

Associate Youth Worker



**THE PARISH
OF HESWALL**

**A people fully alive in Christ,
building God's kingdom**

Job Title: Associate Youth Worker

Job Profile: To work under the supervision of our Parish Youth Worker, and in partnership with the Parish clergy and other lay leaders to enable Heswall Parish's work with young people, 11-18yrs and young adults 18-30yrs. The role is focussed towards building relationships, promoting discipleship, developing young leaders and taking the Gospel to young people beyond our current reach. This is a transitional role established to assist in leading our youth work out of the Covid-19 Pandemic, to support our Youth Worker in handing over her overall strategic and pastoral leadership to another by the end of 2023, and beginning to utilise The Lighthouse Church once it is built.

Responsible to: Parish Youth Worker—Christine Blair

Place of Work: The Parish of Heswall (including but not limited to St. Peter's Church and Centre, and anticipating the building of The Lighthouse Church.)

Hours: Full time 35 hours per week, generally spread over 5 days (including regular work on Sunday mornings, some evening and Saturday work as required). Part time option of 28 hours generally spread over 4 days would be considered.

Salary: £18 -20,000 p.a. depending on experience; part time salary pro rata

Duration: Fixed term, 2 year contract.

Holiday: 5 weeks plus Bank Holidays (more weeks taken in school holidays would be considered, salary reduced pro rata)

Pension: The PCC operates an auto enrolment pension scheme for which employer contributions would be made, starting at 3%

Other Terms:

- There is an Occupational Requirement for the post-holder to be a practicing Christian, in accordance with the Employment Equality Act 2010.
- An enhanced DBS Disclosure will be required for the successful candidate.
- Offer of the post includes a 3 month probationary period.

Enquiries

Please contact Revd. Martin Cannam (0151-342-3471 or martin@heswallparish.co.uk) to discuss this exciting opportunity or to obtain an Application Form. Informal visits to the Parish are also welcome.

Closing Date for Applications

Completed Application Forms should be submitted by 12 noon on Monday 26th April

- by email to martin@heswallparish.co.uk
- or post to Revd. Martin Cannam, The Parish Office, St. Peter's Centre, Village Road, Heswall, CH60 0DZ

Interviews

Interviews will take place on Saturday 8th May

Core Responsibilities:

Building Relationships

- Build and grow authentic, caring and appropriate relationships with young people that model Christ and underpin all aspects of youth ministry.
- Build and grow co-operative and productive relationships with other voluntary youth workers, our Youth Interns and Youth Worker.
- Develop co-operative and productive relationships with youth work in other local churches and organisations, including Wirral Youth for Christ, and the Parish's uniformed organisations.
- Work co-operatively with our Children and Family Leader and other children's leaders to enable positive connections and smooth transitions through Parish programmes and groups
- Be an advocate of young people and young adults within the wider life of the Parish enabling their voice to be heard and interests represented in all aspects of Parish life and decision making.

Youth Discipleship and Leadership Training

- Support a programme of Bible teaching and activities to enthusiastically disciple those in Youth Fellowship (14-19 yrs) as followers of Jesus, including term time weekly meetings of Youth Fellowship (YF) and Life Groups (currently organised in school year groups), and annual events such as a residential Weekend Away.
- Take lead responsibility for the weekly and annual discipleship programme for young people 11-14yrs (Impact)
- Provide opportunities for spiritual and personal growth through occasional short courses (for example, It's Your Move (supporting transition from Primary to Secondary School) Adventure (encouraging transition of Year 6 into Impact) The Voyage (for Year 13 in preparation for University))
- Promote engagement with Regional or National Youth events / days / Summer Festivals / Spring Harvest that give young people a broader experience of church, worship and Christian faith.
- Help to lead Encounter (our youth led Sunday evening service) providing and modelling teaching, worship and prayer that connects with young people. Use Encounter to facilitate opportunities for young people to participate, identify, use and grow their gifts in serving the Body of Christ.
- Share in the appointment, supervision and pastoral care of 2 volunteer Youth Interns, helping them to grow in faith and supporting them in their ministries

Outreach

- Provide creative and inspiring initiatives and events that connect with young people beyond our current reach, that enable groups members to bring their friends (for example Girls/Boys Night In)
- Consider and undertake detached work involving going out to where young people are, rather than bringing them in to where we are
- Support outreach opportunities offered to young people (for example Love Wirral and YF Uganda Missions)
- Negotiate opportunities to offer Christian ministry in local Secondary Schools and provide such activities and assemblies, lessons, Pulse groups (lunchtime Christian Unions) in partnership with other local youthworkers

Staff Team

- Be a fully committed member of the Staff Team and Senior Leadership Team and, in conjunction with this team to develop a strategy for mission and growth for the Parish's work with children and families.
- In conjunction with other prayer groups and activity within the Parish to promote and encourage prayer for and by the Parish's young people in creative and engaging ways.
- Work with the Parish Safeguarding Officer to promote good practice across all our work with young people.
- Develop with the wider Parish and Parish Office effective means of promoting and communicating the Parish's work with young people, using printed materials, electronic communication and social media.
- Maintain an up-to-date understanding of best practice and current thinking in youth work, through continuing professional development and training, and to incorporate this into Parish ministry.

Transition

- Assist our Youth Worker and youth teams in leading our Parish youth work through the ever changing environment of the Covid Pandemic, responding to the needs of young people and discerning the opportunities for developing youth ministry.
- Assist in the integration of youth data, administration and communications with the wider Parish and Office.
- Work with the Parish's vision to build The Lighthouse Church and to develop the fabulous new opportunities this presents as a location for youth work, in partnership with St. Peter's Church and Centre, and alongside the use of people's homes.
- Support the transition of overall youth leadership from our current self-supporting Youth Worker to a future (salaried) Youth Worker over the two year span of this appointment.

Person Specification - Essential

- A mature Christian faith, good knowledge of the Bible and evidence of personal spiritual growth and discipleship
- An obvious passion for youth work and a deep desire to see young people encounter Jesus and come to personal faith in him
- Experience of church based youth work, the planning and delivery of youth work programmes
- The ability to engage positively in appropriate relationships with young people
- A team player, able to work well with other people
- Evidence of Christian ministry in schools
- Ability to lead small groups
- Experience of participating in worship that connects effectively with young people
- Good communication and presentation skills
- A basic knowledge of safeguarding policy and best practice
- Good time management and organisational skills, the ability to prioritise, plan meetings and events
- Some computer skills and familiarity with IT and social media
- Pastoral understanding, sensitivity and the ability to handle difficult relationships
- Self-motivated, able to generate ideas, and work with own initiative
- The ability to inspire trust and confidence in others
- A driving license and use of a car

Desirable

- Formal theological or youth work training
- Experience of working in a local church, leading a youth group, leading small groups
- A particular personal skill (art, drama, music, sport...) to offer in ministry

Parish of Heswall

Associate Youth Worker

Overview

Heswall is an Evangelical Anglican Parish on the south side of Wirral peninsular and in the Diocese of Chester. Our aspiration as a Parish is to be “a people fully alive in Christ, building God’s kingdom.” Prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic our Parish fellowship gathered in 4 congregational groups: a more traditional, older, liturgical congregation meeting at St. Peter’s Church in Lower Heswall; two more informal, all age congregations meeting on at St. Peter’s and another at The Good Shepherd; a youth congregation and youth fellowship meeting at The Good Shepherd and in our Youth Worker’s house. Our worshipping community was around 450 including about 50 Children and 100 Young people.

Since the first Lockdown in March 2020 we have adapted creatively to ever-changing social situation, seeking to respond appropriately to the challenges and restrictions, but also make the most of opportunities for practical, loving service and mission that have arisen. By necessity we have moved much of our worship and Parish life online, but have had our church buildings open to gather in person in covid-secure ways whenever we have been permitted to do so.

Throughout that time we have continued to progress our plans to demolish The Church of the Good Shepherd and to build on site The Lighthouse Church.

Youth work (11-30yrs)

Heswall Parish has a long tradition of strong, youth work. For many years we have typically had 100 young people engaged with our regular youth work. Youth work has been led by our self-supporting Youth Worker, Christine Blair, and a large team of volunteer youth workers. In recent years the work has been supported by two Youth Interns sourced every year from Time for God (or occasionally grown through our own youth work.) Latterly we have also had a student on placement from Nazarene College.



Our youth work is structured around 3 progressive age groups—Impact (11-14 yrs), YF (14-19 yrs) and a smaller group for young adults (19-30 yrs), each with their own leadership team.

YF (14-19 yrs)

Prior to Covid restrictions YF has met in our Youth Worker’s home on Sunday evenings in term time. Each school year group has also met midweek in its own Life Group for small group Bible study, prayer and support. YF has also had an annual programme of events including:

- A Weekend Away
- Boys/Girls Night In—social and outreach event
- A Christmas Fair—fundraising event
- Summer BBQ
- Attendance at National YFC events/Soul Survivor etc.



Every year YF has engaged in a Youth Mission, alternating a 3 week mission in Uganda in partnership with The Rock of Joy Trust, and a long weekend mission in North Wirral in partnership with local churches in Leasowe and Wallasey. Both these mission initiatives include their own programme of leadership training, preparation, and fundraising.

In working through the Covid-19 Pandemic YF has been unable to meeting in Christine's home, so has adapted to variously gather online on Zoom or use St. Peter's Church or Centre. YF Lifegroups have met on Zoom. Opportunities have been offered for support meetings 1:1. Looking ahead to Easter 2021 and beyond we are planning to resume meeting in person and to develop creative ways of working within the Government roadmap to recovery, and guidelines issued by the Church of England and National Youth Agency.

Impact (11-14 yrs)

Young people in Heswall and the immediate area attend a large number of different Secondary Schools so Impact has typically been a place for those dispersed amongst different schools to meet. Prior to Covid-19 Impact met in two Sunday morning groups—one based at The Good Shepherd, the other at St. Peter's—and in a midweek after school youth group meeting, in term time. Like YF, Impact has moved to meet online during the Pandemic using Zoom; for some time Impact was able to meet outside in a large tent.



The Impact leadership team in partnership with our Children and Family leader, Andy Field Davies, annually seek to provide "It's Your Move" and "Adventure" to Year 6 in St. Peter's and Gayton Primary Schools to support transition to Secondary School and into Impact.

Young Adults (19-30's)

Most young people leaving YF go onto College or University for which YF has typically provided "The Voyage" as a short course to support that move. There have also been a number of informal gatherings organised in Christmas and Summer holidays to reconnect with returning students. Some have supported YF and Encounter by recording worship and talks for us.

For those young adults who remain in Heswall there is a small weekly Life Group providing social contact, usually a hearty meal, Bible study and prayer.

Schools Work / Pulse Groups

Before the Covid Pandemic, our youth team was actively involved in Pulse Groups (lunchtime Christian Unions) in local Secondary Schools, Wirral Girls Grammar, Wirral Boys Grammar, Calday Grammar, West Kirby Grammar and Birkenhead Sixth Form College. This work was undertaken in partnership with Wirral Youth for Christ and youth workers in other Wirral churches. During Covid this schools work has not been possible. We would hope that this ministry will continue once schools and colleges are happy to welcome our Pulse teams once again.

Encounter (Live)



Alongside our separate youth work we have had various Sunday evening congregations with a specifically youth focus. For the last 3 years this has taken the form of Encounter, a service led by young people, for young people, everybody welcome. Previously this met at The Good Shepherd; more recently Encounter Live has met on Zoom out of necessity, or in St. Peter's Church. Encounter is a vibrant gathering which principally provides opportunities for young people to "have a go" at leading worship, giving talks, leading prayers, offering technical or practical service.

Transition and Vision....

Looking ahead we know local churches and their youthwork face challenging times as we continue to recover from the Covid-19 Pandemic and discern what the emerging Church needs to look like in a changed Society. But we also believe there are many new opportunities emerging to share the good news of Jesus with young people. In Heswall we are excited to be moving ahead towards building The Lighthouse Church and embracing this new building to



be a focal point for our youthwork. We are looking for someone with faith, vision and a servant heart to join our vibrant and enthusiastic staff team to share in leading the next part of this journey in Heswall. Could that be you?

ASSOCIATE YOUTH WORKER

RELATE :: DISCIPLE :: LEAD ::

*our vision is to free young people
to relate, disciple and lead in Jesus ::*

JOIN THE TEAM

two year appointment

£18-20,000pa

closing date: 26 april

interviews: 8 may

heswall parish on wirral

find out more: heswallparish.co.uk or 0151 342 3471

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