

FULL-TIME YOUTH WORKER



LIVING TO SEE UNCHURCHED YOUNG PEOPLE COME TO FAITH AND BE SHAPED AS CHURCH TOGETHER WITH THEM

Saint Laurence is in the heart of Reading with a unique vision for a whole church community to reach unchurched young people. In essence, we are a multi-generational community that seeks to live out the Good News of the kingdom with and among the town's young people. To put this another way, youth work is not a department or stream of what we do; rather, we desire to be shaped as a whole church towards our mission. Our focus on young people impacts all we do with a stated mission "Live to see unchurched young people come to faith and be shaped as church together with them."

We are seeking to train and invest in a new youth worker with a heart and vision similar to ours. Someone with passion and character who can aid us in both our outreach with unchurched young people of Reading and shape the lives of 11-18-year-olds who are already part of the church. You will join our existing youth workers and our whole church community to deliver our mission. We desire someone who can help us grow and develop our existing programme so that we can reach and impact the lives of more young people.

We are a multi-generational community passionate about raising generations.
We are a Jesus-centered, Bible-based, and Holy Spirit-led church.
We are a community where young people are at the heart of everything we do.

You will have a passion for building relationships with young people and are willing to aid us in delivering our mission.

Job Title: Youth Worker

Job Type: Full-time

Job Location: Reading

Salary: Up to £24,000 PA (dependent upon experience) (plus pension contribution)

A key part of the staff team, the Youth Worker, would share responsibility for enabling the plans and direction of all youth engagement by:

- Working with the Vicar and youth worker to review, refresh and take forward our strategy for delivering our mission with unchurched young people (aged 12-18yrs)
- Facilitate the work of the church with young people outside of the building
- Supporting and nurturing engagement with young people through outreach activities such as school's work, online and in-person engagement
- To be creative in youth engagement, utilising both in-person and social media, video and web-based platforms to make connections and inspire faith following our model of
 - **Contact** - enabling our contact with non-churched young people
 - **Nurture** - ensuring a healthy connection with the Saint Laurence community is established
 - **Commitment** - prayerfully and creatively working on our evangelising
 - **Growth** - overseeing the discipleship
- Working with the Vicar, youth worker, and volunteers to support and lead youth-orientated activities – both existing programmes and newly developed opportunities as identified - creating spaces that facilitate relationship building, discipleship, and new forms of church with young people. This will comprise programmes of weekly, occasional (e.g. weekends away), holiday work, social action-focused etc. activities, and be online and offline as required
- Enabling young people to participate in the life of the church - from the point of no contact to vital involvement, sharing our values
 - *Loving Concern*
 - *Living in the power of the Spirit*
 - *Sharing Faith*
- Communicating, informing, inspiring and involving the wider church in what is going on with young people
- Enable the equipping, releasing and training adults to engage with young people
- Support, supervise and train all those working with young people
- Enable brilliant safeguarding practice
 - Support and facilitate in-house safeguarding training for volunteers
 - Support the safer recruitment of volunteers
 - Provide administrative support for safeguarding practices and policies
- Support partnerships with other youth provision within Reading
- Support fundraising for youth-related activities

Also, being instrumental in enabling all youth engagement by:

- Working with others to transition children at age c.12yrs to young people within the life of the church
- Working with others to transition young people to young adulthood (18yrs+) within the life of the church
- Make sure young people are safely and appropriately using the building
- Representing Saint Laurence and its work in wider youth work contexts
- Working with the team to share our learning with churches in the Diocese so that they may begin new work to see young people come to faith with the existing adult members of the church

Qualifications and requirements:

- Experience working with young people in a church, school, or community context
- Has a passion for disciplining young people, enabling them to have fun whilst growing in their faith
- Has a warm and welcoming personality. Has enthusiasm, confidence, energy and creativity
- A person of integrity, with a godly character, prayerful, servant-hearted and a team player
- Enjoys working with young people, prioritising their needs and safety, with a willingness to learn from others
- Organisational and personal management skills
- Ability to work flexible hours, including evenings and weekends
- An occupational requirement exists for the post holder to be a practising Christian in accordance with the Equality Act 2010
- Applicants must have the right to work in the UK before applying

Desirable:

- A qualification in youth work
- Valid driver's license