

Community Worker

Location: West Denton Community Church, Newcastle upon Tyne

Terms & salary: 2 years full time. £26,716 pro rata. [part-time options can be discussed]

Our Story & Vision

Our Church launched in September 2022 as a partnership between members of a United Reformed Church (West Denton Church) and an Independent Evangelical Church (Christ Church Newcastle). West Denton Church had been serving as a witness to Jesus for over 70 years, whilst Christ Church had a heart to see renewed gospel work happen in the West End of Newcastle.

The joining of these two diverse groups has been a source of mutual blessing and encouragement, unified in our shared beliefs and the desire to know God through his Word and to make him known to the local community.

We began with 50 and by God's grace our congregation has grown to around 100 members.

Our vision is to reach people in West Denton with the good news of Jesus by proclaiming God's Word, serving real community needs and growing in biblical faith and fellowship as a church family.

Where are we?

West Denton is in the West End of Newcastle. It is a great place to live, but the area has various social needs with pockets of significant deprivation, anti-social behaviour, loneliness and division.

There is also a deep spiritual need. There are just 2 churches serving a population of several thousand people.

Partly due to limited community spaces in West Denton, we have a vision for our building to become a well-used community hub that supports local needs whilst sharing God's Word with all who come through the doors. We also want to go out into the community to represent Jesus and share God's truth & love to people where they are.

Who are we?

Our Church's three "core identities" are rooted in the Bible, God's inerrant and timeless Word to us, which we believe speaks with final authority and is always sufficient for all matters of belief and practice.

Adopted

That despite our sin, God has brought us into his family through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We long to grow in living together as a united, loving family of believers - caring for each other, speaking truth in love to one another, and reminding one another of our shared heavenly Father.

Ambassadors

We are called to live holy lives grounded in the Bible's call to obey God's commands. Those lives are on display to people around us, and we must speak about Jesus to unbelievers, praying that through our witness more people would come to know Him.

Servants

Jesus was the "suffering servant", who washed his disciples feet and came "not to be served but to serve" - and he calls us to take up our cross and follow him. We seek to grow in humility and serve one another and the community around us through Jesus' Spirit working in and through us.

What do we do?

Growth & Training

- Our Sunday gatherings encourage us through corporate worship and prayer and the preaching of God's word, reflecting its centrality to our individual and corporate lives. [You can hear our most recent sermons here.](#)
- Our weekly "Connect Groups" are smaller, relational opportunities to eat together, discuss God's Word, put love into action and to pray. This informal fellowship reflects the Church's shared love for God's Word and God's community. The groups encourage one another throughout the week to persevere, to live in a way that honours Jesus, and to speak of Jesus with non-Christians.
- On Sundays we run 2 children's groups where our kids get age-appropriate bible teaching, using resources such as Mustard Seeds and Faith in Kids. There is a Pre-school group and primary school aged group, with our secondary school youngsters staying in for the sermons.
- In addition, our church uses resources such as Crosslands Training (at both Seminary and Foundation levels) and Biblical Counselling UK in order to

understand God's truth in the Bible, and how that shapes our lives as disciples of Jesus.

- Each year a number of congregation members attend the Keswick Convention, as another way of learning and growing together.

Evangelism and Outreach

We have many church ministries which seek to meet all people groups in our community and to share biblical faith with them:

- **Baby & Toddler group.** We welcome 25-30 small children and their parents/guardians each week. We provide a warm welcome, snack time for everyone, and a weekly bible story during story and song time!
- **Generate.** Our Friday club for 7-11 year olds where we do crafts, games, enjoy snacks and teach the Bible in an engaging way. We have used material from [Faith in Kids](#) and [Mustard Seeds](#) in the past to support leaders preparation
- **Youth Club.** Friday evening for Secondary School children. We provide a safe, relaxed place where we hope to grow relationships with young people. We are hoping to launch theme nights and other events where we will share our church's beliefs with the young people
- We invite children to age appropriate Christian **Summer Camps**, such as Wensleydale (run through [Ventures](#)).
- **Seasonal Events.** We run various family events throughout the year which share our church's beliefs and faith with local people. E.G. Christmas crafts, Autumn Light Party, Easter Fun, Community Carol Singing, Community Fun Afternoon.
- **Cafe Connect.** Our weekly, free community cafe where we hope to provide a welcoming community for people who may be alone. Our volunteers seek to share our church's beliefs and ministries with those attending
- **Movie Nights & Quizzes.** We run these events to help us get to know non-Christians in a relaxed environment
- **Foodbank.** We partner with a local Foodbank which runs in our building twice a week.

To support these ministries in the goal of sharing biblical faith, we sometimes use resources such as [Uncover](#), [3-2-1](#), [Christianity Explored](#) or [Alpha](#) courses.

We would love to see our outreach and evangelism programme grow in its impact, and consider how else we might be able to serve and share with our local community.

Our Partners

To share encouragement and resources, we partner with the [North East Gospel Partnership](#), the [Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches \(FIEC\)](#), the [Evangelical Alliance](#) and [Crosslands Training](#).

We also support Mission Partners working for [UCCF](#) and [Pioneers](#) through prayer, relationship and finance.

Our Team

Our leadership team is responsible for the week to week running of church life. The team is a group of 8 men and women from the church who have the character and competency to represent and lead the wider congregation.

Within the team we have three Pastors who are ultimately responsible for the spiritual health of the church. They have responsibility to ensure that what is taught in our church is faithful to God's Word and in keeping with our church's beliefs, and that church family members' lives are also consistent with that teaching.

There are also three Trustees who are legally responsible for the Church Charity, including Finance, Safeguarding, Staffing and Policies.

Our paid Pastor, Luke, is currently our only member of staff. We are able to run our ministries and events because of the enthusiasm, gifts and sacrifice of our many volunteers.

Job Description

Summary

The Community Worker role is a leadership role. It is also a public role, communicating the beliefs and lived-out values of the Church in the community. They will have two key areas of responsibility:

1. Prayerfully leading and supporting church family teams serving in established ministries which seek to share our church's faith through personal conversations, Bible studies/talks and evangelistic courses.
2. Representing our church as we go into the community to creatively share our beliefs with local people - through new community initiatives and in personal relationships.

Responsibilities

- Leading, supporting and equipping established ministry teams and overseeing seasonal church events, which seek to share our beliefs with non-Christians.
- Representing our church beliefs and vision in partnerships with local organisations such as the Foodbank and local shops in order to better serve community needs and create new opportunities to share our faith in Jesus.
- Commitment to ongoing, experience-appropriate theological training.
- Helping to run, advertise and expand our weekly "Cafe Connect" and seeking to share biblical faith with those attending.
- Sharing a biblical approach to the key issues facing children and young people at our youth clubs. Inviting young people to evangelistic events.
- Represent the church whilst organising community events (E.G. Family Fun days, Community Carol Singing) to engage local people and share our church's beliefs and ministries.
- Preparing and delivering content for Sunday services which teach the Bible in order to encourage our church family to grow in faith and holiness.
- Leading evangelistic events or courses that share our church's beliefs.
- Meeting with non-Christians to support them and share our Christian faith and beliefs.
- Creating and leading new community initiatives introducing people to biblical faith, in collaboration with church members and community partners.
- Applying for relevant funding for local initiatives and ministries and representing the church's vision and values in that process.
- Attending and participating in our church gatherings and small group.

Personal Specification

Candidate Requirements

Essential Criteria

- A practising Christian, who loves Jesus, has a pattern of reading the Bible and prayer, and is making progress in the Christian life.
- Committed to a local church, attending Sunday and mid-week services, and serving in community.
- Someone who loves sharing the good news about Jesus Christ, and who is experienced in both personal and church-based evangelism.
- Able to teach the timeless truths of the Bible to contemporary issues.
- An established team player, and builder.
- Proficient in administration and organisation, of people and activities.
- An effective communicator, (orally and in writing).
- Comfortable meeting, making and building relationships from different backgrounds.

Desirable criteria

- Theological training
- Experience in a paid church ministry role(s)
- Willingness to live in the local area

If you're interested and would like to explore the role further, you can arrange an informal conversation by contacting info@wdcchurch.com

To apply, please send a CV and covering letter by 31st January to info@wdcchurch.com.

Initial interviews will take place in the week commencing 10th February.

Having regard to the nature and context of the work it is an Occupational Requirement for the post-holder to be a Christian, as a matter of personal belief and practice.

At West Denton Community Church we are committed to safeguarding. The successful applicant for this role will be subject to an enhanced DBS check.

Under the terms of the Data Protection Act the successful applicant's information (as supplied as part of the application) will be kept in their personnel file.

Initially we can only consider UK and EU citizens or those who have the right of residence and the right to work full time in the UK.