



St Mary's Church, Shirehampton

Job Description

The Priority Communities Network is a parish based holistic project that looks to deploy substantial resource into churches in areas of disadvantage in the Diocese of Bristol. The programme aims to enable and cultivate sustainable, good growth across areas of multiple deprivation so that we see numerical growth of people and finances, deeper discipleship, and social transformation in these communities. The Priority Communities Programme is funding this role for St Mary's Church, Shirehampton, Bristol.

JOB TITLE: Community Connector

JOB SUMMARY: The Community Connector is a new role created to encourage the flourishing of our community, through the use of Asset Based Community Development with a particular focus on Youth and those on the margins.

REPORTS TO: The Vicar, Rev Alison Sowton

CONTRACT: Fixed-term until December 2028; part-time 16 h/pw on a job-share basis

TERMS: Salary £13,184 pro-rata dependent on qualifications or experience. Annual leave for part time role will be confirmed on appointment.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS: *(Staff wide)* To maintain and develop your relationship with Jesus through regular times of personal prayer, study and retreat.
To play an active role in the worshipping life of the church family at St Mary's Church, Shirehampton.
To be a fully participative member of the staff team: attending staff meetings, retreats and trips away, and to play your part in building excellent working relationships.



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KEY RELATIONSHIPS:
(Role Specific)

To meet regularly with your line manager to help reflect on, and manage, your workload; to structure the pattern of your normal working week; to pray and plan strategic targets; and for personal/spiritual support and accountability.

To develop a positive and collaborative working relationship with St Mary's Children's Youth Minister, administrators, and volunteers.

To initiate, develop and maintain positive working relationships with other community groups Shirehampton, working collaboratively for the good of wider community in the local area.

To build good relationships and networks of support and encouragement with community leaders in local churches and the wider Bristol area.

To collaborate with the Parish Safeguarding Officers and clergy, to ensure our Safeguarding Policies are implemented effectively in all areas.

To connect with the Diocese Priority Communities Network & team.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES:

Making connections, building relationships and identifying assets amongst the wider community using the model of Asset Based Community Development.

Responsibilities regarding Church & Community

- Connect with people of varying ages where they are, in a variety of different ways and contexts (detached community, signposting, mentoring etc).
- Work alongside community members including those on the margins to help discover their 'gifts, skills and talents
- Empower people to contribute to neighbourhood life through creative events, and intergenerational activities.
- Attend welcoming space weekly on a Friday, developing relationships with those that attend
- Raise up, encourage and release new volunteers from across the age spectrum
- Support community members, including those on the margins to overcome barriers in their lives whatever they may be.
- Enable community members, including those on the margins to participate with other agencies working in Shirehampton and beyond.
- Support community members, including those on the margins to find a pathway into faith that enables them to experience the Gospel story and find a welcoming and inclusive faith community. This will include sharing in the development of a New Worshipping Community through a midweek praise service and the delivery of seekers' course.



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Responsibilities regarding Management & Communications

- Working with the new Operations Hub Manager to develop our community outreach social media
- Maintaining good records and statistics, and sharing case studies and good news stories with the Diocese Priority Communities Team
- Financial planning and management of the Community Connector's budget, with the support of our Operations Hub Manager
- Raising the profile of Asset Based Community Development in the life of the church through excellent communication and regular testimonies in church services.



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Person Specification

We are looking for an engaging and sensitive enabler with a heart for the local community, including those on the margins. Someone who is passionate about exploring and delivering different pathways to faith for those who are unchurched, or damaged by previous experiences of Church. We are looking for someone to be a part of an ‘Inclusive church’, welcoming all. Someone with energy and experience, willing to join our committed and passionate team to continue the development of flourishing in our community.

Qualifications & Experience	
Experience	
Essential	Desirable
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has a proven track record of church and community Asset Based Community Development 2. Has experience and understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safeguarding - Safer recruitment - GDPR - H&S legislation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urban ministry leadership experience 2. Experience of working with those with mental health issues 3. Experience of leading people to faith in Christ 4. A working knowledge of Church of England structures and traditions.
Skills and abilities	
Essential	Desirable
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Ability to relate and communicate well with all ages in a variety of settings 4. Enthusiastic advocate for intergenerational ministry 5. Good self-awareness and desire to work well with others 6. An ability to establish good working relationships with local community stakeholders 7. Experience of organising community events 8. Good work organisation and ability to deal with administrative and communication tasks 9. Good computer skills and knowledge or social media platforms 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Educated to minimum A-level. 6. Theological training and / or children’s and youth training 7. Knowledge of IT platforms 8. Social media management skills 9. Preparing risk assessments and first aid training 10. Experience of worshipping in Anglican Church(es).



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Personal	
Essential	Desirable
10. A vibrant, life-giving and life-shaping Christian faith, rooted in a local church. 11. Commitment to being a part of an 'Inclusive Church' 12. Vision and enthusiasm for the community, including those on the margins to meet Jesus and be transformed by the relationship. 13. An awareness of contemporary culture and the issues which affect this community, especially those from areas of social disadvantage. 14. Flexibility to work evenings and weekends as required 15. Ability to travel independently across the parish and Diocese.	

GENUINE OCCUPATIONAL REQUIREMENT

This post is subject to an occupational requirement that the postholder be a practicing Christian under part 1 of Schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010.

SAFEGUARDING

The Diocese of Bristol and St Mary's Church are committed to safeguarding, safer recruiting practice and promoting the welfare of children young people and vulnerable adults and expect all staff and volunteers to share the commitment.

If you would like to know more, we invite you to have an informal conversation with the Vicar of St Mary's Church. To make an appointment, please contact Rev. Alison Sowton at vicar@stmarysshire.org.

HOW TO APPLY

- For applications please contact the office of St Mary's Church, office@stmarysshire.org
- Completed applications need to be sent to office@stmarysshire.org
- Closing date: 9 am on Wednesday, 24th June
- Interview date: TBC