

# West Street Christian Fellowship

## Youth Worker Information Pack

### Salary

£21,000-24,000

Permanent, full-time, position

### Start date

Negotiable (preferably September 2022)

Closing date for applications:

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022



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## Introduction

Welcome to the life of West Street Christian Fellowship (WSCF).

We are a church of approx. 130 members plus children, young people and other regular attenders, based in Crewe – a town of 85,000 in the North West of England.




Our church family consists of people from many generations, different walks of life and varied backgrounds.

Together we seek to Love God, Build Family and Love Crewe.

This information pack is designed to give you an overview of who we are, what we do and how we do it – and to help you reflect on how you could become part of what God is doing here.

We hope you enjoy finding out more about us here at West Street.

## WSCF Leaders

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  |  |  |
| Graham Criddle   | Heather Pritchard   | Isobel Ramdewor  |

For more information, please visit our website at [www.wscfchurch.com](http://www.wscfchurch.com)



## Our Structure

WSCF was initially a Baptist church but became an independent church in the 1970s.

We have a very strong emphasis on team ministries and leadership operating within a supportive culture of friendship, openness, and accountability.

Our church leaders and trustees operate as separate teams – with the leaders taking responsibility for overall spiritual direction and development of the church while the trustees take on responsibility for areas such as finance, buildings, health and safety and safeguarding. These teams work together very closely with a shared desire to see God's kingdom grow amongst us.

In most areas of church life, we have a nominated person responsible for overseeing that area who works with and coordinates a group of volunteers. This includes, but is not limited to, areas such as:

- Administration
- Alpha courses
- Building maintenance
- Children's work
- Communication
- Engagement with seniors
- Leading Worship
- Overseas mission
- Pastoral Care
- Safeguarding
- Small group ministries
- Welcoming
- Youth work



## Existing Ministries

WSCF is a very busy church as people recognise needs in our local community and are encouraged to worship God, and serve others, with the gifts he has given them. We also recognise that, coming out of lockdown, it is right to continue to review many of the things we have been doing particularly as circumstance for many people have changed significantly.

### Pastoral Care

The pastoral care of those in our church family is very important to us. One of our paid members of staff, Tim Oakley, heads up this area, keeping in regular contact with many in our fellowship as well as leading on emergency visits to those in particular need.

Pastoral care is also a significant focus of our small group ministry and this is supported by many generous, friendly, acts of kindness by many in our church family to each other.

### Prayer

We recognise the vital important, and privilege, of prayer and seek to ensure it supports everything we do at WSCF.

We have a team to coordinate prayer activities at West Street, including:

- Sunday morning (0930) prayer meetings
- Regular prayer in the Sunday services
- Prayer ministry after Sunday services
- Wednesday morning weekly prayer time
- Monthly prayer meetings for the congregation to attend.
- In depth 1:1 prayer ministry, including healing & deliverance
- Love Crewe Prayer - for our town with the other Love Crewe congregations

### Worship

We see worship as family: relationship with God, relationship with each other and seeking God together. It's in that place we want to see God move, potential released, people healed, miracles, chains broken, joy expressed, forgiveness and the list continues!! As we worship we are preparing the way for the people, we are opening up 'the highway' through our praise to Him and clearing a way for God to do what he wants to do.

### Children and Youth

Under the leadership of various paid and volunteer leaders, we seek to help children and young people meet Jesus and fulfil their God-given potential.

It has been key in building relations with families in our church and in our local community over many years through different groups. Key activities include:



- 5 MINUS (0-4 years): Mondays to Thursdays Term time 10.00 – 12.00. 5 Minus is a warm and welcoming place for both under 5s and their parents and carers. Our wonderful team provide a variety of toys, activities, stories and songs for all to enjoy. Refreshments are available for adults; snacks and drinks are provided for the children
- JAM (“Jesus and Me” for 2-11 years): Term time during the morning service. A safe and loving environment where our young children can spend time with God through play, worship, exploration, prayer and stories
- FUSION (Primary School Age): Friday evenings (Term Time) Meeting at 18.30 – 20.00. Fusion is a fantastic place to spend Friday evenings! We begin with time in church. Together we get to know more about God through worship, Bible teaching and prayer. Then we split into different age groups and take part in a whole range of workshops: cooking, sport, craft, lego and many more! We typically get up to 70 children during these evenings
- THE ARK (Primary Age): Christmas, Easter & Summer Holidays Daytime. The Ark is a fabulous holiday club that has been running for over 20 years! During the Ark we have church time, including worship, teaching and prayer. Followed by workshops, messy games, joke and talent and a whole lot more!
- School’s Work in Primary Schools: Term Time in local schools. The schools team are involved in teaching RE, leading worship, running lunch time clubs and special assemblies.
- TRANSFORMING LIVES FOR GOOD (TLG): Term time in local schools. We have a brilliant team of volunteer coaches working with the charity TLG. The coaches work in a local primary school (and starting to move into secondary) offering one to one coaching with specific children
- Engage (Secondary school age): Term time during 10.30 service. Providing young people with challenging Bible teaching and a space where they can explore their doubts, the relevance of the Gospel and how it can make a real difference in their lives

## **Seniors (now known as Friendship Hub)**

This is a more recent ministry that has grown because of the number of elderly members within the congregation and the growing population in our community.

Prior to lockdown, the group was meeting up once a quarter where they spent the day with us with a range of activities, an opportunity to chat, a meal together and a short talk. As we emerge from lockdown, we are meeting up each Friday morning and this is providing a great opportunity for many to reengage with friends and to start meeting people again.



## **Christians Against Poverty**

Here at WSCF we run a CAP Debt Centre employing 2 Debt Coaches. We have recently celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the centre where we were able to celebrate with many of the 97 families who have become debt-free during this time.

CAP is a wonderful expression of God's love in action; meeting people in their own homes when they are struggling and bringing them hope.

## **Outreach**

Much of our outreach is done in connection with 'Love Crewe'. We see outreach as a combination of practical expressions of love for our town and street evangelism. Following these events we have joined together with other churches in the town to run a number of Alpha courses.

## **Mission**

We have two overseas and one UK-based missionary that we support prayerfully and financially. In addition, within West Street we have very active founding members of two key charities with global impact: Africa Christian Teaching Services (ACTS) and Flame International.

Mission is a key area for our fellowship. As well as dedicating 10% of our annual budget to mission, we actively promote overseas mission opportunities, both long and short term with the aim of encouraging all age groups to be involved.

## **Missional Discipleship Focus**

The above outline some of the specific ministries we are involved in as church, but we also have a growing conviction of the importance of each person in our church family living out their lives as fully committed followers of Jesus, seeking to live as missional disciples in the context where they live and work.

We are encouraging each other to grow in three key dimensions:

1. Up – our relationship with God
2. In – our relationship with each other
3. Out – our relationship with those who don't yet know Jesus

We are convinced of the vital importance of these relationships and want to develop ways in which we can move towards a model where we do things "with people" as opposed to doing things "to them". We want to be those who "share life" with others and, as we do so, to demonstrate the character and actions of Jesus through what we say and what we do.



## Joining the Team

To enable the ministries outlined in the previous section we have a number of paid staff – some full time, most part-time.

Specifically, we employ:

- Graham: our senior leader who, with the rest of the leadership team, provides spiritual oversight and direction for the church
- Heather: another of our leaders and also our schools worker
- Kate: our TLG coordinator
- Tim: our CAP centre manager and pastoral care lead
- Chris: our CAP debt coach
- Max, Lucy and Therese who are responsible for our 5 Minus ministry

The other ministries and activities are enabled by the work of many wonderful volunteers who bring so much of their skills, abilities and heart for God and others to the work that they do.

We are looking for someone to join this team to take on the specific responsibility for our youth work that is currently being run by volunteers. The main focus will be on those of secondary school age with flexibility at either end – such as being part of the bridge between years 6 & 7; and including looking at provision for 16-18 which, depending on the young people could be integrating them into 'adult life' within the church or providing something individual for their needs.

As outlined in the job specification, we are looking for this person to focus in three main areas:

1. Nurture, support and encourage our existing young people
2. Reach out to young people in our community who don't currently know Jesus
3. Develop this ministry in the life of the church and across the town

In recent years, there was a very busy and active youth ministry in the life of the church with various midweek groups taking place to build relationships and to grow in Jesus. Covid, and other things, have had a significant impact on this and this has resulted in our number of young people being significantly reduced leaving us with a small core of really special young people.

So we are looking for a person who can start from a relatively small base, to catch a vision of what is possible and to work with the rest of the staff team, with volunteers, with young people and the wider church to make it happen.

One of the potential ways we see this happening is by building on work already in place with other ministries. This could include, but not be limited to:

- Providing a safe context for children to meet up and engage with God after they are too old to come to Fusion





- Develop the work of TLG into secondary schools as a way of building relationship with staff and students
- Look at delivering CAP Money courses, working with the existing CAP team, to provide valuable insights for secondary age young people and build relationships through that process
- Link up with other youth work engagements being led by other churches in the town

None of these are to be seen as prescriptive but areas for the new youth worker to consider.



## Our Town and Community

### Introduction to Crewe

Crewe originally grew up around the railways in the 19th century, firstly around the railway junction and then supplying workers to the railway “works”, making and maintaining engines.

The town has a strong industrial heritage not only with the railways, but also Rolls Royce and now Bentley, along with associated smaller businesses. In the last 10 years, we’ve seen growth in the Bentley site and an increase in the size and diversity of our business parks.

Crewe is renowned as a transport hub, with many railway connections and the M6 just 5 miles away. We have excellent transport links to Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham and London and the national parks of North Wales, the Lake District and the Peak District are all within easy travelling distance.

Our status as a transport hub is due to develop significantly over the next 10 years with HS2 Phase 2A establishing Crewe as an HS2 hub. The council are predicting major growth in the local economy, expecting over 30,000 new jobs and 7,000 new homes. Work has already begun on some improvements to infrastructure, new homes and land being ear-marked as business and industrial parks. A radical town centre redevelopment is also being discussed. There is an increasing sense of expectation that God is bringing change to Crewe and going to use Crewe as a hub for much more than just trains! Exciting times!

As with many towns of our size (approx 85,000 residents), the town is a diverse mixture of communities, with WSCF situated at the heart of a relatively deprived community in the older part of the town. This has helped to shape our identity and what we do, as we seek to express the love and truth of Jesus in this community. There is a significant Eastern European population, predominantly Polish, but less diversity across other ethnic groups.

Our members come from a broad range of communities across Crewe and neighbouring towns such as Nantwich and reflect the diversity of these communities in age and background.

Whilst Crewe is a town with an industrial heritage, we have green spaces, including our large Victorian park, Queen’s Park. We are also surrounded by countryside with an extended rural community and small villages.

### The church in Crewe

We are passionate about seeing Jesus build His Church, not just at West Street but across our town.

Something special happens when we unite to worship and pray, so we are blessed to work with other churches, particularly through the work of Love Crewe.



Love Crewe started in 2016 when 11 of the churches in Crewe came together to pray regularly for the town and to organise a week-long summer mission. We were so blessed and encouraged by working and praying together for this that Love Crewe has continued, with Church leaders meeting regularly to pray and seek God together for the transformation of Crewe. Another week-long mission followed in 2017, along with some one-off events, including:

- Prayer meetings and prayer walks
- Outreach into local high schools, working with bands from The Message Trust such as Brightline and Vital Signs
- Joint youth events
- Family and youth events in the town park (Queen's Park)
- Practical outreach projects, liaising with the local Council, improving parks and public spaces
- Street evangelism
- Evangelistic and healing meetings
- Alpha Courses – and a joint Alpha celebration and commissioning service in September 2021

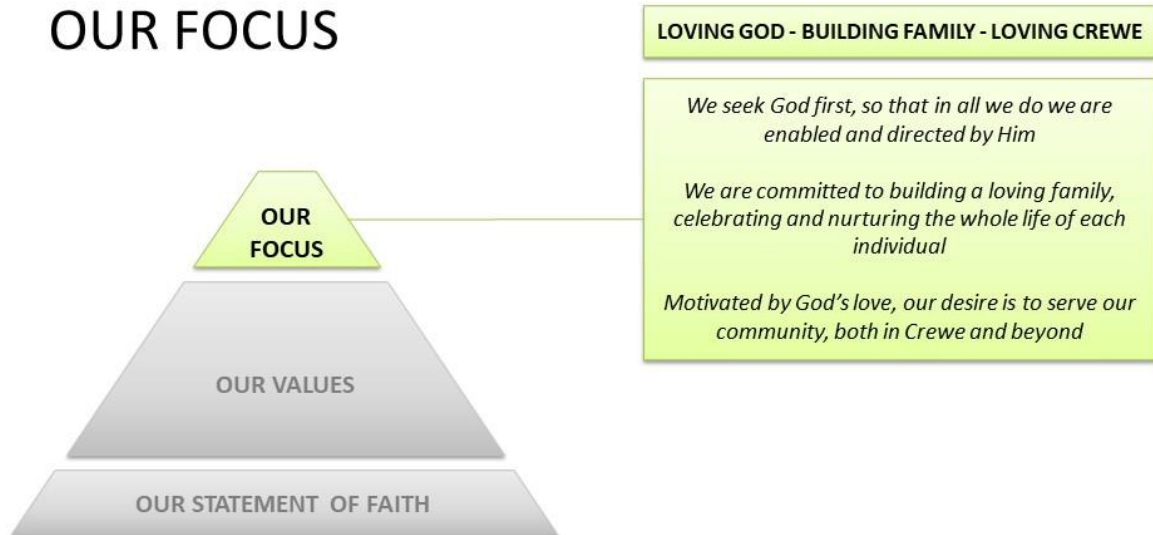
We have also held community Carol Services in the town's Lyceum Theatre: in 2018 with J John and in 2021 with Gavin Calver.

Due to a range of reasons – including some of the founding leaders moving on to other places – there are fewer churches involved at the moment. We are seeking to encourage more churches to get involved while continuing to reach out into our community.



## Our Focus and Values

### Our Focus



The Focus of West Street Christian Fellowship is: Loving God - Building Family - Loving Crewe. This is something we are experiencing today, but also praying and working to see it develop even further.

These three main elements of our Focus are summarised below:

#### Loving God

We recognise that all we have and are is from God and that it is Jesus who builds His Church and advances His Kingdom. Without Him we can do nothing, but with Him we are more than conquerors and all things are possible.

So we seek God first in everything, seeking to know His truth for us, His heart for His church and our community, His direction for all that we do and His enabling and equipping so that everything that we do honours Him.

We want everything to begin with Him, be done through Him and for Him and to give Him glory.

#### Building Family

West Street is a rich and varied family, consisting of people of all ages from many social and cultural backgrounds.



Together we are family, and our focus is to be on strengthening our family as individuals and in relationship with each other.

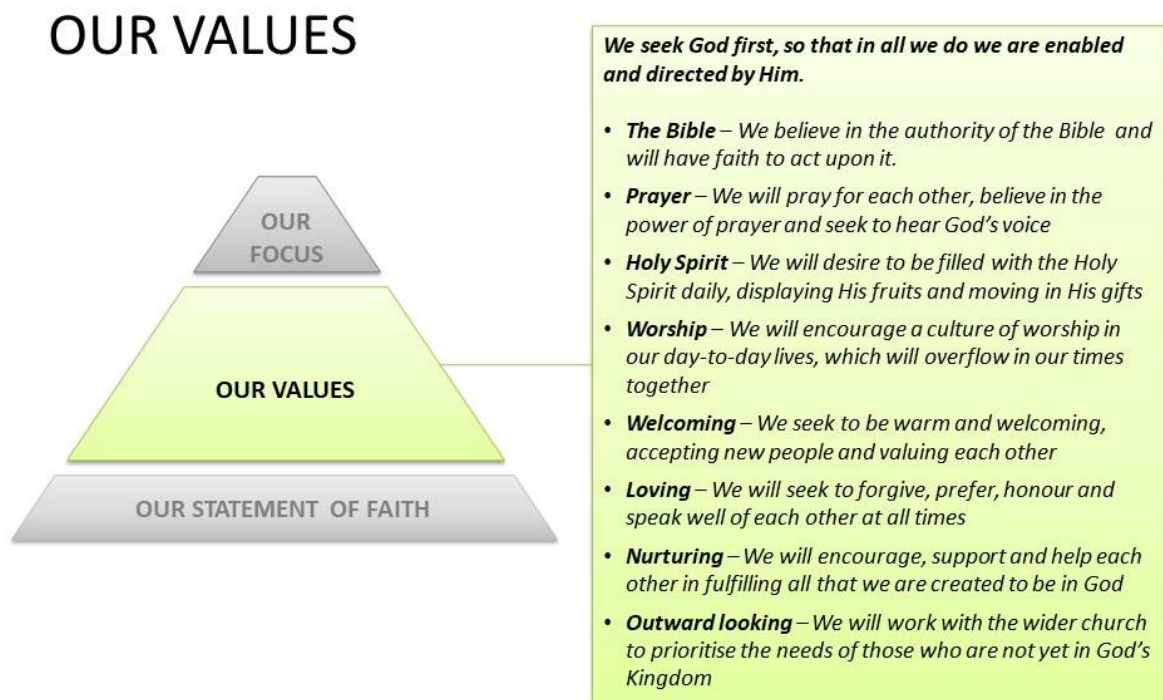
We recognise that different people engage with God, and in relationship with each other, in different ways and we are continually trying to develop ways in which those engagements can be strengthened and deepened.

Loving Crewe

Our history and our future focus is to serve our community – the world outside the walls of the building.

As well as serving Crewe this also includes “serving from Crewe” – reaching out to Cheshire, the UK and overseas as God leads us.

## Our Values

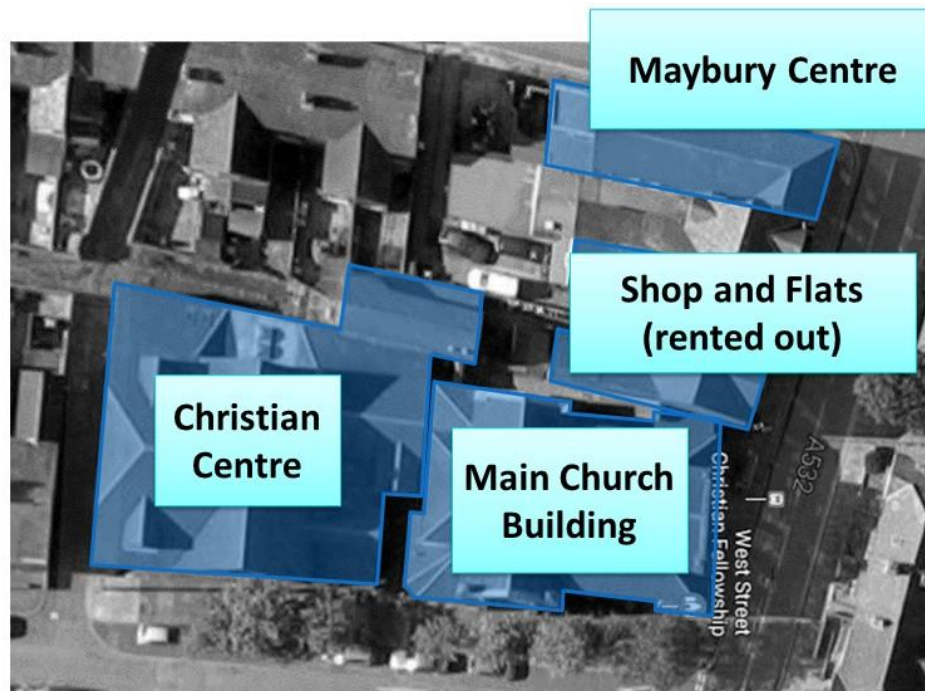


These focus and value statements underpin who we seek to be, what we seek to do, as a group of God's people in the area where he has placed us. And, in seeking to employ a youth worker, we are looking for someone who can get excited and passionate about what these focus and value statements say and can help encourage our young people to embody them as well.



## Our Buildings

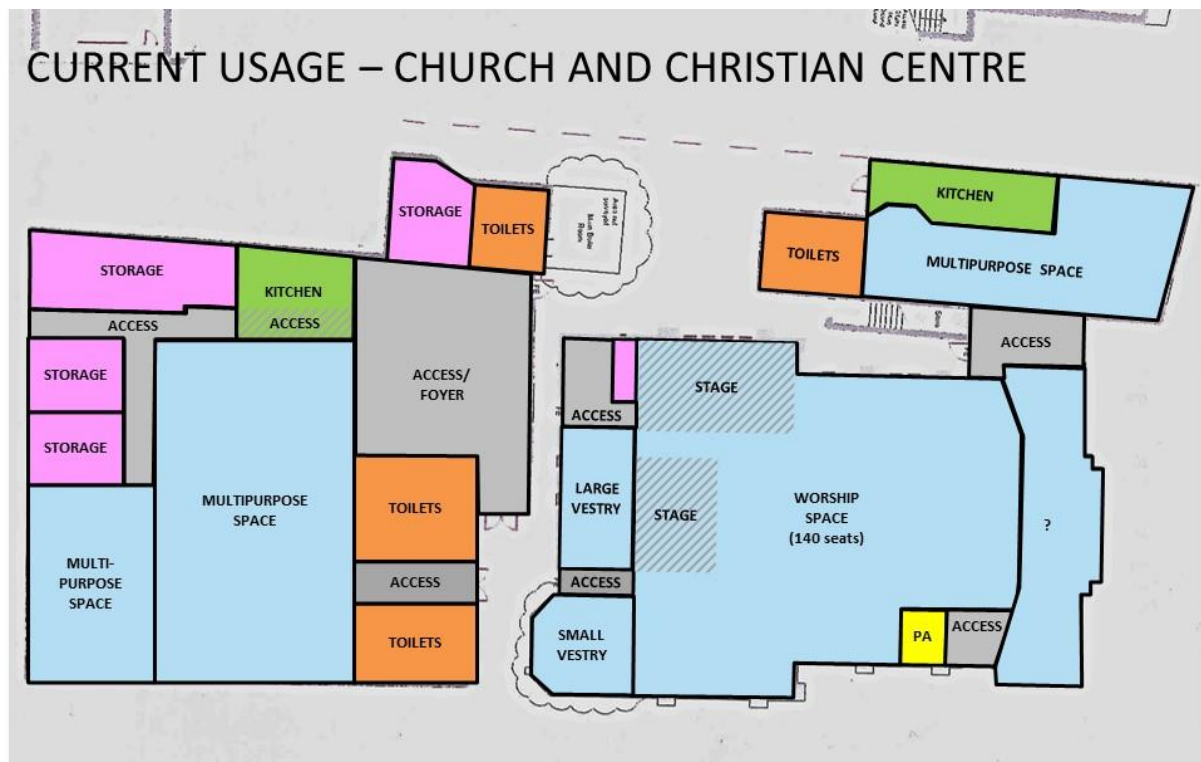
WSCF currently owns a large amount of property in the West end of Crewe, as shown below:



- The main church building has a primary focus of worship
- The Christian Centre is used for a lot of community activities- as well as providing a space for our children's and young people's work
- The Maybury Centre houses a number of our offices as well as a range of rooms that we let out to various groups
- We also own a couple of buildings on the street front, mainly rented out- to a preschool / nursery, a shop unit and two flats



A slightly more detailed overview of the main church building and Christian Centre is shown in the diagram below.



These buildings are available for any of our church ministries and can provide a great venue for a wide range of activities.

They are looked after by our maintenance team who do an excellent job in keeping them operational and well-presented.