to integrate them within the church family, and by planning and praying for the development of Christian youth work in and through Christ Church with particular reference to the school years 7-13. Specifically:

- teaching the Sunday club group for ages 11-14
- teaching the 14 to 18-year old “Fuel” Bible study group
- encouraging youth involvement in all Sunday services and serving teams
- being responsible for the age 14-18 activities on Sunday evenings
- leading the 11 to 14-year old evening youth activities
- assisting Christian students at the local universities and young adults within Christ Church to grow in maturity. Specifically:
 - encouraging their commitment and involvement within the church including small groups and serving teams
 - providing teaching and study groups outside of church services
 - providing social events with the specific aim of enabling Christian fellowship, building individuals’ relationship with Christ and encouraging evangelism
 - seeking opportunities for one-to-one meetings including others from the church family meeting with students
 - pastoring young adults in their evolving role in the life of the church

3. Mission

The Youth & Young Adult Worker will:

- explore, recommend and facilitate new initiatives in evangelistic outreach among the young people of Virginia Water, especially local schools, in partnership with the clergy and staff team
- look for opportunities for youth, students and young adults for one to one meetings, prayer and Bible study in a safeguarded environment
- assist Christian students at local universities and others of student age to grow in maturity and be active in mission by keeping in contact with Christian groups at the universities and by investigating ways in which the church can support Christians at the Universities through offers of use of church building and facilities and help from church members (especially through teaching)
- explore and encourage communication between local churches and organisations working with youth, students and young adults

4. Support

The Youth & Young Adult Worker will motivate and equip the church family to serve youth, students and young adults by:

- supporting, encouraging and motivating existing leaders and to recruit and develop new leaders in order to expand the youth ministry at Christ Church
- building up a team of church members able and willing to get involved in the student and young adult work and increase ownership within that team such that the future of the work is never dependant solely on the Youth & Young Adult Worker
- seeking out people within the church who are dedicated to praying for the student and young adult ministry and enabling and encouraging all church members to pray for the work in the universities
- ensuring a greater awareness of, and warm welcome for students from the local universities at Christ Church and coordinating student lunches
- being aware of current legislation regarding the welfare and protection of young people and to ensure adherence to Safeguarding Policy, agreed by Christ Church PCC, as it applies to the Youth Ministry (ages 11-18) and vulnerable adults
- managing and maintaining the Christ Church Youth website www.christianyouth.co.uk
- using opportunities to inform church members about relevant issues and activities (e-news, prayer meetings, newsletter, website, Connection, services, etc.)

Desirable Qualifications

- A clear calling to youth, student and young adult ministry
- Experience of working with youth, students and young adults in a Christian setting
- An undergraduate qualification in Theology and/or Youth, Student & Young Adult work

Personal Attributes:

- A vibrant personal faith in Jesus Christ
- A love for youth, students and young adults
- A role model of Christian values and disciplines in personal and spiritual life
- A knowledge of age-related personal and behavioural development including spiritual development
- A knowledge and understanding of the educational, social and emotional worlds of students, young adults and youth in the 21st Century
- Able to use a wide range of teaching strategies to make the Bible relevant and exciting to youth, students and young adults
- Experience of and knowledge of pastoral and counselling strategies specific to working with youth, students and young adults and youth and a clear understanding of related safeguarding issues
- An understanding of and empathy towards the challenges of parenting and an openness to support parents and carers in a range of contexts
- Confidence in leading both small and large groups or meetings
- Relational and bridge-building skills
- Humility, eagerness to learn and develop
- Willingness to work within a ministry team
- Flexibility and enthusiasm
- Good time management
- A sense of humour

Accountability & Working Relationships

- The contract will be between the Youth & Young Adult Worker and Christ Church PCC
- The Youth & Young Adult Worker will be accountable to the Children's & Families Pastor with whom he/she will meet weekly for planning and review of activities and for support
- The Youth & Young Adult Worker will report to the PCC against the role's goals and objectives, under the direction of their Line Manager
- The Youth & Young Adult Worker will attend regular Safeguarding Meetings
- It is a condition of employment that the Youth & Young Adult Worker:
 - subscribes to the Christ Church Statement of Faith*
 - becomes a fully participating member of Christ Church in accordance with the Church's Membership Scheme* and attends services regularly
 - understands, accepts and abides by the policies detailed in the Employee Handbook*
- The Youth & Young Adult Worker will join the Church Staff Team and participate in the weekly Staff Meeting

Training, Development & Performance Review

- All Christ Church staff are expected to continue their personal and professional development. Funding for this may be available
- The Youth & Young Adult Worker will be subject to DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) clearance and will attend Diocesan safeguarding training for Vulnerable Adults, social media, etc, as required
- Performance Reviews will take place with the designated Line Manager every 6 months

Terms and Conditions

Detailed below are the principal terms and conditions associated with the post. A full Statement of Terms & Conditions is incorporated into the Contract of Employment:

- The Youth & Young Adult Worker's hours of work are 40 hours per week (including 5 hours of lunch breaks) worked flexibly across the week, including Sundays, to meet the requirements of the role and with the agreement of the designated Line Manager. Annual leave entitlement is 24 days per annum plus Public and Bank Holidays
- The Youth & Young Adult Worker's normal place of work is within the Christ Church campus with some time spent on Royal Holloway campus
- Expenses incurred will be reimbursable in line with the Expenses Policy in the Employee Handbook
- There is a Genuine Occupational Requirement (GOR) that the post-holder is a Christian

***Associated Documents**

Christ Church Statement of Faith
Christ Church Membership Scheme Leaflet
Employee Handbook

*Created: January 2019
PCC approved: 19th February 2019*