

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER**

The Ellesmere Port Parish Community Development Worker (CDW) will be responsible for implementing outreach to all ages in our community, especially to children and young families. The CDW will encourage and enable every area of church life to look outward towards the communities in which God has called us to in mission, sharing the good news of Jesus in word and action.

The CDW will develop the existing community work and pioneer new outreach initiatives.

This is a fixed term contract, initially for a period of 3 years, although it is hoped that funding will be secured to continue the role.

**REPORTING TO the Associate Rector**

**HOURS**

This will be a full time post 35 hours, including some evenings and weekends. Attendance at Sunday worship either at St Thomas & All Saints or St Lawrence, Stoak would be expected and would be counted towards working hours.

We offer flexible working arrangements where appropriate and time off in lieu to be taken.

This post includes 5 weeks (25 days) paid holiday plus UK Bank Holidays.

**SALARY**

We will offer a salary of £24,000 pa plus working expenses and pension.

This post has a 6 month probationary period with an initial review after the first 3 months.

**SUPPORT**

We will provide space in a shared office with a dedicated desk and access to a land line phone. We will provide a computer. The church will provide ongoing training to support any personal development plans.

The new CDW would join our existing team of staff and work with the clergy on the church’s outreach strategy.

**MAIN PURPOSE**

To make Jesus known through strategic community engagement, working with existing ministries of the church in supporting and developing outreach and pastoral work with particular focus on young families whilst pioneering new initiatives working alongside the clergy. The Community Worker will lead the way in community engagement with families with a gospel focus by:

• Identifying the needs and assets of the community and addressing them

• Empowering individuals to take responsibility and control of their lives

• Building relationships with people in the community, sharing the gospel, and leading them to faith

**KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

• As a member of the church leadership team, ensuring that the wider community stay at the heart of church life and mission and included in the prayer life of the church

• Encourage, participate in and support the church community in offering welcome, hospitality and building relationships

• Enable individuals to develop their faith, through prayer, study, action and relationships

**KEY TASKS**

• Practising Christian with regular participation in worship at St Thomas & All Saints/St Lawrence Church

• Raise the profile of the Parish within the local community

• Building and strengthening relationships with local schools and working closely with them and their families

• Lead and develop the established Food Initiative Group (FIG)

• Offer practical help and pastoral support to those in need and signpost individuals to other agencies for help and advice

• Network with other agencies by attending strategic meetings and events

• Develop outreach to families in the parish through new and existing initiatives (including ministries such as baptism, ABC – Adults, Babies & Children’s monthly service at St Lawrence) including the setting up of a mum’s and toddler group providing support and social engagement within the community linking this with our work in local schools

• Become the key link person for outreach and community focussed work

• Develop community initiatives to promote social engagement within the community.

* Take the lead in identifying, sourcing and pursuing grant funding for the Beacon Project. The Beacon Project is an extensive reordering of St Thomas Church, creating a new entrance, atrium and various multipurpose rooms, which will make the church fit for purpose as a building for both worship and community outreach. Though the parish has already secured some funding through the sale of parish property, further monies are needed. Such are the costs associated with the project, that considerable external grants will be needed to complete it, and so the Community Worker will be expected to have skills and expertise necessary to identify the relevant grant awarding bodies, and to oversee the completion of grant application documentation.

**GENERAL DUTIES**

• Promote and communicate the aims of gospel social engagement within the Church and to the wider community

• Evaluate and monitor the work, identifying and initiating any changes required

• Provide research and statistics to support any funding applications

• Ensure adequate time is given to administration and communication

• Be aware of safeguarding procedures and work within statutory guidelines

• Work to agreed Church policies and procedures

• Undertake any other duties that may reasonably be requested by the Clergy

**ACCOUNTABILITY**

• Regular supervision with the Clergy

• Attend weekly staff meetings

• Be an active worshipping member of Ellesmere Port Parish

• Present written and verbal reports to the Parochial Church Council

An occupational requirement exists for the post holder to be a practising Christian in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.
An enhanced DBS disclosure will be required for the successful candidate.