



Youth & Children's Worker

The Church in the Westlands Newcastle under Lyme

Welcome

This is an exciting time within our churches as we consider the next stage in our Youth and Children's work development, seeking to build on the ministry of the last 12 years. We have a firm vision of what we want to achieve, and there is much good work already up and running but we are looking for someone who is going to bring new ideas and strengths to our work. If you have the vision, commitment, passion for mission and evangelism, and a heart for young people then this could be the ideal post for you. You will receive the support of welcoming churches with plenty of people already willing to help in various roles. Can you be the missing link we are looking for?

A further document of background information, and more information about our churches, is also available on www.churchinthewestlands.org.uk The 'youth and children's work' tab of our website takes you to a video produced 18 months ago by our previous worker.

If you want to know more phone the Rev Andrew Dawswell on 01782 619594

Vision

There is a 3-fold vision for this post:

Pioneer work with age 11-18

Discipleship of 11-18's who are already part of the church family

Continuing outreach initiatives for 7-11's

Job details

Pioneer work with age 11-18's

- In Schools: There appears to be a continuing welcome in the 2 nearest secondary schools for a church youth worker to make a contribution to their life. Initial openings seem most likely to come from offering the post-holders specific skills to help the school, or in trying to re-launch an after-school Christian teaching ministry. We would ideally hope that this could in time lead to our worker again being invited to provide Christian input in RE lessons & collective worship.
- In the community: We are open to new ideas and projects that might serve a bridge between this age group and the church, especially as many 11-14's gravitate to our church buildings and the adjacent large grassed square. (For a post-holder with an interest or experience in detached work this could be one possible style of ministry, as some church members have expressed an interest in this kind of work.)

The aim of this work will be to develop an appropriate professional relationship with 11-18's in either a school or a community setting, with the aim of drawing some into appropriate church based activities/events/clubs (such as the Blaze club for 11-14's that we have run since Sept 2015), and the eventual goal of introducing some to lifelong Christian commitment.

Discipleship of 11-18's who are already part of the church family

- The post-holder will lead our weekly 14-16's study/activity group which currently has 4 regular members. We are hoping that here will be the potential not only to continue to teach the faith to them, but to further develop their gifts and ministries within the church and community.
- The post-holder will also be a member of the leadership team for our Sunday morning ministry to 11-14's
- Work with the Vicar, Minister and worship committee to develop ways in which young people (and children too) can participate in different ways in the main church services
- Developing worship in different forms, as appropriate, whilst maintaining a firm commitment to the biblical grounding of the Christian faith
- Building relationships with church families to help develop the pastoral care of our young people, including visiting their homes, coffee shop gatherings, arranging trips out etc.
- Working with other local churches, including being part of the Newcastle Youth event planning team – for the last 5 years they have organised an ecumenical event for 11+, either yearly, or sometimes even each term.

Continuing outreach initiatives for 7-11's

We will also expect the post-holder to be confident working with this age range, working alongside existing teams in leading and developing

- Regular assemblies in local primary schools
- Two after-school clubs – one in a local school, one in church premises,
- An Annual summer Holiday Club

Person specification

We are looking for a person who:

Essential

1. Is a practicing Christian who is committed to a biblical faith, has a regular prayer life, and is in good standing with the local church and wider community
2. Is capable of publicly speaking to young people, children and adults about the Christian faith
3. Is proficient in forming ongoing professional relationships with young people, adults and children

4. Is capable of working alongside a youth and children's work team, arranging appropriate training, and recruiting and developing new leaders and helpers.
5. Is willing to work unsociable hours (a regular working week will include ministry in evenings and Sundays; and we also envisage trips out and residentials being included in the programme)
6. Is extremely reliable
7. Is self-motivated and can work independently, from an office in St Peter's church complex
8. Is capable of independent transport in the South Newcastle locality
9. Basic ICT Capabilities
10. Is willing to live within 15 minutes travelling time to the Westlands (or to relocate within a few months of starting the post)
11. Flexibility and willingness to learn, to try out new ideas and types of ministry, and to participate in appropriate continuing ministerial/professional development

The post-holder will be expected to become part of our worshipping community, getting to know members of both churches. We will endeavour to find a working pattern to develop which enables him/her to both give and receive ministry.

Desirable

1. Has at least 3 years experience in youth and community work and/or a relevant qualification (e.g. in Youth and Community Work, or a church based youth work qualification)
 2. Has experience of working in schools
 3. Has the Experience or Potential of using ICT skills in ministry
- Ideally we would like to appoint a candidate with significant maturity and experience in this area of ministry, to take a significant responsibility for co-ordination and strategy. We are however also open to candidates at an earlier stage in their professional development.
 - We expect the candidate's strengths and passions to impact significantly on how this 3-fold vision is carried out, utilising their unique gifts, talents and skills (eg music ministry, drama, sport, film-making, preaching, etc)

Pay

The post is a full time 37.5 hours per week - though also open to a part time appointee who was able to offer 20 or more hours per week; The full-time salary is in the range of £18-22,000 (pro rata for part time) although for a less experienced candidate if significant training costs were deemed necessary, these would be deducted from the £18,000 offered.

The post-holder will be auto enrolled into a pension scheme which is funded by 4% by the post holder and 4% by the church, although it is possible to opt out of this.

This is a 3 year position with opportunity for renewal

Application Process

An application form can be downloaded from The Church in the Westlands website www.churchinthewestlands.org.uk.

Please email to ja.dawswell@googlemail.com (or if this isn't possible ring Andrew Dawswell on 01782 619594 to discuss an alternative method) The application deadline is **Monday 12th June**,