



Youth Leader – Crofton Baptist Church, Orpington, Kent

Background – Crofton Baptist Church is a vibrant suburban church which is experiencing a growth in families and youth. We have a committed team of volunteers involved in youth work (11-18s) and led till recently by a part time youth worker. The church commissioned an independent strategic report on the state and future of our youth work and one of the main recommendations was the appointment of a full time youth leader. One of the key observations of the report is that our youth are looking for a deeper level of Bible teaching and to learn how it applies to their everyday lives.

This is an exciting opportunity for a talented and passionate youth worker to lead and shape our youth work and to have input into the lives of our youth.

Our youth work is currently split into two groups: Intrepid (Years 7-9) and NextGen (Years 10-13). Overall there are approximately 40 children involved in these groups the majority from church families.

Accountability -The Youth Leader will report directly to the Senior Pastor and through him to the Leadership Team.

Person Specification

The role of this post is to work with the Senior Pastor and with the Leadership Team to organise and develop the strategy and activities of the youth work in a pastorally sensitive way. The Youth Leader will be central to the vision of the church in helping its young people to become fully committed and equipped followers of Jesus Christ. This is a forward looking, dynamic position which requires previous experience of youth work and the ability to work on one's own initiative.

Essential Person Requirements

- Ability to lead and develop youth activities both on Sunday and midweek in liaison with the youth leaders ensuring that there are timely opportunities for young people to commit their lives to Jesus Christ.
- Ability to come alongside, nurture and support young people
- Possess an excitement and skill in explaining and sharing the Christian faith in a modern and accessible way.
- Committed to their own personal relationship with God.

- Develop practical ways in which the youth can see the Youth Leader as their spiritual leader and mentor and to develop the expectation that the Leader is 'there for them'.
- Equip our youth to feed themselves spiritually by encouraging them to develop regular patterns of Bible reading and prayer.
- Understand all relevant young people safeguarding principles
- Display and model strong organisational, communication, IT and leadership skills
- Display and model strong Bible handling skills
- Possess at least three years' recent experience in Christian youth work

Main Duties

Youth

- Maintain and establish small groups or appropriate one to ones with every member of the group over the course of 12 months.
- Provide a regular weekly Bible study for young people outside of Sunday mornings in which Bible study is not done 'to' our youth but 'with' them.
- Find practical ways of supporting and encouraging young people to live out their faith in their schools, colleges, universities and places of work
- Involve our young people in at least one appropriate summer camp a year and encourage short-term mission trips.
- Ensure that termly meetings are held with all leaders and helpers where aims and objectives are clearly shared.
- Invest in social opportunities (at least once a month) where young people can enjoy time together, build relationships and where the group can develop its own dynamic.
- Develop a vision for outreach to young people in our local community within the first year of this appointment and to explore some ideas and events with youth in which they can reach out to include their friends.
- Establish ways of integrating young people into the life of the church through Baptism, Church membership and serving others
- Look for ways to ensure that the transition to the various groups is as smooth as possible through liaising with the Children's Ministry Team.

Youth Ministry Team

There is a new Youth Ministry team containing representatives of the church's youth work leaders. This group is there to support the Youth Leader and the other youth workers across the church, ensure that youth work has a suitable profile in church and act as a sounding board for the planned activity of all the youth workers.

- Lead the new Youth Ministry Team, providing goals and objectives in line with the Leadership Team. Identify and work with others gifted in youth work.
- Resource and encourage the training of youth leaders, caring for them pastorally, and seek to grow them as Christians
- Network with other youth groups and leaders, developing opportunities for our young people to meet with others from local churches

Parents

- Partner with parents in the discipleship of the next generation.
- Liaise with parents regularly over the course of the year and informing them of the termly programme.

Church

- Provide monthly youth updates across the church
- Join in fully with the life of the church, beyond their work hours, as time allows. Visibility is very important in this role and being involved in the life of the church is a priority

Development

- Grow in understanding and application of God's word and communicating it to young people
- Explore opportunities to preach or lead worship on occasions in consultation with the Senior Pastor
- Be open to further opportunities for development and training including, if appropriate an external mentor.

Notes

Formal theological training is not an essential requirement but prior formal training in youth work is desirable.

The Youth Leader must have the legal right to live and work in the UK

This is envisaged as a full time role. Working occasional Saturdays and regularly on Sundays and in evenings will be required.

The nature of the role means that there is a genuine occupational requirement that the Youth Leader must be a Christian.

The Youth Leader must agree with and be able to sign the Evangelical Alliance Basis of Faith.

Any offer of this post is conditional upon the church receiving a satisfactory Enhanced DBS check

Salary

£23,000 - £26,000 plus pension contributions. The church does not provide accommodation for this post.

Applications

To apply for this post please send by email to Christopher Munday at chrismunday50@gmail.com

- Your CV (no more than four A4 pages)
- A letter (no more than 800 words) explaining why you believe you are suitable for the position as described in the Job Profile notably the Essential Person Requirements
- the names of two referees including your current or most recent employer whom we may approach and whether or not we can approach them before any formal job offer is made
- Closing date for applications is 10 November 2017
- Interviews will take place in late November/early December