

Youth Minister

(Full-time: 40 hours/week)

Pioneering evangelism/discipleship with young people and students+ across our community and church

Job role and person specification

Our vision: “to enable everyone to be maturing followers of Christ, who experience and live out God’s love in every part of their lives.”



Context

We face a challenge. Is this the challenge for you? We were known for many years to have thriving youth ministry, with a lively group of young people involved on Sundays, part of the church life and going on to work and university. Baptisms and Confirmations were usual. Our challenge is to reverse the drop off we have seen: less

involvement in the church’s life, fewer numbers seen at activities and events, and a disinclination to think much about Jesus and all He wonderfully offers.

Our church parents are committed to encouraging you, together with the small team of volunteers, who love the young people and are committed to working alongside you in making the step changes needed. We were in touch with 25 church and non-church young people prior to lockdown, though now 5-6 attend Sunday mornings and 5-8 Friday evenings.



We have created a refreshed evening service, in which the young people will involve themselves, and we have an encouraging 20s group, looking for improved oversight from a staff team member.

The potential is there to make a powerful difference for the Kingdom in young lives. We have a good number of pre-teen



church children coming into the youth ministry. Pre-Covid We were welcomed at the local community school for lunch clubs and some RE teaching at festivals. The small team of volunteers is looking for leadership. Our prayer is for a refresh of the sense of buzz, of discipling young people (teens through to 20s) in faith, and in a 2020s Generation Z social media savvy context.

We are a lively, evangelical Anglican church with 250 people worshipping each Sunday across 3 services. We are committed to being rooted in the Word of God, centred on the Son of God and open to the Spirit of God. We have good partnerships with other local Anglican and independent churches.

Our Mission Action Plan is: making new disciples, deepening our faith, transforming our community. We long to see church young people own their uncertain faith and unchurched young people find faith. We long for both to grow in that faith, eager to serve God's Kingdom through church and in the community. We desire to be one partnership, one all-age church, worshipping, serving, loving together.



Job Role – are you excited by these aims:

- Pioneer new ministries and worshipping communities to reach unchurched young people and students/18+
- Build and implement strategies to develop and deepen a holistic faith amongst young people
- Equip parents and volunteers in confident transmission of our faith to the next generation
- Fully involved in young people's Sunday and midweek meetings and activities here and with other local church youth groups
- Equipping and organising mentoring of young people, both directly and from church members
- Live out warm hearted, faith-building relationships with young people and their friends
- Seeing mixed generations together doing God and worshipping as community
- Enthusiastic to see the church members led in ministry to reach out to young people
- Championing young people's lived out faith in practical service in the church and beyond





Person Specification – is this you:

- Passionate to see church and unchurched young people (Yrs 7-13 and students/18+) come to lively faith in Jesus
- Enthusiastic pioneering evangelist of orthodox Christian faith, eager to share the truths and hopes of Jesus
- Relationally warm-hearted people person
- Energetic collaborator and team builder
- Innovative and creative
- Natural mentor of others, drawing out their gifts and skills, letting them shine in God's purposes
- Open to professional development, personal mentoring and spiritual direction
- Theologically and Biblically literate, potentially with a relevant degree
- Technologically proficient in IT, social media and visual creativity
- Ability in worship leading or sports ministry or similar youth-interest activity



Further Information about the church: www.ccbedford.org and our social media pages

For an informal chat about the role, please contact Kay Berrington (Church Warden):

T:07812 988025

E: info@ccbedford.org

Summary Conditions of Service:

- **DBS** – the post is subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure and review.
- **Appointment** – the person will be employed by and be responsible to the PCC, but on a daily basis is accountable to the Vicar.
- **Salary** – generous package aligned to gifts/skills, with reimbursement of all reasonable travel and working expenses. Assistance with pension contributions will be arranged.
- **Hours** – the post is based on a 40 hours per week. The hours will be varied to suit the requirements of the role. Whilst every effort is made to balance the hours worked with time off in lieu, we are a church with many volunteers, so there is an ethos of working together to see the job done. No overtime payments are made. Work at weekends, evenings and major Church festivals is integral to the post.





- **Team membership** – attendance at church staff meetings and on working days at staff prayers. Regular mentoring and supervision will be arranged by the Vicar.
- **Church life** – willing participation in the life of this church is expected.
- **Professional development** – in consultation with the Vicar, opportunities for personal and professional development will be encouraged.



The church/community setting

Christ Church is situated in a residential area to the east of the town centre of Bedford. The town has a population of about 100,000. The Parish is a favoured residential area, often attracting younger and/or professional (often London) families and individuals. There is a strong

community feel, centred on a traditional parade of shops, the local park and River Great Ouse, all of which are near the church. It is within a 10-minute walk of the town centre.

The parish is geographically compact, with a population of about 5200, and consists of a good mix of all ages. There is a small but growing number of single parent families and the area increasingly reflects the ethnic mix of the town.

About 2/3rd of the congregation live in the parish or within easy distance. The remainder travel to worship from across the town and the surrounding villages. Our worship, teaching and sense of church family draws people from this wider area. We have all ages, and have been known to have a particularly strong appeal to families, whose children and young people mostly attended the appropriate church activities. Many of the adult congregation attend midweek home groups. We run regular Alpha courses and post course discipleship groups, Marriage and Marriage Preparation Courses, and Parenting Courses.

Castle Newnham School is the well-established and locally valued “all through school” (Yrs R-11) in the parish (OFSTED: Good). We have been appreciated partners through what we brought to its life pre-Covid. A quarter of a mile from the church is the University of Bedfordshire Bedford campus, with which we have some links through students and staff.

Though more of the congregation are with managerial/professional employment, we rejoice in a wide socio-economic background. People work locally in Bedford and Milton Keynes, while a significant number work for London employers. There is little employment in the Parish, other than the “Castle Road” shops and a few small businesses.

Our core team members:

Vicar:	Vacant	Centre Administrator:	Dawn Hire
Curate:	Revd John Bell	Social Media Lead:	Ben Hulme
Lay Reader:	Michael Bishop	Site Manager:	Vandon Grimley
Youth Minister:	Vacant	Churchwardens:	Kay Berrington
Children’s Minister:	Ruth Hulme		Andrew Russell
Office Manager:	Pauline Grimley		

