

Courtyard Youth Worker: Full Time £22,054-£24,664

Courtyard is a fresh model for local Catholic youth work, equipping parishes to reach young people 'on the edge' and at risk of social exclusion – creating a 'courtyard' of welcome and purpose

Are you ready to join our team?

We are seeking a highly motivated, passionate youth worker with an understanding and experience working in a Catholic setting, with proven skills in motivating both volunteers and young people at risk of exclusion.

The *Courtyard Youth Worker* will be based in London and will work to support parishes as each of them begin their own volunteer led *Courtyard* projects. The youth worker will have the support of the Courtyard Coordinator to enable volunteers in these parishes to implement the *Courtyard* in their bespoke setting. They will help the parish to recruit volunteers and train them to engage with young people in their local area. Along with the *Courtyard Coordinator*, the youth worker will enable the parishes to use resources developed in the pilot to embed the vision of *Courtyard* and deliver the detached and relational youth work.

The Project: We believe there is substantial potential within the Catholic community to:

- reach out to disenfranchised young people
- provide support and hope to those young people 'on the edge'
- challenge society's view of the young, not giving up on them, even when they make mistakes

Courtyard uses the wealth of resources with parishes – both people and material – to support young people. *Courtyard* involves the development of two elements:

- **External outreach** to make contact with young people who are at risk of social exclusion or of 'falling through the gaps'.
- **An internal programme** in the *Courtyard* sustains relationships between parishioners and the young people, and between the young themselves.

During the external outreach, parish volunteers are enabled to work on the streets to reach out to young people. For the internal programme, the parish is ready to open its doors, creating a *Courtyard* that welcomes young people to a safe space accompanied by appropriate resources and people of the parish. The young people themselves help direct the activities of the project and discover how to shape their future using their own experiences, gifts and talents.

www.courtyardproject.org.uk

Courtyard is sponsored by *Million Minutes*, a charity rooted in Catholic social teaching that enables young people to make a difference in their world and to be the difference in their world.

www.millionminutes.org

The successful applicant will have an understanding and experience of working in the Catholic Church. This role is subject to the safe recruitment procedures of the Catholic Church.

HOW TO APPLY

Download the application form at www.millionminutes.org/vacancies

Complete the application form including a supporting statement outlining how you match the Job Description and Person Specification (see below) and send to courtyard@millionminutes.org by **12 noon 27th July 2018**.

Application by video: We welcome supporting statements by video if you feel this makes best use of your skills. Videos should be no longer than 3 minutes and uploaded to a sharing platform with a link sent to the email above.

Job description: Courtyard Worker



Position: Courtyard Worker
Responsible to: Courtyard Coordinator
Hours: 5 days a week
Location: London (the role will involve travel)
Length of post: Permanent contract
Salary: £22,054-£24,664 (Inc London weighting)

ABOUT MILLION MINUTES

Million Minutes supports projects that enable young people to make a difference in their world; to be the difference in their world. We want to enable young people to be the ones who build a world based on the Catholic social principles of dignity and equality, of service to the poor and the oppressed, of care for the world, and the promotion of peace and solidarity.

ABOUT COURTYARD

Courtyard was launched three years ago to develop a fresh approach to youth work in Catholic parishes. After a successful pilot and initial roll out phase, we are now seeking a new Courtyard Worker to continue to develop the next stage of the project.

Courtyard will invite young people to an encounter with the Church without any expectation that they join or make an open-ended commitment. It will enable young people to use their own experiences and talents to become the means of transformation in their own lives.

MAIN TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Working closely with the *Courtyard Coordinator* the *Courtyard Worker* will:

Work with volunteers of all ages

- Recruit, inspire and train local parish volunteers to engage young people in their *Courtyard* project.
- Manage and provide ongoing support to local volunteers.
- Accompany volunteers and support their growth in confidence in a variety of tasks including detached youth work, community development projects and ongoing relational youth work.

Train, mentor and accompany volunteers as they accompany young people at risk of exclusion

- Help volunteers identify and engage young people aged 16-25 who may be unknown to the Catholic community and hidden from society.
- Support volunteers to undertake detached youth work on the streets, with other organisations such as statutory services and with schools.

Monitor, reflect and communicate

- With training, implement the monitoring tools used by *Courtyard*. Support volunteers to monitor their projects. This will include report writing, photography and filmmaking.
- Apply insights from other *Courtyard* parishes, and share your own learning with others.
- Undertake all data management needs for recording contacts, activities, safeguarding and risk management.
- Support the development of communication strategies as appropriate to *Courtyard* in the local parish, including web, social media and existing parish communication channels.

Work in a Catholic context

- Work in a way which ensures *Courtyard* is open to young people of all faiths and none, whilst implementing our specific approach for use in a Catholic parish.
- Work closely with the Parish Priests and their teams to ensure the best possible relationship with the parishes and compatibility with local pastoral plans.
- Work to ensure wide support for the project across the parish communities, to draw on potential resources that people can offer, including volunteers, networking opportunities, skill sharing, and support through prayer.



PERSON SPECIFICATION

You will receive an induction and support to carry out this role.

Skills, Knowledge and Experience:

Essential

- Drive, self-motivation and personal commitment to enabling young people and volunteers to fulfil their potential.
- Experience of working with volunteers
- Experience of youth work.
- A good understanding of the Catholic Church.
- Experience of working alongside young people in informal and challenging settings and a track record of engaging young people who are socially excluded or at risk of exclusion.
- Appropriate youth or community work qualification, or equivalent experience.
- Ability to influence and communicate effectively at all levels.
- Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines, acting on own initiative and being proactive.
- Ability to be flexible within a given framework.
- Computer literate.

Highly Desirable

- Experience of recruiting, training, motivating and managing volunteers, and willingness to accompany them over the long-term.
- Experience working across a number of parishes, sites or projects.
- Experience of detached youth work.
- Experience of working with leaders within the Catholic Church.
- Experience of implementing projects collaboratively with key partner organisations.

