

FULL-TIME YOUTH WORK LEAD

*Saint
Laurence*



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

**Are you a passionate and experienced youth worker?
Are you seeking a new challenge to shape church with the unchurched
young people at its heart?**

**Then our Youth Work Lead role could be a fantastic opportunity for your
next season as you help drive us forward into ours.**

Saint Laurence is a church in the heart of Reading with a particular vision for 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 unchurched young people of the town. To put this another way, youth work is not a department or stream of what we do, rather we desire to be shaped as church with unchurched young people at the centre. This focus on young people impacts all we do with a stated mission “living to see unchurched young people come to faith and be shaped as church together with them”. Since 2001 Saint Laurence has established a track record of engaging and building relationships with young people, including supporting the most vulnerable young people in our town. In this new season of ministry after the turbulence of the pandemic we are building again, seeking to engage unchurched young people through outreach work and seeking to meet them where they are.

This key appointment will shape and lead the delivery of our strategy and engagement with young people and embody the vision of the church. Responsible for leading our work with young people, we are seeking someone with a passion for, and skills in, reaching out to and engaging unchurched young people. Someone who shares our heart and has experience in building relationships and shaping church with young people at the centre. Someone who has the drive and creativity to enable the church to actively participate in this mission and live out our faith *with* young people. Someone who can be a pioneer in both growing our existing networks into schools and community groups where connections with young people can be made and developing connections with other agencies across the town to transform the lives of young people.

The successful candidate will be joining a supportive church with a passion to see our mission develop. The Youth Work Lead will be embedded and supported by our staff team with a proven track record for reaching unchurched young people. Saint Laurence supports all our staff to progress, with an annual budget to enhance your skills through training and development. To find out more about Saint Laurence visit our website stlreading.org

JOB DESCRIPTION

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

- Working with the vicar to review, refresh and take forward our strategy for delivering our mission with unchurched young people (aged 12-18yrs); notably including approaches for facing the post-pandemic challenges of delivering our mission with unchurched young people
- Spearheading the work of the church with young people outside of the building. Developing, facilitating and nurturing engagement with young people through outreach activities such as school's work, online and in-person engagement
- Lead our youth work team, working with and line managing our full-time Youth Worker
- 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
- With the staff team and volunteers, leading youth-orientated activities – both existing programmes and newly developed opportunities as identified - to create spaces that facilitate relationship building, discipleship, and the building of 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 off-line 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 to be an inclusive family to transform lives
- Equipping, releasing, growing, and training adults to engage with young people
- Oversee, support, supervise and train all those working with young people
- Ensure brilliant safeguarding practice
 - Provide training inhouse safeguarding training to volunteers
 - Support the safer recruitment of volunteers
 - Sit on the safeguarding table (our safeguarding team)
 - Maintain safeguarding records and policies

- Developing key partnerships with other youth provision within Reading (such as Chapter 2 and Starting Point mentoring)
- In addition to wider school outreach work, coordinate and liaise with several public fee-paying schools in the wider Reading area to coordinate volunteer work in our local schools. We have a good relationship with the chaplains at several of these schools, and they are keen to be involved.
- Seeking out funding for youth-related activities

Also, being instrumental in enacting the plans and direction of 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 the building is being safely and appropriately used by young people
- Representing Saint Laurence and its work in wider youth work contexts
- Working with the team to share our learning with churches in the diocese that they may begin new work to see young people come to faith with the existing adult members of the church

PERSON SPEC

Essential

- Vibrant and active Christian faith
- Experienced as an employed youth worker
- Passion and energy to see the vision of the church realised
- Ability to think strategically, plan and organise
- A strong leader, able to work in a team and led others
- Experience and demonstrable skills working face to face with young people
- Demonstrates an understanding of the challenges of working with young people due to the COVID pandemic
- Has experience in utilising online resources for youth work
- Ability to identify, encourage, and harness the gifts of others
- Self-motivated as well as a strong team player
- Unhesitating commitment brilliant safeguarding practice
- Creative, imaginative and resourceful
- Good communication skills
- Knowledge and interest in trends in youth work and culture

Desirable

Youth work qualification and theology or experience equivalent

Driving licence

Worship leader

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYMENT

Employer	Saint Laurence Church, Reading
Hours	Full Time - 38hrs per week (worked flexibly as needed)
Salary	Up to £28,600 PA (dependent upon experience) (plus pension contribution)
Contract	3 years fixed
Probation	6 Months
Review	Three, six, and twelve months and annual after that
Location	St Laurence Church, Friar St, Reading, RG1 1DA (and other various off-site locations where youth work activities take place)
Reports to	Vicar

This post does not come with housing, however, potential support with relocation costs and/or rental deposits may be available to help those moving to the area

Three months of the postholder's appointment, developing measurable outcomes:

- Increasing the number of adults in the church community engaging face to face with young people (by 50% within 12 months of the project starting) by three months a strategic plan will be developed and launched for the training and enabling church members to work with young people to achieve the 12-month goal.
- Re-engaging with the 2 local schools we have excellent relationships with historically to grow our contact with non-church young people.
- Consult and aid the development of new self-sustaining youth projects with two churches that have limited engagement with young people (Commencing with Reading Deanery)
- Providing confidence to the panel via Independent Assurance that your safeguarding regime is fit for purpose, by implementing the Parish Dashboards in conjunction with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.