

Mortlake with East Sheen Team Ministry

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POST OF PART-TIME YOUTH WORKER

Aim

The parish proposes to appoint a part-time youth worker to work with young people (aged 11-18) in and through the three churches of the Parish of Mortlake with East Sheen, to encourage them to grow in maturity as Christians and human being. We aim that our young people will learn to love God, others, and themselves. We aim to broaden the circle of young people in contact with our churches' ministry.

Context

The Parish

The parish of Mortlake with East Sheen is a substantial residential parish between the River Thames and Richmond Park in south-west London, with a population of c 17,000. East Sheen is an affluent suburban area mainly; Mortlake is an older and more mixed community, with affordable housing alongside private dwellings. There are three primary schools within the parish, one comprehensive school (next to All Saints' church), one boys' Preparatory school, and the lower school of the Royal Ballet School. We have active links with most of these.

Sheen has a very lively shopping parade, with a wide range of shops from WH Smiths, Tesco, and Waitrose at the larger end to many small shops and businesses. There are numerous coffee shops and small restaurants. Sheen Lane Centre has doctors' surgeries, a library, and a social day care centre, and regular surgeries are held here by the police and local councillors.

The area is served by excellent leisure facilities. Richmond Park is used for a wide variety of recreation. Palewell and Sheen Commons offers football and cricket facilities to children and adults. Shene (*sic*) Sports Centre has a wide range of sporting activities on offer, and an inexpensive gym. The Bank of England Sports Club and Roehampton Club are just outside the parish, and many local people belong to one or other of these. A concert choir, the Barnes Choir, meets at All Saints Church (but is not connected to the parish).

The Churches

The parish is a Team Ministry of three churches: St Mary the Virgin, Mortlake (1543); Christ Church, East Sheen (1863); and All Saints, East Sheen (1929). There is one PCC for the whole parish; a Consultative Group is elected for each church to deal with matters local to that church and its pastoral area.

St Mary the Virgin, Mortlake is the historic parish church. It has a central church tradition. The main weekly service is the 10.00am Holy Communion on a Sunday, again with choir and children's groups. St Mary's houses the parish office, with a paid administrator working every weekday morning.

Christ Church, East Sheen is in the traditional village centre of Sheen. It has a central church tradition. It has a substantial following of people who look to it as their church, even while they don't attend often. It is a popular church for wedding and baptisms. The Sunday Sung Communion also has choir and children's groups.

All Saints, East Sheen is of modern catholic tradition. It has a strong choir, which is a significant feature of its mission. In recent years it has worked hard to develop work with families and children, and has strong children's groups on a Sunday. The Late Service attracts a small congregation for less formal worship.

Current Youth Work

There are a substantial number of young people in contact with the churches of our parish, but no single co-ordinated way in which they meet or are nurtured. Some attend the parish youth club on Saturday evenings; some are members of Quest Groups, housegroups for 11-14 year olds which meet during termtime in leaders or members homes; some are members of church choirs (particularly at All Saints) or are members sanctuary teams. On Maundy Thursday we held an all night vigil for young people, with activities through the night. In June 2009 18 young people from the parish were confirmed by the Bishop of Kingston, following a preparation course and quiet day. In July, 35 young people, some with very little connection with our churches, were young helpers at our parish Playweek, a summer activity for 100 primary school children. In August a group of twelve young people went to Greenbelt. We are actively planning a new 'post' Quest group for people in year 10 upwards that will meet monthly.

The youth club has its own premises, an old scout sea boat house (the Boatdeck) which the young people recently decorated.

A parish 'Youth and Children's committee' oversees all aspects of parish youth and children's work, and reports to the PCC.

From Jan to Aug 2008 two gap year volunteers, recruited and managed by Oxygen (Youth for Christ in Kingston) worked with our young people and supported by adult volunteers to develop our youth work. The appointment of a part-time youth worker in Oct 2008 took this project to a higher level. Our last youth worker worked actively and successfully in this role for a year, and has established a solid basis for our youth work on which a successor can readily build.

The Youth Worker Job

Responsible to

The Team Rector and PCC of Mortlake with East Sheen.

Management and Support Structures

Work under the direction of Team Rector and chair of Youth and Children's Committee. Receive support and supervision from Oxygen.

Job Summary

- worship in the churches of the parish for Sunday morning worship weekly
- establish and nurture relationships with young people and families within the churches of the Team.
- co-ordinate, organise, and broaden the reach of the parish youth club.
- organise additional youth activities agreed through the youth planning meeting.
- work with others in delivering young people's Confirmation preparation.
- be proactive in investigating and suggesting new ways in which we can broaden the group of young people the church is in contact with and deepen the faith of young people seeking to live Christian lives.
- work with individual churches in supporting provision for secondary school age children on Sunday mornings.
- work with children approaching the final terms of primary school to introduce them to parish youth work
- work with others in the churches to broaden the group of adult volunteers working with young people, and to support and equip them for this ministry.
- maintain records of all young people in contact with church, and ensure all events comply with parish policies with regard to safeguarding, data protection, and health and safety.
- network with others involved in youth work in local churches and community as time allows.
- undertake other tasks, directly related to Youth work, that naturally arise (e.g. writing magazine articles)

Meetings and appointments

The person appointed would attend the following meetings in the following capacities:

- Youth and Children's Committee (YAC), in active attendance
- Youth work planning meeting, approximately every month
- Parish staff meeting, once a month for youth items only
- PCC twice a year to report and discuss youth work matters
- Parish Ministry Group (c 6 meetings per year)
- Oxygen supervision meeting (2-3 hours, once a month)
- Oxygen project leaders (once a term)
- Training events, as agreed with the Team Rector and Oxygen supervisor

Person specification

The person appointed will

- have a committed Christian faith and a desire to grow in love and understanding of God and his people; committed to regular prayer and bible reading; ready to work with an inclusive Church of England Team Ministry.
- bring proven experience of working with young people in a church context, either as a volunteer or in a paid capacity, over at least a three year period; able to relate well to young people and people of all ages
- be a self-starter: able to see opportunities, and develop new avenues of work creatively
- be self-disciplined: able to meet deadlines, achieve goals, maintain diary and records accurately
- be a collaborator: able to support and enable others in working with young people and communicate well in a variety of media
- be flexible in working: especially ready and willing to work the evening and weekend times required to do this work effectively
- provide continuity: will expect to give at least two years to the role, to provide continuity for young people

Terms

- 22 hours per week, with the aim that 14 would involve contact with young people or their families.
- Ten weeks holiday per year: we expect that the bulk of this holiday will be taken during school holidays at times when there are few youth work commitments; exact holiday dates will be negotiated with the Team Rector.
- Salary £10,120
- Probationary period of 6months, leading to a permanent contract.

The post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Accommodation

This post does not come with accommodation. However, a member of one of our congregations has indicated a willingness to provide a room to lodge in to a successful applicant at a very reasonable rate, if this would allow someone to take up the post. This would only be suitable for a single person, without dependents; it is not part of the remuneration for the post; it is subject to a separate agreement with the household concerned.

Application Process

Applications must be made on the accompanying application form, and returned by midday on Friday 27th November 2009 to The Parish Office, St Mary the Virgin, Mortlake High Street, SW14 8JA, or by email to office@mortlakeparish.org.uk

Interviews will be held soon after this date, and we hope that the successful candidate will begin work as soon as possible.