

Youth Minister for Meadgate

Peter Kirk

Meadgate Church appointed Mark Petitt as Youth Minister, starting in September 2004. Mark, 23, was born and brought up in Zimbabwe. He spent two years in South Africa in practical training for Christian youth work with Baptist Youth of South Africa. Meanwhile his family fled the chaos in Zimbabwe and came to Essex. Mark followed them in 2002 and settled at first in Witham and now in Great Baddow.

Mark is in charge of Meadgate Church's work with young people aged 6 to 18. He leads the Junior Church on Sunday mornings and is one of the leaders of the church youth group FUSE. But his main focus is on the children and youth of the Meadgate area. He is joint leader of the "Six Pack" and "Victory Warriors" clubs, and is starting to take school assemblies. One of his main aims is building relationships with the young people who hang around the Meadgate shops and other such areas and to help them to be not a problem but useful members of the community.

(January 2005, published in Baddow Life, Issue 7, Spring 2005)