

JOB TITLE: Youth and Children's Worker (Full Time, Part Time considered)

EMPLOYER: Christchurch Hitchin

REPORTING TO: Line Manager, Christchurch Trustees Oversight Group

SALARY: £22-£26,000 p.a. depending on experience plus pension contribution with annual review. Pro-rata for Part-time. Annual leave: 28 days (Including bank holidays)

This role is an exciting opportunity to join the team at Christchurch Hitchin, a Methodist/URC congregation with more than 250 members. Christchurch Hitchin wants to support all people to grow their Christian faith - young and old, churched or not - we long to see more people growing as disciples. We want to be known for making a positive difference in our community - offering support, encouragement and welcome to all. We aim to empower young people to take the next step on their own faith journey, through building relationships and equipping for life.

We are looking for a leader to take a key role in our mission who would have overall responsibility for the work with 5-25 year olds. The role is full time – there is lots to do - but we're flexible. We will consider structuring the role to be part-time for the right person.

You will work as a team with our Family Worker to develop and deliver appropriate teaching and outreach programmes for the various age-groups. You will also support with the various volunteer teams, equipping them for their ministries. You will seek to build connections with other Hitchin churches and agencies, working particularly closely with Phase, the town's Christian schoolwork charity. You will look for new opportunities to grow faith and relationships both inside and outside of our church community.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. To build on and enhance the current strategy for our work with children and young people at Christchurch and beyond

- 1.1. To be part of the Christchurch ministry team, leading and developing children and youth programmes, which may include leading occasional Sunday services
- 1.2. To build on and develop teaching and worship programmes to help young people at Christchurch and beyond to explore and mature in their Christian faith. This includes planning and leading residential trips
- 1.3. To develop and lead/participate in programmes for young people in the local community which will allow for opportunities to build relationships and evangelise
- 1.4. To develop the vision and realise a strategy for future youth ministry at Christchurch, that contributes to the wider vision for the church
- 1.5 Support and nurture the volunteer leaders
- 1.6 To work closely with the Family Worker to ensure the programmes, teaching and strategies are coordinated and complementary

2. To work with other agencies to further the work of the church

- 2.1 To work alongside Phase and support their work in local schools
- 2.2 Build on the existing relationships with local schools, to offer effective support and welcome

2.3 Work with other groups (Scouts, Guides, other churches, Council groups etc) to support our community and our church

3. To grow the mission of the Church

3.1 Explore new areas for mission and evangelism with unchurched young people

3.2 Respond to the work of the Holy Spirit in our community

The above list of job duties is not exclusive or exhaustive and the post holder will be required to undertake such tasks as may reasonably be expected within the scope of the post.

KEY ACTIVITIES:

We have a programme of activities for the Youth and Children's worker. Here's what you could be doing:

- Weekly
 - Sunday: Junior Church and Youth Work (evening)
 - Contact time with young people and students
 - Prayer breakfast with Phase team
 - Staff meeting with Christchurch ministry team (currently the Minister, family worker and administrator)
- Organising events through the year, such as residential trips and Soul Survivor
- Working with the family worker to plan and co-ordinate activities
- Working with Phase on school workshops and other school activities
- Supporting the volunteers working with your children and young people
- Planning for all the above!

But, this is what we have been doing. We're looking for you to shape the role as you come to find new opportunities to grow faith and relationships.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

	Essential	Desirable
Skills and Knowledge		
Ability to build good relationships and manage teams effectively.	✓	
Excellent communication skills, both written and oral.	✓	
Experience of presentation and teaching in a range of contexts		✓
Development, delivery and evaluation of strategy.	✓	
A drive to continuously improve, learn and develop.	✓	
Sound judgment and decision making.	✓	
Ability to creatively engage with young people	✓	
Safeguarding policy and practice.	✓	
Adolescent development and pastoral support.	✓	
Understanding of youth culture and issues faced by young people.	✓	
Understanding of current educational pedagogy.		✓
Experience & Qualifications:		
Working with young people and children.	✓	
Public speaking in a variety of contexts and group sizes.		✓
Developing strategy and implementing new projects.	✓	
Enabling young people to develop their faith through serving and leading.		✓
Working with a wide range of organisations and people with differing cultures and beliefs.		✓
Relevant undergraduate degree or ministry qualification.		✓
Ongoing involvement in training courses, reading, academic study or other personal development.	✓	
Full UK driving license.		✓
Enhanced DBS check will be required.	✓	
Values & Ethos:		
Committed Christian with a desire to share faith.	✓	
Commitment to the ethos of Christchurch Hitchin. There is an occupational requirement to employ a committed Christian.	✓	
Honesty and integrity.	✓	
Able to work on own initiative and manage flexible hours.	✓	