



Full-time Children and Youth Worker Background Information

Context

Leatherhead is a commuter town in Surrey within easy reach of London, near junction 9 of the M25, alongside the river Mole. It has a population of approximately 42,000 including nearby villages. In general the area is relatively affluent, but in contrast to this, North Leatherhead is an area of significant deprivation.

There are a number of major employers in the town and surrounding areas, including the nearby Chessington World of Adventures.

There are many churches in the Leatherhead area including all the major denominations, and some smaller independent and house churches. There is a vibrant Churches Together which holds regular outreach events in the town, in collaboration with the town centre management.

The churches and our own church members are actively involved in supporting Leatherhead Youth Project and Trinity School.

Our Churches

Leatherhead Methodist Church (LMC) is part of the wider Dorking and Horsham Methodist Circuit which is made up of eight churches, which are roughly connected by the A24, stretching from Leatherhead, Cobham, Effingham in the north, down to Partridge Green in the south. LMC is a short walk from the town centre in Leatherhead.

LMC currently has 65 members with a cross-section of ages, including families, children and young people. We are a lively church with a heart for the community. Our worship area has been modernised and includes full AV facilities. Our downstairs hall, where our junior church meet, also has a laptop and monitor for our children's activities.

We have a variety of activities, including an ecumenical Messy Church, Time 4 Tea – a monthly tea-time event open to all but mainly used by the elderly; house groups, 'Music on Thursdays' during the Spring/Summer months (lunchtime concerts).

Christ Church (United Reformed) (CC) is in the Southern Synod of the URC. It has a smaller congregation who are mainly in the older age range. There are currently no children in attendance, but it has links with Uniformed Organisations.

LMC and CC are also part of a local Pastorate group of churches which includes the Methodist church in Effingham and Cobham United Church (Meth/UR)

Leatherhead Trinity is a three-way faith Primary School (Methodist/URC/CofE) and there are strong links with all the churches. The Minister and Children and Youth Worker both take regular Assemblies. Some staff at the school also worship at our churches. There is plenty of opportunity to build on the work there and work collaboratively with the school and Parish FCW. The school also holds end of term services across all three churches.

Leatherhead Youth Project was started by LMC, CC and the Parish Church working together under a Covenant relationship. LYP is committed to working with young people to enable them to fulfil their potential and is active



in many and various different ways. They also have a social enterprise (All Saints) Coffee Shop, training young people in work and life skills. We support LYP and work in collaboration with them whenever possible.

We have had a part-time family and children's worker in the past, followed by a full-time worker and we would like to build-on, and expand, the work undertaken by including our churches young people as well.

Office & Resources

The Children and Youth worker will have access to a shared office in the church building, which has a computer & wireless broadband. The Vestry can also be used for small meetings but there are two larger halls and the church itself which are available for any events. A budget for training and resources has also been set aside.

Mission Statement

The following Mission Statement has been agreed, and more detailed objectives are being worked on to help us work to become the kind of church we hope to be.

"We exist to share the Good News of God's love for all; and to nurture people who will passionately love God, genuinely love and serve others, and actively participate in making disciples."

As we share the Good News of God's love, our priorities are to:

- nurture people
- be people who passionately love God
- genuinely love and serve others
- actively participate in making disciples

We will do this in partnership with those we have identified as our mission/covenant partners whenever possible.

Links

<http://www.leatherheadmethodist.org>

<http://www.chch.org.uk>

<http://www.leatherheadyouthproject.com>