

BOWDON PARISH



Job title

Pioneer Youth Missioner

Job summary

To inspire young people to become lifelong and mature disciples of Christ, setting hearts on fire for Jesus

To lead by example, re-imagine, pioneer and grow a distinctive church community focused on young people (fully connected to the life of the parish church)

To take a lead in developing a wider missional youth church network across the region

Closing date Friday 28 September 2018

Interviews Friday 19 October 2018

Contract terms

Employer Bowdon PCC

Work base Parish Centre and home

Work area Bowdon Parish and the Altrincham area

Hours 37.5 hours per week
A flexible working pattern, including evenings and weekends, will be required due to the nature of this post. Payment for overtime is not given, but employees are entitled to time off in lieu by agreement.

Annual salary £25,000 – £30,000 depending on experience

Holidays Five weeks per annum plus eight days of public holidays

Probation period Six months

The role will be reviewed annually

An enhanced DBS Disclosure will be required for the successful candidate

There is an Occupational Requirement for the post-holder to be a practising Christian, in accordance with the Employment Equality Act 2010

Our vision and values

We are looking for someone who will walk and work with us as we

- live under, within and by the grace of God. We have a heavenly Father who loves us with a passion, calls us to be his children and invites us to live every moment of every day in his company.
- live as Jesus' apprentices, servants and representatives. We have a Saviour who shows us how to spend our lives to see God's kingdom transform people's lives and circumstances.
- live by the encouragement, power and direction of the Holy Spirit. We have a Friend and Guide who fills us daily with God's life and love and gifts to pursue God's mission in our time and place.

Context for Role

The Parish of Bowdon is a large vibrant parish in South Manchester. It comprises a number of congregations at St Mary's, St Luke's and Zone2, which provide both traditional and contemporary styles of worship. New expressions and styles of worship are welcomed and are actively being developed. A new monthly congregation has recently started in the Church School.

Bowdon is, in general, an affluent area. Sitting on the southern edge of Altrincham, and therefore right on the rim of Greater Manchester, from the top of St Mary's Church tower you can see both the high rises in the city centre to the north and the Cheshire countryside to the south.

There are excellent schools in the local area (6 schools within the Parish boundary) and so the parish is a popular place for families to live. Expectations and pressure on children and young people in the locality are considerable. Many families are asset and energy-rich but time-poor. Family life has opportunities galore, but is stretched by large mortgages and high employment demands.

Currently we run active Sunday morning children's groups, youth discipleship groups, a Friday night youth club (Underground), a large Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and a gathering for those to-ing and fro-ing at University. Children and young people are a vital part of our large, Cathedral-standard choir. The local schools are thriving and welcome us in with open arms, encouraging our involvement with seasonal services and school Christian groups. Our children's team regularly lead assemblies, run a lunchtime BIG Club (Believe in God), staff Christian Unions at the two secondary schools and take up the many opportunities to share the Christian faith with children and young people. We are about to start a weekly prayer time at the Church School. We have begun to open up discussions about how the youth teams in neighbouring Parishes and local churches of other denominations can work together more closely.

In such a setting, a mixed economy approach to the church's mission is a must. A variety of times, places and flavours of church are vital if we are to offer ways into faith for children, young people and their wider families. We aim to offer opportunities for the youth in our parish to discover, explore and develop their faith. Young people from an area such as this are likely to become tomorrow's leaders in the worlds of business, law, politics, education and much more besides, and so it is a large part of the church's mission here to invest in and help shape the lives of this emerging generation. The Christian community in Bowdon Parish has prayed about and discussed the best way to make this happen. We are firmly of the belief that the appointment of a first-rate, innovative Youth Missioner, who will strategically pioneer, develop and lead our outreach among young people, is key to this mission's success.

Role Description

Main responsibilities

1. Develop our existing parish ministry

- Build upon previous developments in youth work (ages 11-25) in a mixed church economy parish, helping young people to find their role in and integrate into the full life of the church family in all its diversity
- Lead, manage, encourage and motivate the teams of volunteers and encourage them to grow in faith
- Ensure our parish youth work welcomes those of faith, those exploring faith and those not yet of faith, and oversee the pastoral and spiritual care of young people in the parish
- Lead Friday Underground and work alongside its team of leaders to plan, develop and deliver creative, inspiring youth initiatives and programmes
- Oversee the young people's discipleship groups which encourage Christian formation as apprentices of Jesus
- Develop the role of Chaplain to the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme
- Organise youth retreats and trips away (eg: Soul Survivor, Youth Camp, Taize etc)
- Oversee the support of young adults from our Parish at University and College
- Develop young leaders, especially to serve within the wider church and in particular to serve at Holiday Club and some of the larger church services
- Manage the administration, co-ordination, communication and marketing of the parish's youth activities, including oversight of the youth contribution, news and presence on the parish website, social media and distributed monthly church newsletter

- Ensure Parish safeguarding policy and practices are kept up to date and followed

2. Grow existing partnerships and links

- Work collaboratively with local secondary schools to provide a Christian viewpoint, including input to the Christian Unions, school assemblies, school church services and relationships with school staff
- Work alongside the church's children's team to help the transition from Year 6 to secondary school
- Seek further collaboration in the local youth church network to provide co-ordinated activities and youth opportunities
- Develop links with Christian organisations such as The Message Trust, Youth for Christ, New Wine and Soul Survivor
- Form links to Diocesan Youth, Children and Families Missioner and national youth initiatives

3. Initiate and cast a pioneer vision

- Work with the church leadership team to encourage and steer a pioneering culture across our wide range of Church traditions and worship styles
- Aim over the next 3 to 5 years to have pioneered, and added into the mixed economy of church in Bowdon, a new multi-generational congregation whose mission focus is young people
- Focus on the unique opportunities for discipling young people in the context of a broad mixed economy church, where youth ministry crosses a wider than usual range of settings, including a large and thriving church choir, as well as a strong investment in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme
- Find and develop effective youth evangelism models which enable young people to reach their peers with the Gospel and develop as missional leaders
- Develop wider intentional partnerships in the Altrincham area with the vision of creating a missional youth church network across local churches, schools and community agencies
- Participate in emerging Diocesan and national pioneer networks and be among those charting a new mission-shaped future for young people in the Church of England

This role description does not form part of the contract of employment

Accountability and Support

The Pioneer Youth Missioner will

- be line managed by a member of the PCC Staffing Committee
- be an active member of the church leadership team
- meet regularly with the vicar
- line manage, mentor and disciple staff interns and volunteers
- report regularly to the PCC
- prepare and manage an annual youth budget
- keep abreast of developments in safeguarding and health and safety best practice and ensure PCC policies and guidelines are updated and followed
- attend to their own continuing personal discipleship and Christlike formation, including training when needed
- belong to the Anglican National Community of Pioneers

Person Specification

For this role we are looking for someone who

- is baptised, has a vibrant and engaging Christian faith as is committed to growing as a follower of Jesus
- is committed to worshipping in our congregations
- can work well both with others as part of a team and also under their own initiative
- has good biblical and theological knowledge and can communicate it well
- is experienced and skilled in managing, building and leading volunteer teams
- has good IT skills and social media competencies
- has recent experience of Christian youth mission and ministry
- can grow good relationships and promote unity within a mixed economy church
- is organised and able to manage and balance a demanding workload
- has imagination and a flare for innovation
- lives locally or is prepared to move here

In addition, it would be desirable if you

- have a Christian youth qualification to degree level or equivalent
- have previous experience of leading a fresh expression of church
- are experienced at mission in schools
- have personal experience of the issues young people face

- have a full driving licence (even better if you can drive a minibus)

Applications

If you would like to apply for the post, you are asked to submit

- a covering letter of application outlining your suitability for the role, including all relevant experience
- a current CV

If your application is successful and we make a conditional job offer, then at that time you will need to provide two referees, one of whom should be your current or most recent employer

Applicants are welcome to arrange an informal visit to Bowdon, or to have a conversation about the post, by contacting Rev Ian Rumsey at the Parish Office

Applications should be posted (not emailed) by the closing date to Rev Ian Rumsey at the Parish Office, clearly marked 'Youth Missioner Application'

Contact details

Rev Ian Rumsey

Bowdon Parish Office, Stamford Road, Bowdon, WA14 2TR

0161 929 1537

www.bowdonchurch.org

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<http://www.bowdonchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Bowdon-PCC-Privacy-Notice.pdf>