

Newhaven Church – an opportunity for a young persons and family worker.

Newhaven Church is a community based church in the north of Edinburgh with a biblically based ministry anchored in the community of which it is part. Following redevelopment of the old church building into flats on the upper levels and the church on the ground level, a community café was established and operates three days a week. Among many other groups active in the church, there is a very popular toddler group and through it and other events such as the holiday club and Messy Church, links have been and are developed with those living in the parish.

Our current Youth and Children's worker was originally appointed over 6 years ago as a joint appointment with Scripture Union Scotland servicing groups in the schools in north east Edinburgh as well as working in the church. Three years ago when SU were unable to continue to fund the post the church took over the employment full time. Initially it was the same role but over the period and particularly during the pandemic it has become much more focussed on our local schools rather than those in Greater Leith.

Newhaven Church feels called to continuing the valuable work and would want to major particularly in promoting the development of Christian character and commitment in the young folk with whom they have contact and also working with the local schools and in particular Victoria Primary School with whom the church has a long standing close relationship and also with Trinity Academy. (Quite separately two elders run an SU group at the nearby Trinity Primary School).

Application forms can be requested from and requests for further information should be made to

John Hodge, Session Clerk on 07850 772223 or
newhavensessionclerk@btinternet.com

Website www.n-c.org.uk

Children's and Family Worker

Vision.

Newhaven Church sees itself as a local community Church serving God, each other and the community. We see our calling to be the fragrance of Christ in the community. As part of this over the years close links have been established with Victoria Primary School where the current worker has led Assemblies, taken classes, provided Bible Alive sessions. The school also maintains links with the Haven, the church's group for older people in the community. This is a well established link and we want to build on it. We also want to carry the connection with the pupils on into the High School. This has been more challenging.

The other main item is to continue to help the young people of the church grow in the Christian faith and commitment. This will involve both one to one relationships as well as organising activities. We see it as part of the role that relationships are also established with parents.

Job Overview

- To lead the children's and young persons' work at Newhaven Church.
- To build links with families
- To work with volunteers, some of whom are very experienced, in developing the church's work and witness to children and young people.
- To build on the existing links in Victoria Primary School and Trinity Academy and if appropriate to assist them in the delivery of RME.
- To continue with existing links with other churches and in particular with regard to the Leith Churches holiday club.

Details

- Salary £22,000 pa. (This is equivalent to full time £27,500)
- Part time – 30 hours a week. It may be possible to extend the hours.
- The work will be spread over 4 or 5 days which would certainly include most Sundays. Some evening work would be required in particular meeting with the Kirk Session or support group. Detailed discussion would take place to agree a mutually acceptable work pattern.
- It is a genuine occupational requirement that the worker is a committed Christian with a living faith
- To work in conjunction with the Minister and to report to the nominated line manager
- Time is given for training
- PVG clearance and references are required

Qualifications - Essential

- A committed Christian with a live testimony
- An attitude and lifestyle that promote a positive Christian witness and reflects Christian values.
- A strong desire to see young people grow to have a living faith in Jesus

- An ability to work within the structures of the Church of Scotland and to work with the Minister and Elders of the congregation.
- An ability and desire to work with other churches in delivering the programme.
- Significant experience of working either in paid employment or as a volunteer with children and young people in a Christian context
- An understanding of IT and social media and the safe use of it.

Qualifications - Desirable

- Experience in schools and an understanding of schools structure and requirements
- Some additional skills such as music, outdoor activities, IT etc.
- Experience of Bible Alive and being trained in it. (We would be happy to provide time and funds to attend the training course)
- Experience of working with Scripture Union Scotland.

Abilities

- The ability to communicate effectively with children and young people and to encourage them in the development of their Christian faith both from “the front” and also in one to one situations.
- The ability to communicate effectively with parents and guardians and to instil confidence in them.
- To work with volunteers and others as a team and instil enthusiasm and confidence in volunteers and encourage them on their Christian journey.
- To help recruit additional volunteers
- To provide suitable reports to the Kirk Session and to account for expenditure; in particular to keep accurate records to ensure compliance with Safeguarding and other legal and regulatory requirements.
- To liaise with the Kirk Session, the minister and line manager as appropriate over the development and direction of the work and to act under their guidance and leadership.
- To have a vision of how the work will impact the community and help advance God’s kingdom.

Responsibilities

- To review and advise upon the existing children’s and young persons work at Newhaven.
- Messy Church (once a month except during July)
- Liaise with groups meeting in the Church including the Boys Brigade (giving active help) Guides, Brownies and Rainbows (run independent of the Church), Toddlers,
- Run SU group at Victoria Primary School and liaise with the school over Assemblies, RME lessons, Bible Alive etc
- Work with the church on all age events such as all age services, social and other activities, weekend away.
- Overseeing and being responsible for compliance in best practice for children and young people’s events and work.