

Church of the Good Shepherd, Farnborough

Children and Families Minister Job Description

£26,000 to £28,000 depending on qualifications and experience

Full time: 37 hours a week (including some evenings & weekends)

with pension, expenses, 33 days holiday including Bank Holidays

INTRODUCTION

We are excited about this opportunity at the Good Shepherd to employ a new Children and Families Minister. We are looking for someone with a passion for journeying with children and families and teaching them about the love of Christ, enabling them to grow in discipleship and become fully involved in the life of the Church. We want to build on our current ministry to the younger generations and develop it further so that it will grow and flourish in the future. We are in the position to fund an initial three-year post with the intention of it becoming permanent.

PURPOSE

The Church of the Good Shepherd is passionate about ministry to children and families and sees this appointment as highly strategic in the outworking of our developing church vision. This is a senior leadership position that will shape our teaching, discipleship and mission within the church and out into the local community, growing our existing work and spearheading new initiatives.

We are looking for a strategically minded collaborative leader who will work effectively as part of a team alongside a full-time Pioneer Community Worker, a volunteer Schools Coordinator and an excellent team of volunteers.

QUALIFICATIONS

The ideal candidate will:

- have a proven track record as a Children and Families Minister or a similar position;
- have an understanding of missional thinking and intergenerational ministry;
- be able to expand on areas of ministry that are beyond the traditional Sunday in reaching the missing generations;
- be someone who has a proven track record in the leading and development of a team of volunteers;
- have demonstrated their initiative in successfully introducing new exciting events involving children and families;
- be a good team member able to work within our existing ministry and leadership team.

Candidates will be required to provide evidence that they are legally entitled to work in the UK; meet the genuine occupational requirement that applicants for this role are Christian and support the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.

Applicants will be expected to have a growing Christian faith and to take an active part in the life, mission and worship of The Church of the Good Shepherd, Farnborough.

This role is subject to enhanced DBS certification and to satisfactory references.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. DISCIPLESHIP

Supporting children and their families towards a growing relationship with Jesus Christ, through prayer, relationship-building, the sharing of the gospel and engagement with appropriate groups and activities.

Existing opportunities, which we will expect you to oversee, include:

- Weekly Sunday Morning children's groups for children aged 0-11
- Monthly All-Age Sunday Service encouraging intergenerational relationships within the church community
- Monthly Messy Church, developing an ongoing plan of discipleship for this community
- Preparing children for Holy Communion and Confirmation

Possible Areas for Development:

- Supporting families within the church relationally and spiritually, developing a strategy for supporting parents in the growth of their children's faith
- Providing opportunities for children and families to serve and be part of the life and mission of the church, using their skills and gifts to find their vocation in God's family

2. SCHOOLS

Developing positive relationships with local schools, providing Christian input into the life of the schools.

Existing opportunities, which we will expect you to oversee, include:

- Oversight of the volunteer Schools' Coordinator
- Lead some school assemblies, lessons and after-school clubs
- School visits to the church to fulfil curriculum requirements
- Hosting the schools for their end of year services

Possible Areas for Development:

- Seasonal presentations at Christmas and Easter
- Prayer Spaces in schools

3. OUTREACH

Providing opportunities for children and families to hear and respond to the gospel and subsequently be nurtured and disciplined in their faith.

Existing opportunities, which we will expect you to oversee, include:

- Events at key times of the year such as Christmas and Easter (e.g. Christingles, Light Party)
- Welcoming parents and preparing them for their children's baptism

Possible Areas for Development:

- Offering practical support to parents (for example, through co-ordinating the running of a Parenting Course)
- Development of an additional parent and toddler group to meet the growing need
- Detached work in the community

4. GENERAL TASKS

- Prepare, communicate, implement and maintain a clear vision and strategy to develop our work with children and families
- Lead and inspire teams of volunteers; providing or accessing appropriate training, and offering volunteers the vision, drive, encouragement and hands-on involvement necessary to achieve the best possible outcomes in the groups and activities
- Ensuring that activities are well-resourced, putting together an appropriate budget request to present to the Parochial Church Council annually
- Build on partnerships with neighbouring parishes, local community groups and schemes and share in joint activities from time to time (e.g. St Peter's Church, Mayfield Community Partnership, Prospect Estate Big Local, Beavers and Cubs)
- Keep the whole church informed about the vision for ministry among the younger generations and listen to the views of the congregation
- Ensure the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is a top priority and best practice is maintained
- Liaise with the Diocesan Children's, Youth & Education Advisers and local community youth & children's leaders where appropriate (e.g. Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Prospect Estate Youth Club)
- Evaluate and monitor the work, identifying and initiating any changes required
- Ensure adequate time is given to effective administration and communication
- Work to agreed Church policies and procedures
- Other duties and responsibilities in line with the role deemed reasonable by the Vicar

EXPECTATIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The post holder will be an employee of the Parochial Church Council and will be responsible to the Vicar.

The post holder will:

- Have regular supervision meetings with the Vicar
- Have an annual review
- Attend morning prayers, staff meetings and coordinators meetings
- Be an active worshipping member of the Good Shepherd
- Be expected to work some evenings and on Sundays (unless on holiday), as well as some Saturdays and occasional nights away when required. The post holder will be entitled to time off in lieu for working Saturdays and time over 37 hours in a week
- There is an expectation to work Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Christmas Day
- Present occasional written and verbal reports to the PCC
- Be a committed evangelical Christian who accepts our Basis of Faith and Lifestyle Statement

PERSONAL SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

The post holder will:

- Undertake appropriate training
- Have the support of a mentor from outside the parish
- Attend appropriate networking meetings organised by the Diocese