**St Mary’s, Henbury**

**Job Description**

**Community Connector**

**Background**

The Community Connector will contribute to the development of St Mary’s outreach, with a specific focus on supporting our engagement with younger generations and families. The geographical focus of the role will be the deprived areas of our parish (such as Crow Lane, Station Road and Brentry). The person appointed will act as a bridge-builder between members of the established congregation and the wider community, helping our volunteers to grow in confidence to connect with and support families and young people in this part of the parish. The intention is to build mutually beneficial relationships which (when appropriate), will lead to invitations to explore the Christian faith and/or become part of the life of the church.

There is scope for the successful candidate to shape the role as time goes on in response to opportunities that arise. For example, supporting opportunities for new Christian communities in the parish.

**Focus of the role**

This role will aim to build capacity and confidence for outreach and mission in the deprived areas of the parish, through two initial areas of focus.

1. Develop a team of volunteers who will connect with clients of Every Family to provide befriending and practical support around specific life skills or needs.
2. Develop links with youth and family service providers operating within the parishto identify ways St Mary’s could support young people (11-18yo).

**Key relationships**

The successful candidate will be part of a newly formed team overseeing the development St Mary’s engagement with younger generations. Key relationships within the team and the wider parish will be:

* Line Manager: Associate Priest (Priest-in-Charge until Associate Priest appointed)
* Priest-in-Charge
* Children and Young People’s Worker (part time, Sunday Children’s Church leader)
* Parish Administrator
* Churchwardens and PCC
* Congregation members
* Community partners
* Priority Communities Network team

**Main duties**

* Develop a team of volunteers from St Mary’s and, with input from the Priority Community Network’s Training Officer, support them to:
* Identify and nurture the gifts and skills they could offer to families
* Grow in confidence for outreach and mission
* Contribute to building Christian community
* Develop and deepen working relationships with Every Family
* Build working links with the various youth and family service providers operating within the parish to support the development of youth provision in the area, and identify the specific ways in which St Mary’s church could contribute through support, outreach or space
* Work collaboratively with the Associate Priest (when appointed) to build existing links and relationships with children and young people’s groups in the parish, such as local schools and the 1st Brentry Scouts/Brownies.
* Promote church activities and services through face-to-face, website and social media channels.
* Support, where needed, the work of developing the church building to be more accessible and functional for the benefit of the wider community, with a particularly focus on engaging younger generations with the Christian faith and the life of the church, for example contributing to baptism and confirmation preparation.

**General duties**

* Work within safeguarding procedures and statutory guidelines
* Provide regular reports on project progress to the PCC as well as updates to the parish newsletter and online channels
* Attend any training required for development
* Actively engage with, and support the development of, the worship life of St. Mary’s church throughout the week, including worshipping with the main Sunday congregation a minimum of once per month.
* Carry out any evaluation and reporting required for the Priority Community Network, including case studies and stories that demonstrate the impact of the work and programme
* Support fundraising through applying for project-specific grants, or by providing evidence and information for others making applications.
* Undertake any other duties that may reasonably be requested by the Priest-in-Charge

**Accountability and support**

* Regular supervision with the Associate Priest
* We will provide space in a shared office with a hot desk, laptop and phone.
* We will offer a structured induction, and any contextual training needed depending on the needs and experience of the successful candidate.

**Person Specification**

**Essential criteria**

* A Christian committed to the development of their own spiritual journey, through involvement with a church community and a lived-out-faith
* An understanding of the aims of Inclusive Church and an enthusiasm to work within an inclusive church context
* Experience of leading and developing volunteers or teams (moved from desirable to essential)
* Experience of sensitively leading or developing contextually-appropriate activities or projects aimed at sharing or nurturing the Christian faith with those who are not from a church background
* Awareness of the issues which affect areas of Henbury experiencing social and economic disadvantage
* A self-starter able to work on own initiative
* Experience of working collaboratively to develop links and build relationships with other partners and organisations
* Effective communicator both written and verbal
* Competent with using information technology and digital communications, for example social media
* A people person who is friendly, open, caring and sensitive
* Flexibility to work evenings and weekends as required
* Ability to travel independently across the parish and Diocese
* Understanding of the importance of safeguarding

**Desirable criteria**

* Experience of community development
* Experience of working with people across different needs or socio-economic/cultural backgrounds
* Effective organisational skills
* An understanding of the Anglican Five Marks of Mission
* Sensitivity to issues of the church’s contested heritage relating to transatlantic chattel slavery
* Completed a course of study relevant to community development or missional theology

**Notes**

This post is subject to the applicant having the right to work in the UK, satisfactory references and an enhanced DBS disclosure. There is a genuine occupational requirement that the holder of this post is a committed Christian. Equality Act (2010) Part 1 applies.