

Young People and Families Strategy

A key area of our future Gospel work, is ensuring that we build a vibrant and relevant witness to Christ in our local community, and **particularly to provide Pathways to Faith for our young people and their families.**

In the last couple of years, we have developed a number of successful initiatives, and recently undertaken the Growing Young Project. The Session believes that we now need to develop this work into a robust and innovative strategy, which leads to a substantial growth of young people and young families in the full life of our church.

This short paper now proposes our move to the next stage. This in the Session's view will require:

- 5 Year Funding (in the first instance) for the employment of a Young People and Families Worker
- Developing a voluntary team committed to working alongside the worker
- A clear and robust plan properly implemented

Aims and Objectives

- To work with the Session to develop a fresh vision for children, young people and their families
- To co-ordinate and further develop a vibrant and innovative programme of activities, and to ensure that these meet the needs of young people and their families
- To provide attractive and effective opportunities for young people and their families to explore faith, and to grow spiritually
- To further develop a programme of partnership with schools, youth organisations, sports groups and others
- To ensure that the views and concerns of young people and their families are fully represented to the wider church
- To encourage families with young children and teenagers to take an active part in church worship and to proactively develop their gifts and talents

For this we will need to look carefully, in the next 2 months, at best practice around Scotland and beyond, so that we are sure that we take every opportunity to develop a carefully planned and effective approach, and to be in a position by April 2022, to employ our Young People and Families Worker.

Employment

We will require someone who:

- is an active member of a Christian church and has a personal living faith in the Lord Jesus Christ
- has significant youth work experience,
- if possible has a nationally recognised qualification in children/youth work at degree or equivalent level
- has first hand experience of leading or co-ordinating activities for children/youth
- has experience working well within a team, and of leading and nurturing teams of volunteers

The likely cost of employing an experienced Young People and Families Worker is approximately £30,000 per annum for a full time worker, and **the Session feels that it is important that this is for at least 5 years.**

Finance

The Session views that annually 60% (£18,000) of the required funding could come from:

- Session Funds - £2,000
- Hall letting income - £10,500 and
- Church House letting income - £5,500

The other 40% - £12,000 to £15,000pa - would require a specific financial commitment from the Congregation, gift aid and additional grant applications.

As a result of the above, we are seeking your 'in principle' agreement to funding this proposed post for 5 years in the first instance. We are very grateful for your consideration of this, and would ask that you return the attached reply sheet in the envelope provided

Gary Macfarlane and George Tinning - On behalf of the Chryston Kirk Session

If you want to have a look at what other churches and organisations are doing in this area, here are a few links

- Fullarton Church - <https://www.fullartonconnexions.co.uk/kids-youth/>
- Kythe Youth Project - <https://www.kythe.org.uk>
- Youth for Christ - <https://yfc.co.uk/ourstory/>
- Scripture Union - <https://www.suscotland.org.uk>
- Boys Brigade - <https://boys-brigade.org.uk/ourvision/>
- Church of Scotland youth/aspirations-for-ministry - <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/children-and-youth/aspirations-for-ministry>
- Christians in Sport - <https://www.christiansinsport.org.uk/resources/>
- Youth Alpha - <https://alpha.org.uk/youth>
- Queens Park Baptist - <https://www.qpbc.org/ministries/children-families/>

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Chryston Parish Church

Please complete the following, and return in the attached envelope, to the Church Office

This return will be completely confidential, and no personal details will be shared beyond the administration of this.

NAME (s): _____

ADDRESS: _____

POST CODE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS or CONTACT NUMBER _____

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

I would like to offer the following financial 'commitment in principle' for the Young People and Families Strategy, and in particular to cover the costs of employing a Young People and Families Worker

AMOUNT PER MONTH _____ OR

AMOUNT PER ANNUM _____ OR

PERIOD OF TIME (5 years maximum in first instance) _____ YEARS

SIGNED _____

Very many thanks for your consideration of this important work. This is very much appreciated.

We will contact you about actual giving when we have everything in place

Gary Macfarlane
George Tinning
On behalf of the Kirk Session