

Social Justice and Community Outreach Worker

You will be part of a Ministry Team committed to broadening the reach of our church as a centre for community and social justice. You will have specific responsibility for developing organising and increasing participation our programme of events and activities. The role will also ensure smooth and efficient organisation of these events.



Our programme includes our Culture Café each Wednesday, with food, lunchtime music and art. There are a series of awareness raising events focussing on important contemporary issues of migration, ecology and broader considerations of justice and peace. These events include documentary film evenings, world music, key celebrations such as Good Friday and Holocaust Memorial Day.

Our Church's core themes are tackling social isolation, migration, the environment, human rights and community building.

About Union Chapel

Union Chapel is a historic non-conformist church with a long-standing reputation for music and social engagement. We are still living this out in these powerful times. The church, whilst comparatively small, is experiencing growth and is enthusiastic to share the challenge of our Christian conscience through our worship and by raising awareness of contemporary social concerns. We also reach out to our local community through our Culture Café. The programme is designed to draw in people from the local community who need some space to join with others. We are keen to develop this programme further to include wider groups of people.

Our reputation, location, nonconformist heritage give us a unique opportunity to be a platform for Christians engaged in justice work.

From the outset, Union Chapel has been known for music. Our organ is a recently-restored Henry Willis, world-class instrument. The Chapel is now one of London's most popular music venues, hosting performances from many well-known artists. It also has a programme of comedy and film. Events are run on a commercial basis by our own production and events company, Union Chapel Directions.

The Church established a project for people in crisis and experiencing homelessness, called Margins. Their programme includes a training programme in catering and provides food both for the Culture Café and the events held in the Chapel.

Union Chapel is a Grade 1 listed building of architectural significance. Management of the premises is undertaken by the Union Chapel Project, established by the Church not only for day-to-day work but for an extensive programme of conservation. We have a conservation architect on the staff and a fundraising programme to progressively bring the building up to a standard which reflects our concern for the many thousands of people who use it.

The next phase of our development programme will refurbish the Sunday School room. This is a beautiful space with huge potential for further productions and community activities.

Ministry Team

You will be joining a team of people enthusiastic for the church's mission. Reve Vaughan Jones is the Minister in the church. Vaughan has an extensive background of work in the voluntary sector both in homelessness and migration. Our Church Deacons are experienced with theological, financial and management expertise. We also have an artist-in-residence post currently held by Boe Huntress who is curating immersive theatre experiences within the Chapel.

Our expectations

We are looking for a person with a strong sense of Christian vocation and a passion for social justice. We have an open mind as to whether this person is an ordained minister or someone who wants to live out their vocation as a lay person. We want her/him to be part of our community, active in our worship and building our Sunday congregation.

We are looking for someone with imagination, experience and rooted in a theological understanding of prophetic ministry. The successful candidate will share Union Chapel's liberal, nonconformist commitment to inclusivity in church and community life.

We envisage this as a full time post but understand that someone with exactly the same skills and outlook we need may only want to work for four days a week. This can be discussed.

How to apply

To apply please send an up-to-date CV, covering letter indicating your experience and ability to meet the criteria within our Person Specification and why you would like to work for Union Chapel Congregational Church and return it to:

recruitment@unionchapel.org.uk

or post to

Union Chapel Congregational Church (FAO Vaughan Jones)

19b Compton Terrace

London N1 2UN

Closing date for applications: Noon, Monday March 4th 2019



Job Description

Job title:	Social Justice and Community Outreach Worker
Responsible to:	The Church and Deacon's Meeting with line-management by the Minister of Union Chapel Congregational Church
Purpose of Job:	To work with the Ministry Team (Minister and Deacons) to widen the reach of the church into our local community, and networks of Christians engaged in social justice; and develop and manage a programme of engagement reflecting the Church's commitment to inclusivity, community building and social justice.
Outcomes:	<p>The principal outcome should be the proclamation of the Gospel message of respect for creation and the nurturing of peace and justice through building communities which break down walls of division.</p> <p>We hope for increased participation in church sponsored events within Union Chapel by church members, volunteers and the wider community.</p> <p>We desire greater diversity and integration between different ages, cultures and backgrounds within our worship and the life of the Chapel.</p> <p>We look forward to an exciting programme of smooth and efficiently organised events and activities.</p>
Hours:	37.5 hours per week – flexible working needed including some Sundays (30 hr week would also be considered with pay <i>pro rata</i>)
Salary:	£28-30k

Duties

Programme management and development

To work within the Ministry Team to develop an annual programme of community engagement events and activities in line with the church's priorities for the year and its commitment to social justice.

To participate in the rota for leading Sunday worship.

To develop a varied programme of activities for the weekly Culture Café in liaison with the Margins Café and Art Coordinator.

To recruit and coordinate volunteers to help run the church events including Culture Café and social justice related activities.

To attend and contribute to the success of church events and activities.

To liaise with other Union Chapel staff members to ensure appropriate rooms, staff and other logistical requirements are in place for church events.

Networking and relationship building

To attend church services on a regular basis and engage church members and attendees within the church's programme.

To work with Union Chapel Project to support them to fulfil their aims in facilitating community activities within the Union Chapel building complex.

To liaise with the Congregational Federation and other church networks for inclusion in their newsletters and submit prayer requests.

To promote chapel activities within local networks, the voluntary sector and local authority services.

To be proactive in engaging with culturally diverse groups to build relationships and to include in community activities.

To develop a wider database of contacts within the community, e.g. other local churches and organisations who may be interested in Union Chapel events.

Communication and publicity

To take the lead in promoting the church and its activities through social media.

To facilitate and distribute a monthly church newsletter and increase its distribution.

To update church events on the website and work with the Chapel web master to ensure events are published prominently on the Union Chapel website and the church section is regularly updated.

To assist church staff with publicity for different church led events such as e mails, distributing leaflets and putting up posters and web-based advertising.

To promote the Culture Café.

To ensure church notice boards are kept up-to-date with relevant information.

To assist with developing church information leaflets to be distributed around the chapel.

To develop and maintain a database of members, adherents and other contacts who are interested in church activities in compliance with GDPR.

Safeguarding

To implement safeguarding policy and inform the Deacons of any legislative changes or breaches of the policy.

To carry out all DBS checks for Union Chapel.

To risk assess all community activities and ensure appropriate training is given for volunteers and leaders who help run activities.

To ensure all activities comply with health and safety and other relevant regulations.

To undertake such other duties which may from time to time be required.

Person Specification

Union Chapel is seeking a person with a strong and demonstrable vocation for Christian ministry whether as an ordained minister or dedicated lay person.

Here are the areas of knowledge, experience and skill we are looking for. We realise that suitable applicants may not meet them all but should demonstrate a willingness and capacity to acquire them in the course of the work.

Education and knowledge

Relevant undergraduate degree or equivalent (not necessarily in a UK institution).

Knowledge of church networks and relevant faith based organisations.

Awareness of the underlying theological and social understandings behind Christian approaches to social justice.

Understanding and commitment to Union Chapel's liberal, non-conformist tradition as an inclusive church.

Experience

Minimum of 3 years' experience of working for a church or church based project or related professional experience (unpaid work will be taken into account).

Experience of leading worship.

Experience of working cross-culturally.

Experience of developing community activities within an inner city context.

Experience of working in a liberal, nonconformist, congregational style church setting.

An understanding of safeguarding and best practice within a community setting.

Skills

Ability to plan, manage and deliver targets on time and to manage and contain workload.

Proficient in appropriate Office software.

Self-organising and able to manage a small team of staff and volunteers.

Ability to give pastoral support when need to staff, volunteers, church members and members of the general public.

Ability to manage budgets and financial constraints.

General

Willingness to work flexibly.

Commitment to personal and professional development.

A good team worker.