



Job title: Youth Worker 10 hours per week

St Matthew's is an open evangelical Church of England parish church located in Surbiton. We are part of the Tolworth Hook & Surbiton Team Ministry (THIS Team) along with St George's Tolworth and St Paul's Hook.

We take our Seven Whole Days Vision seriously seeking to be not just 'Sunday Christians' but living out our faith every day of the week and supporting each other to do that. Like many other churches our work with children and young people has suffered during and following Covid but we are optimistic about the future and already taking steps to raise the profile of the children and young people in our church. We have recently set up teams which our children can join to take more of an active part in the church – we have children welcomers and they also help with reading the Bible, bell ringing, flower arranging and with Holy Communion which we have once a month at our second service. Each Sunday the children start off in church but leave to go to their groups after our ever popular Action Song. They return to the service at the end to feedback to the congregation what they have been doing so we all feel that we are learning together. All children over the age of 7 are invited to take part in classes to prepare them for receiving Holy Communion.

We have a committed team of volunteers who help with and lead groups on Sunday mornings (during our 10.45 service) but we are also keen to have more to offer (social events etc), especially to our young people.

Take a look at our website to see more www.stmatthewskt6.org and find our services on our YouTube Channel 'St Matthew's Church Surbiton'.

We have a particularly committed group of children in school years 5 and 6 and we want to prioritise keeping them (along with our existing young people) through their teenage years and beyond. We are mindful of the importance of children and young people coming to faith while they are young and also of them being the church of the present (not in waiting).

Current Profile of Children and young people's groups

	Ages	Provision	On roll	Regular attendance
Crèche	0 - 3	Unattended crèche	8	4
Scramblers	3 - 7	Currently we have combined our Scramblers and Climbers groups	5	3
Explorers	7 - 11		12	5 - 9
Pathfinders	11 - 15		7	4
Fuel	10 - 15	Monthly group across THIS Team – meets Sunday afternoon	19	8-10

At present we think it is realistic to focus on the young people and children who already have a point of contact with us. This may be through attending on Sunday mornings, or through the 'Fuel' youth group or by attending St Matthew's Primary School. In the future it would be amazing to think that our youth activities may take on a wider external focus. Otherwise, this is a new role which it would be up to you to shape and develop.

Responsibilities

We can't list all of these here and we don't want to since we believe that this role will develop over time. Here are the main priorities that we believe God is calling us to focus upon:

- Oversee our youth ministry for our young people ages 11-18 while also building links with the 9-11s.
- Plan & help lead (with the team of volunteers) weekly Pathfinder Sessions each Sunday morning and occasionally spend one Sunday morning session in Explorers.

- Nurture our young people as they develop and mature in life and in faith.
- Organise social events and possible one to one mentoring and/or prayer sessions creating meaningful relationships with our young people
- Attend Bible Club at St Matthew's Primary School and build links there – perhaps taking part in or leading Collective Worship in school and school services in church at the end of each term. Team Rector already leads Collective Worship once a week.

Key Skills/Attributes

- Experience in teaching / leading groups of young people or being a member of a youth group and a willingness to learn the rest including the ability to create and sustain a dynamic and fun environment for young people of different ages and backgrounds.
- Ability to communicate Biblical truths in a fun, relevant and nurturing way for young people.
- Committed to the spiritual and emotional development of young people.
- A self-starter able to work on their own initiative and manage their own workload well.
- Confident in interacting with parents and carers as well as teachers and volunteers.
- Flexibility and warmth

Hours of work

- 10 hours per week, including 2 hours on Sunday mornings and one Sunday afternoon monthly – flexible working patterns to be discussed depending on the candidate, may include some evenings and includes preparation time.

Person specification

Essential

- Agreement with the vision and values of St Matthew's Church and readiness to work in an Anglican setting
- A love for young people and their families and a desire to see them grow in Christian faith
- A maturing personal faith
- Growing knowledge of the Bible and ability to apply it within this post
- Ability to relate constructively and confidently with all ages, within and beyond the church
- Ability to work in and help build up a team
- Self-motivated and organised in managing time and tasks
- Skills in creative thinking and able to bring an innovative approach to their role
- Ability to engage appropriately across social media platforms
- Hands-on approach and a willingness to get involved and be flexible
- Awareness of safeguarding principles and practice. St Matthew's is fully committed to safeguarding children and young people and an enhanced DBS check will be completed.

Desirable

- A recognised qualification relevant to this post or be in training for one or a willingness to undergo training
- Interest in crafts and/or sports.

- Experience in a similar role
- Full driving licence

Terms of Employment

- Compensation at c.£15 per hour, depending on experience (payable monthly)
- Holidays - 25 days paid holiday plus bank holidays pro rata. Note that this should include no more than 6 Sundays in any calendar year and should generally be taken during school holidays.
- Responsible to: Team Rector
- Probationary period of 3 months.
- An enhanced DBS check is required and you will be required to complete safeguarding training.

Occupational Requirement

This role has an Occupational Requirement to be a Christian, as permitted under Schedule 9, Part 1, of the Equality Act 2010. This role involves teaching the Christian faith and leading others in doing so. The person filling this role will need to be a committed Christian as they will have responsibility for assisting with the church's strategy for the Christian nurture of young people and outreach to families and young people in the parish.

Please apply with a full CV and covering letter and two referees, one preferably from your current church leader (references will not be taken up without prior warning) to

Rev Helen Hancock
teamrector@stmatthewskt6.org

Closing date for applications Friday 26 May 2023.