



Our continuing vision: 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: We will require significant extra giving to enable us to continue this post beyond autumn 2017.

Having a full-time Youth and Children's worker as part of the Church in the Westlands staff team makes a huge difference to the number of people we can contact with the good news of Jesus. Last month St Andrew's was packed to capacity with children and parents for a school harvest service. And in addition, all the research shows that the childhood and teenager years are the time when individuals are most open to hearing and responding to Christ. In recent years the most readily open doors have been with 7-11's, and each week our Youth and Children's worker, along with others, leads bible-based assemblies in Langdale and Westlands Schools, along with a slot or two most terms at Seabridge Primary School.

Langdale Primary is also the location for Rock Solid – a mix of games and Christian teaching, led by our youth worker

**ROCK
SOLID**

There are also some opportunities for contact with the two nearby secondary schools, helping with the technical side of their music & drama presentations, and there have been signs that these openings may expand a little.



On our own premises there are currently two weekly clubs, each with a mix of games, activities and Christian teaching appropriate to that particular age group: Glo for 7-11's and Blaze for 11-14's.

As with all such activities, we are very grateful to the volunteer leaders and helpers. However we would not be able to achieve nearly so much without the particular gifts that a specialist youth and children's worker brings.

BLAZE

Last, but not least, Johnny continues to be very involved in the church's teaching ministry to 11-18's as a member of the pathfinders (11-14's) leadership team - and also taking the main role in the weekly youth study group for 14-18's which is just being re-launched. He's also been one of the main organisers of the Newcastle ecumenical young people's meetings under the banner of YouthInc.



“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children... Deuteronomy 6:4-6

How has this been funded?

The cost of this post is currently around £24,000 per year. As well as paying a salary there are also working expenses, employer’s NI, pension contributions and some continuing training to be funded.

When the project was begun, some grant funding was available to help us. But the few such grants that are still available are generally only given to projects in their earliest years. This means that - as is the case for most churches undertaking this kind of ministry - the only way of continuing in the longer term is through the sustained generous giving of local church members.

The challenge

For several years we have benefited from one-off capital gifts. However, these are now diminishing - and in order to continue the post beyond around November 2017 we need to appeal for more funds.

Last year’s appeal resulted in an increase in regular giving from around £13,000 pa to the current level of £16,000 pa. We are very grateful both to those who increased their giving, and to a number who started giving to this project for the first time. The ideal, of course, would be if we

were able to increase regular giving to cover the full £24,000 cost of the post. We recognise that this represents a considerable challenge but consider that it could well be achievable, especially if a good number of people were willing to commit to regular giving for the first time.

We understand too that some people feel more able to make one-off gifts – and these will of course be very welcome as well.

If you are able to help with the continuing funding of our Youth and Children’s Worker project, in whatever way, then please complete the form overleaf and return it to either church’s collection plate, or by post to The Vicarage, 50 Kingsway West ST5 3PU..

A detailed spreadsheet of costs and expenses can be found on

www.churchinthewestlands.org.uk

Alternatively do speak to Andrew Dawswell (tel 01782 619594) or to another member of the management committee (John Taylor, Bob Baker, Marion Reddish, Sue Tattersall) – or, regarding finances, Chris Gill.

Response Form

Name

Address

Postcode

Email

You can hold these details in electronic form for the duration of this project

From (date)....

I will begin regular giving at £ per month/year

I will increase my regular giving to £ per month/year

I will continue my current regular giving

I will give a one off donation of £.....

Please Gift Aid my contribution