



About our Church

We are looking to appoint a key person to oversee the Children and Family ministry at Christ Church Downend, a thriving Anglican church in the suburbs of Bristol and in the county of South Gloucestershire. Our area is teeming with families, and children and young people are very much central to our vision and at the heart of our church family life.

Our church vision is "Learning to live the life," as we learn together the ways of Jesus as his disciples and seek to make disciples of all ages. Children are young disciples and great witnesses: we have much to learn from them and share with them. There are so many opportunities to reach out to local families and to nurture those we have already been blessed with. We have had a Head of Children's Ministry for most of the last 12 years and we have a committed team of volunteers. The church leadership team are passionate about children's ministry and are excited to see how this ministry will grow as we emerge from lockdown. A new Head of Children's Ministry will be able to build on these foundations as well as creating new opportunities for growth and mission.

Our current Children and Families Ministry:

We are blessed with many good relationships with children and their families across a wide spectrum of the community. We have around 80 children from 0 -11 who have been attending church regularly or occasionally with their parents, and a thriving youth ministry for them to grow into. We run Messy Church which is evolving as we come out of lockdown, and where we are seeing strengthening relationships with families, most of whom had limited or no experience of church before. Our faith-based toddler group Jigsaw combines nurturing with an outreach atmosphere. Tuesday Move It Club reaches out to children in the most deprived part of the parish. We have excellent relationships with our Church of England Junior and Infant Schools as well as good connections with some of the other schools in the parish. (There are 9 schools in all!)

Our vision is that we will nurture our children as young disciples of Jesus through stimulating and age-appropriate learning through Sunday groups and other activities, and through supporting families as they explore faith at home.

We also want to continue to reach beyond, to those children who don't yet know God or have not yet heard about him. We want to build on our relationship with children in our local schools and celebrate Christian beliefs and values in partnership with them.

These activities are run by committed teams of volunteers and supported wholeheartedly by the clergy. We celebrate our friendships with other local churches and work together as appropriate: there is scope for exploring this potential further.

We want to build a lasting and sustainable ministry that captures the best of what has gone before, and adapts to the changing nature of society, rooted in the Gospel message and the support of the church.

We are seeking someone who:

- Has a love of children and a desire to see them discover their identity in Christ and to grow as young disciples and play an active part in church life. Children will warm to them and be able to trust them. Parents will find them inspiring, approachable and trustworthy.

- A passion for Jesus and a desire to share him with others, which will be infectious to children, both those who are already part of the church family and those yet to enjoy that opportunity.
- Has the desire to grow in their own discipleship, having a learning mindset and healthy spiritual habits, committed to seeking a balance of work, rest and play.
- Has some experience of working with children in a church context
- Can lead from the front and also nurture the gifts of others and manage a team of volunteers.
- Will be a supportive member of the church leadership team, a worshipping member of the community with a commitment to the wider life and vision of the church.

What we can offer:

- An encouraging and supportive atmosphere in which to deepen their own faith with access to a mentor and opportunities to go on retreat
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- The chance to develop their gifts and explore opportunities professionally and personally through training and new projects
- A role as a valued member of a leadership team who are committed to children and young people's ministry
- Resources to do the role effectively, including office space in church, a ministry budget and expenses which are agreed annually.

Nature of the role:

The role will be part time, with 20 working hours per week, allocated to tasks according to the successful candidate's strengths and experience. They will be employed by the PCC and will be line managed by the Associate Minister.

Evening and weekend working will form a significant part of the role. Precise hours can be negotiated with the line manager prior to confirmation of appointment.

The successful candidate would be expected to be a full part of the Christ Church worshipping community.

Due to the nature of this role, there is a genuine occupational requirement for the person appointed to be a practising Christian able to work within the ethos and vision of Christ Church.

The starting salary will be between £9,500 and £10,462 depending on experience, with a holiday entitlement of 5.6 weeks per year plus statutory bank holidays, calculated on a pro rata basis.

We have robust safeguarding procedures and follow the Church of England guidelines on Safer Recruiting and appropriate supervision of children. The Head of Children's Ministry will be expected to recruit new volunteers in line with our safeguarding policies, supported by the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

There will be a 6 month probationary period.

Job Description

- 1. The Head of Children's Ministry will be a valued part of the leadership team** and take part in monthly staff meetings. There will be a strategic element as they listen and discern the way forward in line with and as part of the whole church's vision and values.
- 2. Sunday Children's groups:**

The Head of Children's Ministry's primary responsibility will be to oversee and facilitate the running of children's Sunday groups which cover children from age 0 to 11. They will work with existing children's leaders and recruit new ones following safe recruiting procedures. They will encourage and develop the team to deliver inspiring, appropriate and fun Bible based learning where each child feels valued and is given the opportunity to explore and develop their own faith in Jesus. Working with the team, they will choose and adapt resources and curriculum, draw up or delegate the making of rotas and other administrative tasks that are needed to ensure the smooth, safe running of a high quality children's programme. They will lead sessions themselves as appropriate.
- 3. Connecting with children and families in the parish:**

The Head of Children's Ministry will seek to build relationships with children and their families, including those on the fringe and outside the church family. This may be done by, for example, visiting and phone calls, social events, seasonal activities, clubs etc. There is scope for them to develop the ministry according to their strengths and vision, recruiting and supporting volunteers so that the ministry will grow and be sustained in the long term.

They will support children and their families in their exploration of faith at home, for example by signposting resources, events and places to go for support. They will support Messy Church and Jigsaw, our faith-based group for toddlers, working as part of these teams.
- 4. Connecting with local schools:**

The Head of Children's Ministry will seek to continue and strengthen our links with local schools: primarily with our 2 church schools and then other schools in the parish as opportunities arise. This may take the form of leading acts of collective worship and seasonal services as well as overseeing and facilitating Experience Journeys and other church visits by the schools. They will work alongside other church members who have connections or roles within our church school governing bodies.

For an informal conversation about the role, please contact Anita Dobson on 07753 233950.

Please submit a letter of application and an up to date CV along with two references one of which should relate specifically to recent children's work experience to the Parish Administrator c/o Christ Church Parish Office, 57 North Street, Downend, Bristol BS16 5SG or via parishadmin@christchurchdownend.com

Closing Date for applications: Monday 21st June 2021.
Interviews will take place week commencing 28th June.

www.christchurchdownend.com