



YOUTH MINISTER

THE CHURCH

Holy Trinity Claygate (HTC) is a multi-congregation evangelical Anglican church in the Diocese of Guildford; its usual Sunday attendance across five congregations is around 450 people including 90+ children and young people.

But that is only part of the story. What is unusual about HTC is that it is also very much a parish church. Around 75% of church members live in the village, and in total 90% live within two miles of the church. Being a parish church presents us with tremendous evangelistic opportunities among people of every age, and over the years we have seen God bless us as we seek to make the most of these opportunities.



THE VILLAGE

Claygate has a population of 6500 with a strong village identity and sense of community. There are a significant number of people working in managerial/professional roles, many in London, with many households having 2 incomes.

There is a local authority primary school in the parish and a church primary school just beyond the parish boundary; there are also several pre-schools in the parish (including Jigsaw, owned and run by HTC). There is a Church of England secondary school and another local secondary school into which pupils from both primary schools feed. Shops are excellent for a village of this size, and transport links to London and Guildford are good.

HTC VISION

For the last nine years our vision has been expressed under the phrase: More, Deeper, Closer Followers of Jesus.

More: We want to give everyone in our community and networks the opportunity to hear about Jesus and respond to him

Deeper: We want to become deeper disciples, growing in the knowledge of God, and in love and service to others

Closer: We want to be a loving community that cares for one another and models God's love to the world

HTC VISION IN YOUTH MINISTRY

HTC's vision of More, Deeper, and Closer Followers of Jesus forms the basis for our work across the church youth groups and activities. As we do this we want to enable young people to:

- **Encounter** God's love
- **Commit** to faith in Jesus Christ
- **Grow** together in a life-long relationship with Him
- **Serve** those around them to the glory of God



Our core values are:

- Reliance on God in prayer
- Active outreach to meet young people where they are
- Faithful Bible teaching
- Provision of safe, inclusive environments in which to grow community

Development of godly and supportive leaders, ready to listen and respond to young people's concerns

YOUTH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

While HTC is blessed with lots of contact with children and young people, it remains a challenge to embed a culture of **discipleship within families and among children and young people**. Within Claygate there is a considerable pressure/temptation on parents to invest time and resources in other aspects of growing up (education, sports etc.) We have fantastic staff and teams working among families and young people and have seen encouragements in a number of ways, including the growth of the Christian Union in the local secondary school, and at lunch time visits, but we need to make the most of the opportunities we have.



Our newest opportunity is the development of the Claygate Youth Club and our involvement in it. Whilst this is a community resource, supported by a variety of volunteers, there is a sense that our presence as Christian youth workers in Claygate is having a really positive impact, given our existing relationships with young people in the village.

Our current youth ministry provision falls into 4 key areas:

- Morning and evening Pathfinders sessions for 11-14 year olds on Sundays
- Youth Fellowship on Sunday evenings for 14-18 year olds
- Leading the Christian Union at the local secondary school on a weekly basis
- Supporting and co-leading the Claygate Youth Club on a weekly basis
- An annual residential weekend, with teaching and worship, for all 11-18 year olds

This term we have explored a teaching series called 'LovePrayGo'. We looked at how we can love each other, love the Church and love God. We went deeper in prayer, looking at how we pray together and individually. We ended the series looking at how we can serve locally, nationally and globally.

Our weekly 6.30 service is contemporary in style and the youth programme is designed to follow the service, but the time pressures on our young people often mean that they don't come to church and mix with the wider church community as much as we would love them to.

YOUTH MINISTER – KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Working with the Associate Vicar and within the senior team, the Youth Minister (YM) will have a number of key responsibilities.

The key objective will be **to lead and develop the ongoing vision and practice of youth ministry** at HTC, by applying the church's vision of *more, deeper and closer followers of Jesus* in the contemporary setting of our work among 11-18s. This will involve working collaboratively with the Children & Families Minister to ensure a unified vision and smooth transition from children to youth groups. Good communication skills will be required to share and this vision for all activities for those aged 11-18.



Secondly, the YM will need to be able **to relate well with young people** to empower 11-18 year olds to grow in their personal identity in Christ and to confidently and engagingly live this out in their witness and practise. This will involve leading and delivering the HTC youth groups - Pathfinders and Youth Fellowship - including both group and one to one work. It will also involve relating to young people in the community through Claygate Youth Club, local secondary schools and other clubs or organisations as appropriate.

Thirdly, the YM will need **to manage, grow and develop both new and existing youth team leaders and volunteers**, including the Trainee Youth Minister in his role and ministry. The role will also include the development of and pastoral support for the volunteer team who work alongside the young people, inspiring future youth leaders (including volunteers), and providing appropriate pastoral and spiritual support.

STAFF LIFE

HTC is blessed with a committed and diverse staff team which oversees ministry areas and resources church members in their service within and beyond the church. Staff members meet daily for prayer, as a whole team once a week, and in addition once a month as fellowship groups to pray for one another. We aim to build strong relationships and believe honesty and humility are really important. We are praying for a new Youth Minister to welcome playing a key role in the team.