

## Children and families outreach worker

### About West Auckland Vineyard Church

<http://www.westaucklandvineyard.net/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/TheWAVC/>  
@wavineyard

We are part of the Vineyard Church (<https://www.vineyardchurches.org.uk/>) and are a vibrant and growing church in the village of West Auckland in County Durham.  
(see: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West\\_Auckland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Auckland))

Our purpose within the village is to 'Declare and demonstrate the Kingdom of God in the community'

We have around 100 – 120 people who are a regular part of the church community and many more 'on the fringes'. The current demographic is towards the older side but with a growing work among children and young people and a fast growing community of younger families on two estates within the village. We are looking for someone with experience, enthusiasm and a real sense of calling to build a team and lead a new work among children and families in the village. There are two primary schools in West Auckland with whom we enjoy good, but not particularly active relationships.

We are the only church community in the village and enjoy great relationships across the wider community through our participation in many aspects of village life. During the week the church is very much present and active in village life through its café, The Well, and a number of community focussed activities such as a thriving Parent Toddler group and active Brownies and Rainbows groups meeting at The Vineyard Centre as well as a community cinema (50p Cinema), walking group (Walking ourselves well) and open mic nights for local musicians.

We operate on a 'Belong, Believe, Behave' model which leads to a dynamic mix of challenges and opportunities.

There are 7 active house groups operating during the week, church prayers monthly, prayers in The Well every Friday morning and we host a monthly group called 'Kingdom Prayers' which brings together leaders within churches and denominations from the wider area.

Sundays sees us meeting as family in the Vineyard Centre for celebration worship and fellowship which is informal and highly expectant of the Holy Spirit ministering and encouraging.

An expression of our vision and purpose which would best fit the role for which we are looking is:

*'to see young people and families experience a life-transforming encounter with Jesus Christ and to live that out in their community.'*

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To help develop our vision of declaring and demonstrating the Kingdom to families, youth and children in our community who are not yet part of Gods family.
2. To co-ordinate and develop existing and new programmes of activities for families and children within the church.
3. To share responsibility, with the current leaders in church, for the pastoral care of the young people and children who are part of the church family
4. To develop and maintain links with local families, young children and young people in the local area, in order to build positive relationships between the church and our community.
5. To develop and maintain good relationships with, and regular participation in, local schools.
6. To enable the articulation of the views and concerns of young people and children within and to the wider church.
7. To encourage families of young children and young people to take an active part in church worship, and to develop their gifts and talents.

## MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In conjunction with a member of the current leadership team

1. To co-ordinate, develop or, as appropriate, reshape the current activities for youth and children's activities within and beyond the church.
2. To assist with the recruitment, training, encouraging and supporting of voluntary leaders and teenage helpers, both practically and prayerfully. This will include building up the team through time spent together and identifying provision for any training needs.
3. To advise the leadership team regarding the needs of local families, youth and children and how best the church can address them within the existing or proposed new programmes and activities.
4. To develop and evaluate projects working in partnership with families and young people.
5. To develop opportunities to teach, provide pastoral support, and nurture the faith of young people and children.
6. To foster and support links with local schools and youth groups.
7. To attend and actively participate in relevant church meetings as required.

8. To keep up-to-date all necessary administration and records, and to meet all statutory and legal requirements.

9. To maintain and develop his or her own spiritual life, faith and discipleship.

10. To prepare and work to a personal development plan and be prepared to attend training where identified and agreed.

## The Ideal Candidate

### Education and Training

It is essential that the candidate have:

A good standard of written English (GCSE English Language or equivalent).

*And desirable that they have:*

A nationally recognised qualification in children/youth families work at diploma, degree or equivalent level.

Safeguarding training.

### Experience

It is essential that the candidate:

- Be an active member of a Christian church with a personal living faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Have first-hand experience of leading or co-ordinating activities for children/youth.
- Have experience of working within a team.
- Have experience of leading and nurturing teams of volunteers.

*Given the nature and context of the work, it is an occupational requirement that the post holder should be an active and respected member within their current church community. This post is therefore exempt under Schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010.*

*And desirable that they have:*

- Experience of working as part of a staff team.
- Experience of working in a local church context.
- Experience and understanding of new expressions of church and of pioneer ministry.

### Knowledge and skills

It is essential that the candidate have:

- A clear understanding of children/youth and principles of children/youth work, including discipleship. and how youngsters grow and mature as followers of Jesus
- Working knowledge and commitment to safeguarding and promoting the safety and welfare of children/youth.
- Skills in working personally with children/young people.

- IT literacy, including use of social media and word processing/ desk top publishing.
- Good people and communication skills, appropriate for connecting with children/families/youth, interacting with the church family and reaching the community.
- The confidence to take the initiative to ask for help and advice when needed.
- Specific gift(s) or interest(s) that could be a focus for attracting children/families/youth.

## Qualities

It is essential that the candidate be:

- Able to speak with sincerity, clarity and passion about matters of Christian faith in an informed, effective and non-judgmental way.
- Able to show genuine desire and enthusiasm for leading young people and children into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Able to relate effectively with a wide spectrum of people (i.e. adults, young people and children).
- Able to communicate effectively in person and in writing.
- Able to motivate self and others and to manage use of time.
- Able to manage administration effectively and recognise the importance of doing so.
- Able to initiate and develop quality projects and adapt to changing priorities and circumstances.
- Able to present a strong Christian role model.

*And desirable that they be:*

- Able to set and work to goals without direct supervision.
- Able to work in a range of social and cultural contexts.

## Other

It is essential that the candidate have:

- Satisfactory Enhanced DBS disclosure.
- Commitment to engage in professional and spiritual development.

*And desirable that they have:*

- Access to appropriate transport for travel within the area.
- Willingness to receive spiritual guidance and advice.

## Salary

We are happy for this to be a full time role or, for the right candidate a part time role (20 hrs p week)  
Salary up to £23,500 pa pro rata

Please reply to: [adrian@westaucklandvineyard.net](mailto:adrian@westaucklandvineyard.net) giving details of your previous experience, calling, and passion for this ministry.