

Youth Worker St John's Fishponds

22 hours per week
£28,000 pro rata



Application Pack

Key Information

Youth Worker 3-year fixed term (initially) St John's Church, Fishponds, Bristol. BS16 3QG

Hours: 22 hours per week

Salary: £28,000 FTE (pro rata)

Location: St John's Church, Lodge Causeway, Fishponds. Bristol, with work in local schools and community settings

Responsible to: The Vicar

Contract: Fixed 3 year term initially - with hope of lengthening of the contract.

Holiday entitlement:

21 days per year (including bank holidays, pro rata). Some bank holidays will be worked, with time off in lieu.

Working Pattern

The role will include a mix of daytime, evening and some weekend work. The pattern will be agreed with the Vicar and reviewed regularly.

About St John's

St John's Fishponds is a parish church with an active and growing engagement with the community, especially with children and families. There is established children's work in the church already with a small Junior Church on 2 Sundays a month, and a recently established Family Club, once a week after school. There are also close relationships with the thriving uniformed groups (who use the St John's Community Hall) and regular schools work with the primary school next door.



There are young people connected to the church in a range of ways already. Through this appointment, the St John's church community are seeking to grow new ways of sharing the love and peace of Christ.



St John's has accessible and spacious environments for developing youth work with a flexible church building, a developing garden area and the community hall which has recently been painted with a mural of Bristol/Fishponds scenes.



Our Context

St John's is on Lodge Causeway in Fishponds and serves the Lodge Causeway area and Hillfields. Our community includes a mix of long-standing communities and newer housing developments. A new 5K people housing development, Atlas Place, is currently being built in close proximity.

The area has a diverse population and a range of social needs. St John's has good existing relationships within the community, including with the nearby mosque who use our car park for Friday prayers. There are strong local connections with the two primary schools in the Parish; Minerva Primary and Chester Park Primary which is next door to the church. There are two secondary schools within easy walking distance, 'BBA' and 'Bristol Met'

Like any area there are challenges, but there are also many opportunities for growth and change, especially at this time of population growth in the area.



About the Role

The main focus of this job role is with young people of secondary school age and Year 6/7 transition.

This is a new role, focused on establishing and growing youth work at St John's in the context of Lodge Causeway, Hillfields and Fishponds. It will involve building relationships with young people both within the church and in the wider community, creating safe and welcoming spaces, and shaping the work in response to local needs.

We recognise that the scope of this role is big and will support the youth worker in building this within capacity. There will be the freedom shape and grow youth work over time and we are looking for someone who can listen, observe, hear and help shape the direction of this work.



Key Responsibilities

Developing Youth Work

- Develop a youth work offer that is relational, consistent and appropriate to the local context and sharing the love of Christ.
- Create spaces where young people feel safe, known and are able to participate

Schools Engagement

- Develop further links with Chester Park Primary School, specifically supporting transition from Year 6 into Year 7
- Begin to build relationships with local secondary schools over time

St John's

- Build relationships with young people already connected to the church
- Work with the leaders and young people of existing church activities
- Collaborating with the church community

Building Relationships in the Community

- Build relationships with young people in the Lodge Causeway and Hillfields area
- Develop links with local organisations and community groups where appropriate

Role Management and safeguarding

- Recruit, support and develop volunteers involved in youth work
- Maintain high standards of safeguarding, meeting regularly with the church PSO
- Manage agreed budgets
- Meet regularly with the Vicar for supervision and support
- Continuous professional development and training will be encouraged

Project Aims (First 2 Years)

Year 1

- Build relationships with the young people who already link with the church
- Build relationships with young people in the Lodge Causeway/Hillfields area
- Establish a regular drop-in for 11–14 year olds
- Develop a Year 6 group / link with Chester Park Junior School, building relationships and focussing on transition to secondary school.

Year 2 (In addition to year 1)

- Begin developing links with local secondary schools (BBA and Bristol Metropolitan Academy)
- Develop youth work further in response to relationships and identified needs

Year 3 - Building on what we learn from years 1 and 2.



Person Specification

Essential

- A Christian who is able to support and work within the ethos and mission of St John's
- Experience of working with young people in a church, school or community setting
- Experience of building relationships with young people from a range of backgrounds
- Ability to listen, hear, observe and respond to emerging needs
- Ability to plan and lead activities and groups for young people
- Strong relational and communication skills
- Good IT skills including social media
- Ability to take initiative and work independently
- Understanding of safeguarding and appropriate boundaries
- Ability to work collaboratively and build relationships within a church community and to recruit and coordinate volunteers.

Desirable

- Relevant qualification or training in youth work, community work, education, theology or a related field
- Experience of developing new or early-stage youth work
- Experience of working in a community or estate context
- Experience of working with schools

Personal Qualities

- Approachable, relational and grounded
- Reflective and willing to learn
- Resilient and patient in a developing role

Occupational Requirement

There is an occupational requirement for the postholder to be a practising Christian in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

How to Apply

Please send a completed application form and confidential declaration form to:

administrator@kingswaybenefice.org

Deadline Friday 19th June

(may close earlier if sufficient applications received)

Interviews w/c 13th July

This role is subject to an enhanced DBS check

If you would like an informal conversation about this role please feel free to get in touch with Matt Stone

mattstone@kingswaybenefice.org.uk

07470471359

