

After finishing school and starting work I didn't really know what I wanted to be doing with my life. I had every intention to leave St Pauls, the church I had grown up in to go and explore others. But then I was asked if I wanted to volunteer with the youth work in the church.

I reluctantly agreed but very quickly discovered I loved youth work! I loved seeing young people come to know Jesus and working out who God has made them to be. I felt God showed me his heart for his young people, and I have never been able to shake that off.

I volunteered doing youth work in my spare time for a few years until I decided to explore it as a potential job. At 23 years old, I did some training and got a youth work qualification. Not long after, my church made the decision to employ a youth worker, I applied and got the job.

I have now been working for the church for 7 years. In this time the role has grown and changed to reflect the needs of the church and the community. I have also grown and developed in my role too.

Over the years I have ran lots of different style youth groups; Christian Union clubs in schools, RE lessons, residential trips, youth church, leading and preaching in church, toddler groups and messy church just to name a few of the opportunities I have had. I have gone from sitting quietly in leadership meetings not saying much, to being fully part of the leadership team of the church.

People suggested I look into ordination or Lay ministry when looking to develop my ministry. Both things I prayed and thought about a lot. But Lay ministry is what I felt most fitted what I felt called to. I know God has called me to serve his young people, and I love Chippenham and my church and feel like this is where God has called me to be for now. I am now in my formation year to become a Licenced Lay Minister alongside my job as Youth Minister.

I never planned to do youth work, to stay in St Pauls or Chippenham or to become a Lay Minister. I never (and still don't!) felt like I was good enough or skilled enough for any of it. But God put a passion in me for the young people in Chippenham and for his church, and I couldn't ignore it. When it feels like God has called you towards something you can't just shake it off or walk away. That saying 'God doesn't call the equipped but equips the called' has all ways been so true for me.

Becky Meilton