

Contact details

Vicar

Revd. Fabian Wuyts

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Dear applicant

Thank you for your interest in the post of **Youth Church Pastor** with St James Church in Taunton. This post is being developed at an exciting time for our Church with the significant increase in the number of young people at our church. I am delighted to let you have details about the church and information about the post.

We hope you find the application pack provides all the information you need in order to consider your candidature for this post. If, however, you have any further questions please contact the Church Office (info@stjamestaunton.co.uk) and the relevant person will respond to your enquiry.

Should you decide to apply for this post we look forward to receiving your application and wish you well.

Fabian Wuyts

Vicar

Applications

Applications must be received by **the morning of Thursday 23rd July 2026**

Application forms, with a covering letter no more than one side of A4 describing what attracts you to this role should be returned to the office either by post to St James Church, St James St, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 1JS or by email to

info@stjamestaunton.co.uk

Shortlisting

To ensure the fairness of the selection process, shortlisting will be based upon the information which you provide in your application and assumptions will not be made about your experience or skills. We will look for demonstrable evidence that you meet the criteria set out in the person specification. Information provided on the application form will be viewed by the Vicar, the churchwardens and the interview panel.

Selection Process

We plan is to hold interviews in the week **commencing 27th July**. The interviews will take place virtually or in person. Further details regarding the selection process will be communicated at the time applicants are invited for interview. The appointment will be subject to satisfactory pre-employment checks.

Safeguarding

We are committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults, and the care and nurture of children within our church community. We will carefully select, train and support all those with any responsibility within the church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles. This means that we will:

- Ensure that our recruitment and selection processes are fair, consistent and transparent.
- Take all reasonable steps to prevent those who might harm children or adults from taking up positions of respect, responsibility or authority where they are trusted by others.
- Adhere to safer recruitment legislation, guidance and standards.

Further information can be found in our Safeguarding Policy available on our website at <http://stjamestaunton.org/safeguarding>. If we make you an offer of employment, you will be required to complete a Confidential Declaration Form. This form is strictly confidential and, except under compulsion of law, will be seen only by those involved in the recruitment/appointment process and, when appropriate, the nominated safeguarding lead or someone acting in a similar role/position. All forms will be kept securely in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation, 2018

St James Church

St James is an Anglican town centre church with a tradition of every member ministry and collaborative leadership, biblical belief, a commitment to prayer and a desire to serve God. We are a single parish benefice with a Sunday congregation of about 120 adults and 10-15 young people. Many groups (church and non-church) are also using our facilities throughout the week and during weekends.

St James forms part of the Diocese of Bath & Wells and lies within the Taunton Deanery, itself part of the Taunton Archdeaconry.

The church has a part-time paid Children's Church Pastor.

The number of young people has grown significantly in the last few years. The young people have recently completed the Youth Alpha course. This has been inspirational for them, and we are looking to build on the current work of volunteers in appointing a Youth Church Pastor. The church is looking for a Youth Church Pastor, who will work alongside our Children's Church Pastor, and who will lead our work with young people of secondary school age within our church setting and to make connections with schools in our parish, a local independent school and the wider Taunton area. In Taunton there is a Youth for Christ contact, who we have a relationship with, who would provide a useful link. We also have close connections with a church primary school, and we would hope this role will support connections with Y6 children in their transition to secondary school.

Our Vision

At the heart of our vision is the importance of **Encountering** God, **Growing** as followers of Jesus, and **Participating** in the life of his Spirit.

At St James, we want to grow a community of believers, from all ages and all walks of life, who want to be apprentices of Jesus together and live in the power of God's Spirit. We see this growing community as a place of belonging, fellowship and learning. We believe that as we encounter the transforming love of God displayed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, we will discern more of God's amazing purposes for our lives, our town and our world.

You can find more about our vision and values on our [website](#).

Main Terms and Conditions

Job Title	Youth Church Pastor
Location	St James Church, Taunton, TA1 1JS
Hours of Work	Part-time, 10 hours per week. Working pattern to be agreed with the Vicar; it will include Sunday working and six evening meetings per year for Youth Church socials.
Contract Term	Three years in the first instance to successful completion of a six-month probationary period.
Salary	Real Living Wage plus 15% - this would currently be £13.80 per hour.
Reporting to	The Vicar, as line manager.
Accountable to	The Vicar and The Parochial Church Council of St James Parish Church.
Review	<p>You will meet with the Vicar on a regular basis to receive support, feedback and encouragement.</p> <p>You will have a formal review after 3 months, 6 months and then yearly.</p>
Pension	Pension scheme provided. The auto-enrolment pension scheme can be provided on request.
Holiday	Six weeks per calendar year to be taken in negotiation with the line manager.
Expenses	All reasonable working expenses will be met at the agreed diocesan rates from local budgets.
Mobile phone	A phone will be provided is to be used for all communication connected with the role.
Training	The PCC is committed to resource any training that is identified as being useful for the appointee.
Faith	Working in close contact with the church leadership, there is a genuine occupation requirement for the post holder to be a practising Christian.
Safeguarding	An enhanced DBS check is required

Appointment will be subject to the provision of satisfactory references.

Closing date for applications: (the morning of) Thursday 23rd July 2026
Interviews to be held during the week commencing 27th July 2026

Job Description

Purpose

Our aim is to see the transformation of lives, equip people and grow in number and in depth together. We see this as applying to all ages and this role is to focus on young people of secondary school age within our church setting.

Structure

Your line manager will be the Vicar.

A team of leaders and helpers with various levels of expertise and responsibilities will support you.

Our Safeguarding Officer and her assistant will support you to ensure safe practices are in place.

Responsibilities

Leading Youth Church

You will take a strategic and tactical lead in organising, delivering and developing our youth ministry.

Working with other leaders, you will resource youth material and activities for Sunday Youth Church.

You will meet with the other Youth Church leaders at least 4 times a year to plan and review and the Children's Church Pastor on a regular basis.

You will ensure that events and activities are accessible to all young people including those with additional needs.

You will lead Youth Church at least twice a month and step in if cover is needed.

You will support and retain existing leaders/helpers by providing encouragement, feedback and delegating tasks.

You will support Y6 transition through our Leaver's Service once a year and other connections that bridge the primary-secondary move for children.

In time, you will actively identify, safely recruit and resource new leaders/helpers.

With the help and support of the Safeguarding Officer and her assistant, you will promote safe practices (including making risk assessments), ensure safe recruitment is properly followed and inform the appropriate people of any safeguarding concerns.

In particular, you will need to strengthen the processes for registering children and for the recording of contact details.

There is considerable support from the wider church for the young people and so linking with others in the congregation who can support our young people is important. This includes our 'Serve Sundays' where the young people are involved in ministries

such as the worship band, welcoming, refreshments, etc. This is in its early days and will need further support and inspiration.

Liaising with families

You will act as a point of contact and “friend to families”.

You will keep church families informed and engaged with the youth programme.

You will help parents and carers become more confident and resourceful in their spiritual roles towards their family.

For families on the fringe of the church, you will liaise with the Vicar and the discipleship coordinator to find ways to help them in deepening the relationship with Jesus. Training can be made available to help in your work with those outside the church.

Working with the wider church

You will liaise with other leaders of All-Age Worship services and those leading the ‘Children/Youth involvement in other services.

You will make links with other churches and events, such as ‘Movement’, Spree or other Christian camps and also charities.

You will work with the Vicar and Children’s Church Pastor in planning and resourcing the All-Age services.

Person specification

	Essential	Desirable
Personal attributes	<p>You know how to keep young people motivated and inspired.</p> <p>You know how to motivate and inspire the church to celebrate families, young people and children.</p> <p>You are realistic about your organisational and administrative skills and know when to ask for help or support.</p> <p>You understand that the primary responsibility for Christian growth and formation lies with the parents/carers.</p>	<p>You can show evidence of your creativity.</p> <p>Ability to play a musical instrument, preferably one that can be used to lead worship.</p>
Skills and experience	<p>You can show examples of good communication skills with both adults, youth and children.</p>	<p>A transferable training qualification in an area such as teaching, social work or family support/counselling.</p>

	<p>You seek to develop good collaboration with a team of volunteers who support the work with the young people.</p> <p>You can show how you have helped both parents/carers and young people grow as followers of Jesus.</p> <p>Experience in leading a youth group (secondary age) within a church setting.</p> <p>You confidently use technology and social media to enhance communication and create supportive networks.</p> <p>You love resourcing youth material and activities.</p> <p>You are committed to explore further training provided by or through the church.</p>	<p>Knowledge of spiritual formation in young people.</p> <p>Experience with planning and leading all-age services.</p> <p>Experience of encouraging leaders and delegating tasks.</p>
Faith	<p>You are a committed Christian with a passion to see parents and families flourish spiritually.</p> <p>You know the importance of prayer and of walking with God.</p> <p>You are a regular worshipper at St James Church (or commit to become one).</p>	<p>A transferable training qualification in an area of Christian ministry.</p>