

## Christ Church Pennington Youth Worker Information Pack

At Christ Church Pennington we are passionate about young people encountering God. Key to our vision is a strategy to...

***‘Provide repeated and relevant opportunities for young people to hear and experience the good news of Jesus Christ, to build supportive relationships, and grow as disciples’.***

...the call for our Youth Worker will be to see this vision realized.

### Our Commitment to Youth Work

Over the last three years, and even during the pandemic, our young people have kept on growing and flourishing both numerically and in the deepening of their faith. Under the banner of **Soul Leigh**, we have established junior and senior **Soul Groups** for discipleship. Our passion and ethos is to equip and support young people to take the lead in reaching out to their peers, with the objective to release a movement of fired-up young people who will transform our town.



The **Soul Leigh** banner extends much further than purely our **Soul Groups** as it provides the inspiration for a myriad of activities providing young people with opportunities to get involved and grow. This includes:

- Weekly sessions in our three local high schools: **Soul Lowton**, **Soul Bedford** and **Soul Westleigh**.
- We have recently started the **Soul Leigh Creative Hub** which is our vision for a media centre for young people to develop production skills in design, music, video and streaming.
- Pre-pandemic we launched the **Leigh Soul Children Gospel Choir** which performed to the Princess Royal in January 2020, our plan is to re-establish this exciting project.
- We've been experimenting with **Soul Sunday's** youth-led worship and teaching.
- In 2019 we delivered twenty-four weeks of outreach sessions in Leigh town centre with the **Message Bus**, sessions were enhanced with football matches on a giant inflatable football pitch, arts and crafts, games and a café area - attracting up to one hundred young people each week. Coupled with our church-based groups and after-school drop-in at our **Bridgewater's Community Café**, we have been effective in connecting with hundreds of young people every week.



We are excited to further our outreach strategy across the church, school and community. We recognise that young people gather around shared interests through which friendships develop. As the pandemic restrictions ease, we are keen to restart our outreach programmes.

### **Christ Church Pennington**

We are a Christ-centred, Anglican, evangelical, friendly and loving church where people flourish as followers of Jesus. We have a strong supportive team. This will include a newly recruited team of Pais youthwork apprentices, a dedicated team of church volunteers and fellow staff team members.

### **Partnership with Lowton High School**

Our partnership with Lowton Church of England High School presents an incredible opportunity to bridge between church and school. Under the new headship of Kieran Larkin, who is a member of our congregation here at Christ Church, the school is going from strength to strength. As a governor at the school, Alan Saunders is strongly committed to supporting the Christian ethos which is providing students with opportunities to flourish and fulfil their God-given potential.

### **Contract Terms and Salary**

The job is offered with an initial three-year contract with the opportunity to extend into a permanent position. There will be a probationary period of six months. Hours of work will be 39 hours per week with a requirement to work evenings and weekends as necessary for a youth worker. Holiday entitlement will be 20 days per year, plus Bank Holidays. A salary of between approximately £19k to £26k is offered depending on experience.

### **Youth Worker Job Description**

We have divided the Job Description into the format of our strategy to:

***‘Provide repeated and relevant opportunities for young people to hear and experience the good news of Jesus Christ, to build supportive relationships, and grow as disciples’.***

#### **‘Providing repeated and relevant opportunities for young people to hear and experience the good news of Jesus Christ’**

1. To play a significant part in developing our vision and strategy for youth outreach across the town of Leigh.
2. To coordinate outreach activities, including sessions on our church site, in our community café, and across the town, including sessions with the Message Bus.
3. To lead group participation in conferences, youth camps and mission events.

#### **‘To build supportive relationships’**

1. To coordinate teams of volunteer leaders and helpers.
2. To supervise our Pais youthwork apprentice team and other potential interns.
3. To deliver and report on progress with externally funded projects and initiatives, including ‘The Friendship Project’ which is funded from Wigan Council’s ‘The Deal’ Community Investment Fund.
4. To collaborate with partner and public sector organisations and schools and represent Christ Church at events and initiatives.
5. To ensure that our safeguarding policy is being effectively fulfilled across the parish.
6. To continue to build on the relationship with Christ Church CE Primary School in collective worship and other initiatives. With a particular emphasis on support of the school ethos group and transition of Year 6 pupils to high school.
7. To be an active and committed member of our church staff team and a worshipping member of Christ Church Pennington.

**'Grow as disciples'**

1. To lead our church young people's groups, including providing leadership support and resourcing of volunteers and paid staff. Groups include Sunday groups as well as weekly groups.
2. To develop regular worship opportunities led by the young people.
3. To envision, resource and equip young people to engage with mission and social action in response to their faith.

**Other Responsibilities**

1. To manage effective communications, including written communications, with parents or guardians of young people as necessary.
2. To work in accordance with various policies including Health & Safety, Safeguarding, and Data Protection.
3. To produce and present regular reports to the PCC and church leadership.
4. To produce articles and publicity material for use in church notices and social media.
5. As part of a church team there will be occasions when you will be asked to carry out duties beyond the scope of this job description as part of the wider ministry of the church.

It is recognised that the person appointed will bring skills and experience that may not be identified in this Job Description. There will be flexibility in how the role is developed. The person will help shape the role, making the best use of their gifts.

## **Person Specification**

### **Essential**

1. To have a passion for young people and the Gospel, and a clear evangelistic focus to their work.
2. To have excellent interpersonal skills with the ability to communicate appropriately to a variety of different people.
3. To be able to demonstrate an understanding of issues facing young people today and how the church might support them in navigating these issues.
4. To be able to demonstrate they are a team player, as well as being self-motivated and able to work independently.
5. To be able to manage your time efficiently and prioritise tasks whilst ensuring punctuality and reliability at all times.
6. Must be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of basic Health and Safety procedures in relation to work with children and young people, and to understand and put in place safeguarding procedures and good practice.

### **Highly Desirable**

1. To have experience of and competence in a church-based setting in
  - a. Training and supporting teams of volunteer youth leaders.
  - b. Discipling young people.
  - c. Developing leaders of all ages.
2. To have previous full, part time or voluntary experience of working with young people in a church-based context and to have undertaken or be willing to undertake relevant youth work training.
3. To have experience of building and developing relationships with both students and staff in high schools.
4. To have an understanding and be competent with a variety of social media platforms.

### **Desirable**

1. A full driving licence and access to a vehicle.
2. A JNC professional qualification in youth work or equivalent.
3. Experience of fund raising.

### **Christ Church Offers**

1. You will be part of a fun-loving, lively staff team who meet regularly to pray and support each other.
2. You will be supported by a team of committed volunteers.
3. You will have a budget, resources, and equipment.
4. You will be encouraged to take opportunities for personal development and training, as well as times away for prayer and reflection.
5. You will be given the opportunity to integrate fully into church life.
6. You will be line managed by the Vicar.

### **Additional Requirements**

1. The appointment is subject to the successful candidate obtaining a clear enhanced DBS check and supportive references.
2. There is an Occupational Requirement for the post holder to be a practising Christian in accordance with Schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010.