

Job Description for a 'Youth & Community Connector'

The Priority Communities Network is a parish based holistic project that looks to deploy substantial resource into churches in areas of disadvantage in the Diocese of Bristol. The programme aims to enable and cultivate sustainable, good growth across areas of multiple deprivation so that we see numerical growth of people and finances, deeper discipleship, and social transformation in these communities. The Priority Communities Programme is funding this role for St Mary's Church, Shirehampton, Bristol.

- JOB SUMMARY:** The Youth and Community Connector is a new role created to encourage the flourishing of our community, through the use of Asset Based Community Development with a particular focus on Youth and those on the margins.
- REPORTS TO:** Rev Alison Sowton (Vicar)
- TERMS:** 32 Hour a week-post funded till Dec 2028
Salary £27,000 to £30,000 Full Time Equivalent (£23,040 to £25,600 pro-rata) dependent on qualifications or experience. Annual leave entitlement for full time post is 30 days excluding bank holidays, pro-rated for part-time roles.
- KEY RELATIONSHIPS:
(Staff wide)** To maintain and develop your relationship with Jesus through regular times of personal prayer, study and retreat.
To play an active role in the worshipping life of the church family at St Mary's Church, Shirehampton.
To be a fully participative member of the staff team: attending staff meetings, retreats and trips away, and to play your part in building excellent working relationships.
- KEY RELATIONSHIPS:
(Role Specific)** To meet regularly with your line manager to help reflect on, and manage, your workload; to structure the pattern of your normal working week; to pray and plan strategic targets; and for personal/spiritual support and accountability.
To develop a positive and collaborative working relationship with St Mary's Children's Youth Minister, administrators, and volunteers.
To initiate, develop and maintain positive working relationships with staff in local schools, as well as other youth providers in the area, working collaboratively for the good of young people in the local area.
To build good relationships and networks of support and encouragement with youth and community leaders in local churches and the wider Bristol area.
To collaborate with the Parish Safeguarding Officers and clergy, to ensure our Safeguarding Policies are implemented effectively in all areas.
To connect with the Diocese Priority Communities Network & team.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES: Making connections, building relationships and identifying assets amongst Youth and the wider Community using the model of Asset Based Community Development.

Responsibilities regarding Church & Community

- Connect with people of varying ages where they are, in a variety of different ways and contexts (detached youthwork, signposting, mentoring etc).
- Work alongside young people and those on the margins to help discover their 'gifts, skills and talents
- Empower people to contribute to neighbourhood life through creative events, and intergenerational activities.
- Attend welcoming space weekly on a Friday, developing relationships with those that attend
- Raise up, encourage and release new volunteers from across the age spectrum
- Support young people and those on the margins to overcome barriers in their lives whatever they may be.
- Enable young people and those on the margins to participate with other agencies working in Shirehampton and beyond.
- Support young people and those on the margins to find a pathway into faith that enables them to experience the Gospel story and find a welcoming and inclusive faith community. This will include sharing in the development of a New Worshipping Community through a midweek praise service and the delivery of seekers' course.

Responsibilities regarding Management & Communications

- Working with the new Operations Hub Manager to develop our youth and families outreach social media
- Maintaining good records and statistics, and sharing case studies and good news stories with the Diocese Priority Communities Team
- Financial planning and management of the Youth and Community Connector's budget, with the support of our Operations Hub Manager
- Raising the profile of Asset Based Community Development in the life of the church through excellent communication and regular testimonies in church services.

Person Specification

We are looking for an engaging and sensitive enabler with a heart for youth and those on the margins. Someone who is passionate about exploring and delivering different pathways to faith for those who are unchurched, or damaged by previous experiences of Church. We are looking for someone to be a part of an 'Inclusive church', welcoming all. Someone with energy and experience, willing to join our committed and passionate team to continue the development of flourishing in our community.

Qualifications & Experience	
Experience	
Essential	Desirable
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has a proven track record of church and community Asset Based Community Development 2. Has experience and understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safeguarding - Safer recruitment - GDPR - H&S legislation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urban ministry leadership experience 2. Experience of working with those with mental health issues 3. Experience of leading people to faith in Christ 4. A working knowledge of Church of England structures and traditions.
Skills and abilities	
Essential	Desirable
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Ability to relate and communicate well with all ages in a variety of settings 4. Enthusiastic advocate for intergenerational ministry 5. Good self-awareness and desire to work well with others 6. An ability to establish good working relationships with local community stakeholders 7. Experience of organising community events 8. Good work organisation and ability to deal with administrative and communication tasks 9. Good computer skills and knowledge or social media platforms 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Educated to minimum A-level. 6. Theological training and / or children's and youth training 7. Knowledge of IT platforms 8. Social media management skills 9. Preparing risk assessments and first aid training 10. Experience of worshipping in Anglican Church(es).
Personal	
Essential	Desirable
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. A vibrant, life-giving and life-shaping Christian faith, rooted in a local church. 	



<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. A willingness to work within an Inclusive Church context. 12. Vision and enthusiasm for Youth and those on the margins to meet Jesus and be transformed by the relationship. 13. An awareness of contemporary culture and the issues which affect this community, especially those from areas of social disadvantage. 14. Flexibility to work evenings and weekends as required 15. Ability to travel independently across the parish and Diocese. 	
--	--

GENUINE OCCUPATIONAL REQUIREMENT

This post is subject to an occupational requirement that the postholder be a practicing Christian under part 1 of Schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010.

SAFEGUARDING

The Diocese of Bristol and St Mary's Church are committed to safeguarding, safer recruiting practice and promoting the welfare of children young people and vulnerable adults and expect all staff and volunteers to share the commitment.

If you would like to know more, we invite you to have an informal conversation with the Vicar of St Mary's Church. To make an appointment, please contact Rev. Alison Sowton at vicar@stmarysshire.org.

HOW TO APPLY

- Application form can be found and downloaded at <https://www.bristol.anglican.org/aboutus/vacancies-xdb/parish-vacancies/>
- Completed applications need to be sent to jobs@bristoldiocese.org
- Closing date: 9 am, Monday, 7th April 2025.
- Interview date: Wednesday, 16th April 2025.