



Youth Leader Job Description & Person Specification St Mary of Bethany Church, Woking

This is a new role with a focus on both developing you as a Youth leader, engaging with young people who are either on the 'fringes' of church life or not yet connected with St Mary of Bethany (SMoB). Ages 11-18 would be your focus with some work with ages 7-11. Your role would include some support of and involvement with our existing activities, but a good part of your week should be given to wider community engagement and pioneering new ways of engaging with young people. In your first year of employment you would attend the Diocese of Guildford's year long training programme called '[Foundations in Ministry](#)' which is particularly tailored to children and youth leaders, combining practical training and theology study. We are aware that undertaking this training will leave less time for other duties during this your first year of work. This role is ideal for someone new to paid work in this area.

SMoB is a medium sized, evangelical Anglican church on the edge of Woking town centre. We are affiliated with the Evangelical Alliance and New Wine Network. We currently have a limited number of young people connected with the church though there is a lot of potential for youth work in local secondary schools and with young people in the community. There are two primary schools in the parish, with whom we have good relationships. Our vision is God's transforming people in our parish: To love Jesus, to serve and tell others, to be community.

Woking is the most culturally diverse town in Surrey, and only 25 minutes from London though surrounded by beautiful countryside. It has good public transport and local facilities. Woking has a large number of thriving churches from a range of denominations.

Role responsibilities:

- Pioneer new ways of engaging with young people in our parish and actively seek opportunities for this. This will be the focus of your role.
- Work alongside Engage (a Christian charity) in local schools and sixth form college, building your own relationships in them.
- Developing a discipleship pathway for young people.
- Develop the church's relationship with uniform groups and seek missional opportunities with these groups.
- Attend Foundations in Ministry and complete associated work (first year only).
- Build-up and encourage both existing and new teams of volunteers, encouraging them to take leadership responsibilities.
- Lead/attend 2 youth group sessions a month (Sundays 6.30-8pm)
- Work with the youth team to complete necessary admin and prep work.
- Lead 1-2 Friday night club session (school years 3-6, 7pm-8.30pm) per month
- Assist with some of the preparation or admin associated with Friday night club
- Assist with or lead Sunday morning groups as required.
- Assist with Sunday services as suits your giftings and leading occasional Altogether services and 'Brick Church' sessions.



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Role responsibilities (continued)

- Ensure compliance with all safeguarding and administrative requirements for the running of any children and youth activities you oversee.
- Pray for the young people you work with and in our parish.
- Maintain your own spiritual life and devoting time to prayer, Bible reading etc.
- Undertake and seek out training.
- To participate as a member of the church's staff team, sharing in the team's corporate responsibilities/activities, and in wider church life.

Person Specification

Essential:

- A committed Christian faith which is lived out.
- Previous experience in a children's or youth work setting (paid or voluntary)
- Ability to connect with children and young people, and to build meaningful relationships with them.
- Ability to faithfully teach the Bible and share the gospel with children and young people.
- Ability to work with, build, and develop volunteer teams.
- A self-starter who can work flexibly, take initiative and manage their own time and workload.
- A team player who can work as part of a wider team and independently.
- Creativity, flexibility, and a willingness to learn.
- Understanding of safeguarding and best practice.
- Basic IT skills and understanding of social media, including its safe usage.

Desirable:

- Previous experience of leading in a children's/youth work (paid or voluntary).
- Previous experience of church youth work (paid or voluntary)
- Driving licence and access to a car.
- Experience in leading sung worship.

What we offer you

- Opportunity to develop in youth ministry in a safe and supportive environment.
- An encouraging and understanding staff team and a caring church family.
- Supportive supervision from a member of the clergy
- Guildford Diocese provide support and networking opportunities for youth leaders, and there is a supportive network of youth workers in Woking.
- Suitable budget for youth and children's work, and for your training.
- Opportunities to work with experienced youth and children's leaders at Engage.
- A commitment to respect your contracted hours and to your training.
- 5 paid retreat days a year with reasonable expenses paid.
- Up to 10 counselling sessions paid by the church in a 2 year period (if desired).



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Hours and leave

- 35 hours worked flexibly 5 days a week which will include some evenings and very occasional Saturdays. In an average week in term time we would expect this to be two evenings a week. Usually your working days would be Sunday to Thursday but one Friday a month we will require you to work a Friday evening; on these weeks you will have the Sunday off.
- You will have five weeks leave a year including a maximum of five Sundays. The bulk of your leave should be taken in the school holidays. You will generally have Bank Holidays off and any which you are required to work (e.g. Christmas day) will be given as time off in lieu.

Place of work: Office at St Mary of Bethany Church; some preparation work can be done from home. After a probation period, further opportunity for flexible working can be discussed.

Salary: £24,000 - £26,000 depending on experience. The salary reflects that this is a training post.

Training: Foundations in Ministry, and other courses by agreement with your supervisor. You will be required to complete Guildford diocese safeguarding training every three years.

Safeguarding: St Mary of Bethany Church takes its safeguarding responsibilities very seriously and expects all staff members to undertake appropriate training. You will be required to complete safeguarding training as soon as reasonably possible after you start in post. This post is subject to an enhanced with barred list DBS check.

Supervision: This role reports to a member of clergy

Occupational requirements there is a genuine occupational requirement that this role is performed by a committed and practising Christian.

Interviews: Will take place at SMOB in April, dates will be confirmed directly with short-listed applicants.

For more an informal conversation about the role, more information please contact Revd Ruth Sheldon (Associate vicar) on ruth.sheldon@stmaryofbethany.org.uk.

To apply please submit a CV and covering letter outlining why you are interested in this role and why you would be a good fit for it to ruth.sheldon@stmaryofbethany.org.uk.