

St John’s

St Mary’s



Diocese of Durham

All Saints

Are you called to this exciting new project resourced by the Diocese of Durham and the Church of England Strategic Development Fund to invest in low-income communities? Seaham Communities of Hope seeks to bring hope and transformation and Catholic church planting in this North East seaside former mining parish.

**Details of Post:**

Job Title: Youth Lead

Location: Seaham (Benefice of Seaham & Dawdon)

Salary: £12,600 plus pension pro-rata (£21,000 FTE)

This is a four-year post with an option to extend as funding becomes available.

Hours: 21 hours per week, with some flexibility (35 FTE)

15 days annual leave, plus bank holidays pro-rata (25 FTE)

The post will include weekend and evening work.

There will be a probationary period of 6 months for this post.

**Project Background:**

The Diocese of Durham is engaged in partnership with the National Church (Strategic Development Fund) to invest in low-income communities in ways that bring hope and transformation, both spiritually and physically.

The Church of England Benefice of Seaham and Dawdon (St John’s Seaham Harbour, All Saints Deneside and St Mary’s Seaham) plans to appoint an experienced and enthusiastic Christian. It would be desirable if the candidate were to have sympathy with Anglo-Catholic mission. This is the tradition within which the Priest and congregation frame their mission.

The post requires confident collaboration both with existing church groups (Diocesan and local) and community partners. It builds particularly on the Diocesan priorities around energising growth, challenging poverty, engaging with children and young people, and caring for the environment.

**Project Planned Outcomes**

To establish a space in the center of the town to engage with issues that negatively impact people’s lives and to bring hope through a confident sharing of the gospel.

To provide a safe space that speaks into people’s deeper needs around isolation and low levels of aspiration; a place that offers a faith filled route to a different and better way of living where people can be supported in overcoming life’s controlling problems.

* To enable them to discover a narrative of inspiration and hope, that challenges the narrative of decline.
* To enable people of all ages, genders, and identities to feel more connected with one another and experience being a valued part of a strong community network; young people will have a greater sense of what it means to be a valued part of the community.
* They will gain a greater sense of wellbeing by engaging in new activities and learning; they will be better equipped by endeavors that can transform their lives and their community.
* They will have the opportunity to discover the riches of the catholic faith tradition within the Church of England, come to faith and become Christ’s disciples, through the establishment of a new worshipping community within the space.

Alongside this it is expected that this community of hope/worshipping community will be replicated.

* At All Saint’s Deneside (by third year)
* At Parkside Estate (soon after Deneside)
* And at St Mary’s the Virgin at the old village of Seaham by the establishment of a second, less formal style of worshipping community in parallel with existing services.

**Job Description**

As **Youth Lead** you will develop, lead and coordinate the work with families, children and young people within the church and local community (including schools) through new activities.

Key responsibilities:

* Establish a hub in the heart of the town (please note this isn’t a church building) as a place which builds Christian community, including gatherings for worship, with an emphasis (though not exclusively), on families, children and young people.
* Growing and equipping a team of volunteers to specifically work with young people.
* Supporting Project Leader in identifying, developing and line managing a wider team of volunteers.
* Working with the team to meet the needs of children and young people during school holidays, particularly around Holiday Hunger and social isolation
* Engaging young people with the Christian Catholic Tradition
* A confidence in sharing faith and faith stories in ways that connect and empower others.
* Supporting the establishment of new serving and worshipping communities in Deneside, Parkside and at St Mary’s, old Seaham.
* Develop good relationships with key stakeholders (especially developing meaningful links with schools, alongside deepening relationships with schools where well-established links already exist).
* Comply with applicable diocesan and Community of Hope policies and procedures.
* Support the Community of Hope team to establish and grow social enterprise to enable the project to become sustainable and self-financing.
* An inspirational commitment to social justice and the Christian Faith.
* Build relationships (formal and informal) with people from a variety of social/economic/ethnic backgrounds.
* Engage with the deeper needs around isolation and low levels of aspiration, offering a faith filled route, to a different way of living.
* Develop a small-group youth orientated discipleship culture.
* Work with Project Leader and Support Lead to identify opportunities for social enterprise, and other funding streams.
* Work with colleagues across the town to identify opportunities for project replication and   
  new worshipping communities.
* Lead and/or share the daily prayers and worship with members of the team.
* Promote the work through social media, newspaper, TV coverage.
* Support the monitoring and reporting of key outcomes.
* Identify and agree other responsibilities in line with achieving the outcomes as the project develops.
* Engage with diocesan youth worker support programme and wider youth events.
* Engage well with the ‘Action Course’ and Learning Community as vehicles for local empowerment.
* Engage with Community of Hope and Diocesan training requirements as may be required to undertake the role.

**Named Key Relationships**

* Project Line Manager: Revd. Canon Paul Kennedy SSC
* Project Lead: Carol Lines
* Support Lead: Danny Pritchard-Shepherd

**Other Key Relationships**

* Local volunteers.
* Diocesan Project Manager and Sustainability Manager
* Diocesan Finance Support Officer
* Diocesan Youth Adviser
* Local Clergy and MEV
* All Safeguarding Officers
* Treasurer
* Local agencies, organisations and charities to support community cohesion and development

| Personal Specification | essential | desirable | evidence (essential)  A=APPLICATION  I= INTERVIEW  R=REFERENCE |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| skills | good communicator  excellent presentation skills  excellent listening skills  flexible networker with people of all ages  self-motivated  proficient using IT (word processing, spreadsheets, presentations) | ability to deliver training courses  evangelist  strategic thinker | A, I  A, R  A, I, R  A, I  A  A, I |
| Knowledge | awareness of charities, agencies, involved with community development and social deprivation, especially relating to families, children and young people  safeguarding | budget management  publicity and social media outlets  knowledge and/or experience of core groups (families, children and young people)  understanding of Church of England practices | A, I  A, I, R |
| experience | experience in Community Development Work ***or*** an associated profession ***or***experience in a families, children or young people setting either paid or voluntary.  experience in providing advice and guidance  managing volunteers | experience of community work either paid or voluntary  managing volunteers | A, R  A, R |
| Attitude | Christian  willingness to attend church regularly within 3 parishes  build relationships  support and befriend  commitment to social justice  commitment to equality of opportunities and empowerment  team player as well as prepared to use own initiative |  | A, R  I  A, I  I  A, I, R  A, I, R  A, R |

**Safeguarding**

The church takes the safety of everyone within the church very seriously and expects that everyone will work within the church safeguarding policy. In particular, the church expects anyone who becomes aware of a safeguarding risk or of actual abuse, to immediately raise this with the priest in charge of the parish or parish safeguarding officer.

For the right candidate we will support further training should that be appropriate.

The successful candidate will be subject to an enhanced check by the Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) and required to attend Diocesan Safeguarding training.

We are an equal opportunities employer with commitment to inclusion.

**There is a genuine occupational requirement that the post holder is a practicing Christian.**

Please complete the Application Form and GDPR consent form and send them

By email to [rev.pkennedy@sky.com](mailto:rev.pkennedy@sky.com)

or by post to The Revd Canon Paul Kennedy SSC

Benefice of Seaham & Dawdon

The New Vicarage, Maureen Terrace

Seaham

Durham

SR7 7SN

Closing date: 5pm on 17th June 2022

Interviews at St John’s Church, Seaham: TBA ASAP June/July