

# Head of Youth Ministry

## Job Description

We are looking to recruit a youth leader to join the Aylesbury Vineyard staff team as Head of the Church's Youth Ministry (to secondary school-age children).

The role will initially be for two days a week, with the potential for it to grow in line with the growth in size and scope of the ministry. These two days will include some evenings (including Friday evenings, when one of the main youth events happens) and most Sunday mornings.

The ideal candidate will be a person who truly respects young people, is able to build good, trusted relationships with them and is passionate to see them develop in their faith and become all that they can be. Ideally, we're looking for a person with these qualities:

- A comprehensive understanding of — and personal buy-in to — Vineyard values and distinctives;
- A genuine love for young people, with a strong pastoral empathy and understanding of the challenges they face in modern life;
- A deep personal faith in Christ;
- Experience of leading youth work within a Church context;
- Excellent interpersonal communication skills, bringing energy, dynamism and passion to the role;
- The ability to teach biblical and practical Christianity in theologically-aware, entertaining and memorable ways, demonstrating an understanding of how to communicate within the contemporary culture of a postmodern, western world setting;
- A natural and genuine role model to the young people in lifestyle, behaviour and generally-recognised Christian values;
- A willingness to be open, teachable and accountable to the Church's leadership;
- The ability to recruit, envision and oversee a team of volunteers;
- A strong personal 'vision' for the Youth Ministry, to include strategies for the personal spiritual development of the young people and numerical growth;
- A passion for the role, in which it is not just "a job" but a calling (including the willingness to commit additional time in a volunteer capacity, where necessary, beyond the contracted hours);
- A passion to do everything to a high standard of excellence;
- The ability to plan a curriculum/content and annual + termly plan for the ministry.

The tasks that the person will be expected to fulfil include:

- Generating a sense of community and identity among the youth:
  - Connecting the young people and creating a support system;

- Facilitating friendship, fun, belonging and acceptance;
- Equipping the young people to build each other up;
- Connecting them to the wider Church, exploring ways that encourage all ages to be Church together, and helping to transition older teenagers;
- Supporting the youth to find their own faith and know Jesus for themselves:
  - Enabling the young people to understand and grow into the potential that God has placed in them;
  - Supporting them in finding their own identity and growing in confidence, in order that they can make good choices and understand the consequences of their choices;
- Growing the size and scope of the ministry, including through young people coming to faith (or returning to faith);
- Taking the young people to external events, such as Vineyard's annual DTI youth conference, monthly Sunday evening services at Soul Survivor Watford and the Soul Survivor summer camp;
- Regular communication with the Church's leadership and safeguarding team, including liaising with the Children's Ministry leaders in relation to children transitioning from Vineyard Kids;
- Liaising with Aylesbury Vale Youth For Christ, local Churches with whom we have a relationship, other youth leaders within the Vineyard movement and other relevant external organisations;
- Working with Vineyard Kids' initiatives to explore the role of 'young helpers' in various settings, including initiatives like Make Lunch and holiday clubs.

### **How to Apply**

Please e-mail a résumé or CV, together with an accompanying letter that explains your experience and suitability for the role, with particular reference to the personal qualities and expectations for the ministry set out above.

Contact: [steve@aylesburyvineyard.org](mailto:steve@aylesburyvineyard.org)

### **Closing Date for Applications**

March 12, 2018.

### **Salary and Start Date**

The starting salary for the position is £7,488 per annum. Full details of employment terms and conditions, including pension arrangements and holidays, will be provided.

The target start date will be as soon as practicable after 1 April 2018.

## About Aylesbury Vineyard

Please see the Church's website — go to [aylvin.ch](http://aylvin.ch), or [aylesburyvineyard.church](http://aylesburyvineyard.church).

The Church aspires to a high standard of excellence in all that it does. We are passionate about being 'non-religious' and relevant in our style and culture, genuinely and proactively welcoming to guests and visitors, and allowing people to belong before they believe. Vineyard seeks to bring together the best of the evangelical and charismatic worlds in a 'radical middle'. We are committed to intimate worship, experiencing the presence of God (in a natural and unpretentious manner) and excellent biblical teaching.

A range of literature is available free of charge from the Church Office or Information Desk on a Sunday morning that explains our values and distinctives, especially the *Welcome* booklet, termly *Vineyard Life* magazine and a Vineyard Churches book called *Vineyard Values*.

The Church is involved in a wide range of community initiatives which include:

- Two identical Sunday Services at 11.15am and 9.30am, with typical attendance of 200-250 adults and 75-90 children. The Church has 9 employed staff (mostly part-time) plus Storehouse (see below).
- A substantial compassion ministry, mostly rendered under the branding of 'Vineyard Storehouse', which serves over 3,000 client visits a year, providing food parcels, children's clothing and equipment, furniture (including a collection and delivery service) and household items, all free of charge. Storehouse opens to the public on Tuesday and Saturday mornings. Storehouse has 4 paid staff and over 30 volunteers.
- Providing a hot meal for the homeless on Tuesday lunchtimes after Storehouse (the 'Link Lunch').
- Providing hot lunches for parents and children, especially but not exclusively 'pupil premium' families, in the Vineyard Café during the school holidays ('Make Lunch'). Children's play activities are also provided.
- A musical play morning for parents/carers and babies/toddlers, on Wednesday mornings, with a free Café, attended by up to 90 children (plus parents/carers), in three separate sessions ('Vineyard Vibes').
- Other activities include Refugee Compassion, children's early evening and daytime events, pottery classes, small groups ('Connect Groups') and Alpha (starting again in April 2018).

Youth work currently involves: a Friday evening event in The Warehouse at the Vineyard Centre, involving food, games, worship and a short talk, plus a get-together (after worship) during the Second Sunday Service. In addition, there is a trip to one of the Soul Survivor camping weeks and to Vineyard's DTI.