

OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON

# YOUTH & CHILDREN'S WORKER

## Come and join our community...

to support, encourage and equip young people to grow their faith in Jesus and to be an ambassador for young people's mental health and wellbeing in our community.

We're a village church with brilliant links with our local schools and community. We'd love you to have previous experience of mentoring individuals, running small groups, and leading larger gatherings of children and young people. You'll happily hit the ground running in this position, being proactive and getting stuck into active village life.

Thanks for your interest in our community, there's more info below about the role, but if you'd like to get in touch direct, do email [helenmorri@hotmail.com](mailto:helenmorri@hotmail.com) or call her for a chat on 07766 660038. Final date for applications is 5th January 2022.

## A little about us...

We're a community of Christians meeting in a large village in north Hampshire. We're looking for this role to grow from what we've started in creating a place for children and young people to feel welcomed and supported in their faith journey.

There's a supportive leadership team within the church.



[www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk](http://www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk)



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# WELCOME...

## from Rev Ben...

I am thrilled that we are in the position to be advertising this post! St Leonard's is a growing, vibrant church with a massive heart for the children and young people in our local community. Since I arrived in Oakley, I've been impressed by the depth of engagement of our church family, and by their commitment to see young people flourish in life and faith.

We have an enthusiastic team of volunteers who are already pioneering amazing youth work across the village. Our ministry in the local schools is thriving and has continued to do so through the pandemic. If our monthly youth club was busy before the pandemic, it's now bursting at the seams. Growing faith and supporting young people as they transition to secondary school has become a focal part of our ministry.

The pandemic has exposed an epidemic of mental health challenges amongst young people. We recognise how crucial it is for the church to come alongside young people with the compassion and love of Jesus and to seek to prioritise their well-being. How might you enable St Leonard's to lean into its vocation to be a multigenerational community of faith where young people feel valued, loved, equipped and inspired?

To be clear. This new role is not an attempt to 'get things started' or try to 'build momentum'. The momentum is already here! We can barely keep up with all things God is setting into motion! I am convinced that this role ... in this place ... for this season ... has the chance to make a huge impact in the lives of young people. If that's your heart and your calling too, we can't wait to meet you.

## Ben Kautzer...

is the Rector of St Leonard's Church in Oakley and St Lawrence in Wootton. He and his wife Jo, have two young boys and have lived in Oakley since May 2019.





## St Leonard's Church is...

a lively and growing church with an increasing number of young people connecting. We are so blessed to have amazing resources and buildings to use, including our beautiful church building, our centre with allocated youth room and a local estate where we can use their grounds and buildings also. We started a youth group a few years ago to provide a safe and fun place for young people to come to, hang out and meet with friends. This youth group has continued to grow and now meets once a month and attracts up to 130 kids young people each time. This is a fabulous group and is enabling us to build relationship with the young people, their families and our community. The church has very strong links with the local Church of England Junior School and we have an open door to provide input, assemblies, groups and worship. During the lockdown we produced a weekly online 'Kids@Home' service which was used as the school's weekly collective worship. There is a teens group who meet on Sunday mornings and once a month for dinner and games. We believe we have a brilliant base to use to build upon and look to reaching as many children as we can to improve their well being and help them to grow in their faith. We have a fantastic supportive team ready to welcome and work alongside in supporting a youth worker and look forward to being able to provide so much more for our young people. For more information on our church life and work, see our annual report and parish profile at [www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk/2019-annual-report](http://www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk/2019-annual-report)

## Helen Miller...

is our church warden with responsibility for Children's and Youth Work. She and her husband Andy have 3 children and she works as a Sister at Southampton General Hospital in the neo-natal Special Care baby unit.





## What we'd like you to do....

The children's and youth work ministries within the parish of Oakley and Wootton have grown to the point of now requiring a full-time Youth and Children's Worker. We're really excited to be able to recruit into a role to specifically support children and young people in the local area helping them explore questions of faith with an emphasis to, support the mental health and well-being of secondary age children.

The focus of the role will be to strategically plan and be the lead in shaping, developing and delivering activities for children and young people within the life of the church and local community. We have well resourced work for younger children and would like the successful applicant to focus on leading and strengthening our work with teenagers in the church and wider local community.

Two main aspects of the role cover:

Church family focus:

Further developing the Christian discipleship of 11-18 year olds, including;

- Bible focused teaching
- Discipling through one-to-one mentoring
- Developing individual's spiritual gifting and faith
- Further developing group provision for this age group on Sundays and mid-week.

Community focus:

- Supporting the already developed monthly youth group which attracts 100+ 10-14 year olds.
- Continuing a growing work within the local Infant and Junior schools.
- Establishing a working relationship with feeder Secondary schools.
- Being an ambassador for mental health and wellbeing of young people in our village.



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# WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU....

to have an expressed interest in supporting the health and mental well-being of young people within the parish and surrounding schools that we have established great working relationships with.

You'll be a committed Christian, trusting Jesus as your Saviour with a clear passion for evangelism amongst children and young people, supporting them in understanding their own faith journey. Approachable and willing to listen without judgement, you'll have a desire to bring children, young people and families to faith in Jesus Christ.

You'll enjoy regular time spent in our local Infant and Junior school, hosting assemblies, supporting the strong link between village school life and church.

Support will always be available to you in this role, but we'd really like to recruit someone who is ready and raring to go in developing this new role within the life of our village church.

Leadership experience is going to be crucial to the successful applicant who will have faced some challenging and growing experiences already, bringing to the role new ideas and strength to develop and continue the work of current church attendees.



## These are the essential skills and attributes you'll need to have:

- You'll be experienced working across the 0-18s age range in a paid or voluntary role.
- Able to comfortably and clearly speak and write to a range of age groups including adults.
- Experience of leading a team, and doing so collaboratively to develop and lead volunteers using encouragement and support.
- You'll be able to solve problems and overcome challenges. Effectively managing your time by being organised and proactive with tasks.
- Working with a computer won't be a problem and you'll feel comfortable engaging with the local community through social media.
- You'll love using your initiative and have the ability to develop an initial idea right through to delivery.

Some amazing but not essential additions would be...

- Having previously strategically planned children's/youth work.
- Heading up, leading and developing direction for youth work.
- Degree level qualification in a relevant subject area; social, education, youth, mental health qualification
- Contemporary understanding of youth culture and faith
- Experience of applying safeguarding policies and guidance
- Experience collaborating with other organisations
- Experience of working with children, young people and families outside of a church setting.



- You'll be a committed Christian, willing to be part of Oakley with Wootton Parish.
- Have a warm and approachable character with the willingness to listen without judgement.
- Crucially have the desire to bring children, young people and families to faith in Jesus Christ.
- Ability to lead groups of different sizes (e.g. small groups or larger gatherings)
- Able to be creative in ways to communicate and deliver sessions to groups
- Flexible approach to the working week, understanding that evening and weekend work will be required on a regular basis.



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# OVER TO YOU...

## The numbers bit...

The annual salary for the role will start in the £24-30,000 range. There is one-bedroom self-contained accommodation available within the village if the successful candidate requires accommodation and the salary will take account of whether accommodation is included.

The role will require 37.5 hours a week to be worked flexibly, with 2 full days off a week. Consistent Sunday working will be required as will attending theGap youth group, once a month, on a Friday night.

There is a workplace pension scheme.

You'll have 25 days paid holiday, plus Bank Holidays but there may be a requirement to work some Bank Holidays due to the importance of the church services during this time. These will be discussed and arranged throughout the year.

There is a Genuine Occupational Requirement (GOR) that the post-holder be a committed, practising Christian sympathetic to the aims and objectives of the Church of England.

As with all youth work this post is subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure and the successful post holder will need to prove that they have the right to work in the UK.

If this feels like the role for you, please email your CV and covering letter to [helenmorri@hotmail.com](mailto:helenmorri@hotmail.com).

We look forward to hearing all about you soon, and thank you for your interest in our community.

