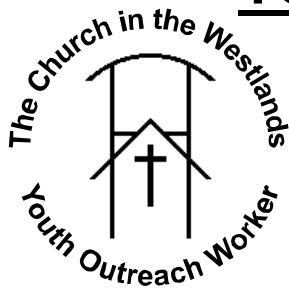


Youth Outreach Worker



**The Church in the Westlands
Newcastle under Lyme**

Background Information

We hope you will find a lot of information about the Churches, and the area in which we work, from the [Church Website](#), but we have gathered some snippets together below as a quick reference.

We have also set out some of the work that the previous Youth Outreach Worker has undertaken, as a guide to what has been happening. **The Management Committee will be looking for the person who is appointed to review this work and to take forward the role in a way that plays to their own strengths. It is fully accepted that this may mean a different way of doing the work.**

The Westlands

The Westlands is a residential suburb of Newcastle-under-Lyme in North Staffordshire, just to the South West of the Town Centre. It is situated in a triangle formed by the M6, the A53 to Market Drayton and Shrewsbury and the A519 to Eccleshall and Telford. A map and directions are available on the Church website.

The original Westlands Housing Estate was built in the 1920's. Subsequent developments took place in the 1930's, when both Churches were built at the centre of the wheel, and in the late 1940's and 1950's.

The Westlands parish has a population of just over 6,000 people and Census data can be found on the [Lichfield Diocesan website](#). However, both Churches also draw people from neighbouring areas.

Schools

The Churches have good relationships with all the local schools - 4 primary schools, 2 secondary schools and a special school, with easy access for assemblies and lessons. They have enthusiastically welcomed the appointment of a Youth Outreach Worker whom they have been glad to have in their schools for assemblies, lessons and clubs.

We share the care for some of these schools, particularly the secondary schools, with other Churches and we have their support in this venture. During the vacancy our Ministers have been keeping in contact with the schools and providing some input to the work.

Support

As well as the tremendously encouraging support of local schools, this initiative also has the support of the local Borough and County Councillors and both Councils have contributed towards the funding of the post on a one-off basis.

The post has the support of church leaders in the area, with the Anglican Diocese and Methodist District also contributing to the funding.

The Churches

St. Andrew's and St. Peter's stand together at the heart of the Westlands area.

They have worked together in a formal covenanted partnership since 1973 and have a full range of activities - much of which is carried out jointly - whilst maintaining their individual identities, particularly through separate Sunday morning worship and Church Councils.

The Mission Statement for the Partnership is:

“As the Church in the Westlands we are committed in the power of the Holy Spirit that our worship, service and witness will demonstrate to everyone the love of Christ”.

St. Andrew's has a conservative evangelical tradition with a strong emphasis on Biblical preaching and teaching, whilst St. Peter's is a mainstream Methodist congregation forming part of the Newcastle Methodist Circuit.

St. Andrew's has an Electoral Roll of 350 with an average Sunday attendance of 155 adults in 2008, which includes a number of young families. St. Peter's has a membership of 90 with about 50 in worship each Sunday.

Church Children and Young People

There are 40 to 50 children and young people who meet in [four age related groups](#) during the main Sunday morning worship and we suspect we are unique in having a group for Children and Young People at our 8.00 a.m. service !

There are a number of uniformed groups who have close links with both Churches, as have two Mother and Toddler groups.

The Vision for Youth Outreach

Our vision is to reach out to the young people of the Westlands and the surrounding area by presenting the Christian Gospel in a way that is meaningful to them, so that their lives might be touched by the Lord Jesus Christ.

The need for a Youth Worker

The Church in the Westlands believes it has a key contribution to make to the spiritual life of the community in which it serves and in reaching out with the gospel message to all. The only institutions in our immediate area are schools and the whole of our work benefits from having someone with the necessary skills and time to relate to young people in their own situations and culture.

Our first Youth Outreach Worker started at the Westlands on 1 September 2005 and left on 31 August 2009 to take up a graduate teacher-training post at a Primary School in Stoke.



As well as the schools work, the Youth Outreach Worker has previously spent time on direct outreach work and in working with our own Young People to help them relate their faith to others. The photos on the page above are from our annual Holiday Club and you can see the extensive band of willing volunteers to help with this type of outreach work. Similar activities have included Light Parties (with our helpers ensuring this continued last year, after the Youth Outreach Worker's departure) and Easter activities.

The Youth Outreach Worker led the God's Posse group on a Sunday morning for those Young People aged 14+ and this enabled him to teach and nurture them so as to share their own faith with others. Relationships were developed through a weekly gathering at a Coffee shop in the Town Centre and at one stage Worship was held once a month "by Young People, for Young People" under the banner of ID.

We hope this information helps, but if you want to discuss the post or the work more, then please do not hesitate to call our Vicar, Gerald Gardiner, on 01782 619594.

Updated 28 January 2010