

OUR MISSION & MINISTRY COMMITTEE URGES EVERYONE TO CONSIDER THIS MINISTRY POSSIBILITY

Especially in the light of last week's
presentation on poverty in the Highlands!

As many of you already know there is a need for volunteers in Inverness over the school holidays for the cathedral Summer Arts and Music club.

This project aims to help the poorest in our community with a free Summer Arts and Music programme for children up to primary 7 age and their families. The programme is looking fantastic with sessions such as African drumming, dance, visual arts and a family ceilidh. The project aims to provide free lunches funded by Inverness Cathedral and Faith in Community Scotland for these children afterwards. For many of these children this may be the only warm meal they get, and whilst during term time they qualify for free school meals, during the holidays this doesn't happen.

We are looking for volunteers to cover 2-hour sessions on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday over the 6 weeks of the school holidays (ie from 8th July to 16th August). This would simply involve turning up at Kenneth Street hall at 10.30am, warming a pre-made lunch, then serving this to the children (families) at 11.30am and tidying up afterwards. We will also need some volunteers who can make soup or a hot meal and this can be delivered in advance and stored in the fridge or freezer. Expenses would be covered by the project. Many of you have already volunteered to take part in this and we are very grateful. However the organisers (inSpire at Inverness Cathedral) have today said that as not enough of the slots are filled on the volunteer rota they may now have to go back to a very unsatisfactory plan b of giving the children a sandwich to take away after their activity. As the whole purpose of this project is to get these children a warm meal on at least 3 days a week over the holidays, we are now slightly panicking!

For many families this club will be a lifeline in what otherwise can be a long and difficult summer break.

We have a Google spreadsheet where you can fill in your names to sign up to sessions on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday. In addition we have slots to fill in if you can provide hot food, either soup or a traybake such as macaroni cheese or cottage pie - something that can easily be reheated. These can be delivered to the Kenneth Street Hall at the times given on the spreadsheet.

You will see we need someone each session to sign up to be nominally Lead Volunteer on the day. This person should have the opportunity to talk through what is required with one of the Cathedral staff, either before or on the first day they volunteer. This need not be onerous and I think it will not be complicated. There will be a phone number to contact for emergencies and on most days there will be a member of the Cathedral staff on the premises in any case.

Please get in touch with Gillian on annegillianewman@gmail.com so that she can send you the link to the Rota which you can then fill your name in on.

In addition please send your name and details (email/phone number) to Eric Beck on eric.beck@invernesscathedral.org in case of unexpected changes etc.

All details will be deleted in August when the programme finishes.

If you need more information please get in touch, if you cant manage to open the document I can fill your name in for you. **And please do consider whether you can sign up ASAP to make sure this project runs. We have till Sunday night to get the rota filled!**

Thanks very much
Susanna Leslie (01463 731109)

And apologies to those of you who have already signed up - thank you to all of you!