

**Children's Ministry Co-ordinator at Christ Church Downend,  
Bristol**



**We are looking to appoint a key person to oversee our Children's ministry, coordinating and supporting our wonderful teams of volunteers and being a part of what God is doing in and beyond our church. Whilst this role advertised is short-term and has limited hours, there is scope for the role to be increased beyond this academic year.**

### **About our Church**

**We are 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. 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 Children's Ministry Co-ordinator will be able to build on these foundations as well as creating new opportunities for growth and mission.

We have had a Head of Children's Ministry for most of the last 12 years and we have a committed team of volunteers. Initially we advertised and secured funding for a 20 hour role, however were unsuccessful in finding the correct candidate. In the meantime the ministry has developed with our volunteer team growing further and our focus now is to find someone to support those volunteers.

### **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. Although fewer than before covid, we have around 40-60 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.

Additionally we run Messy Church which continues to evolve post-lockdowns, 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. Move It Club reaches out to children in the most deprived part of the parish, many of whom we also come into contact with through our 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.

These activities are run by committed teams of volunteers and the schools work especially is supported 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.
- 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 and able to lead sessions at least one Sunday a month.
- Ability to lead and support a team of volunteers, many of whom are very capable and experienced, but have limited capacity to plan sessions.
- 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
- 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.

## **Job Description**

The role will be part time, with 6-8 working hours per week, on an initial 6 month contract lasting to the end of the current academic year.

The successful candidate will have the following areas of primary focus:-

- Leading, coordinating and supporting our Sunday morning teams of volunteers across our various age groups supporting children aged 0-11, including planning teaching series and writing session plans.
- Recruiting, training and encouraging new leaders and helpers across the various aspects of children's ministry.
- Being a key part of our messy church team, supporting the team of young leaders and working with other adult leaders to plan and deliver messy church services.
- Leading at least one Sunday a month in Sunday morning sessions.
- 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.

Other areas can be covered as well, and there is scope and funding for the size of the role to increase for the right candidate up to 20 hours per week.

They will be employed by the PCC and will be line managed by the Associate Minister.

Evening and weekend working may 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 become/be an active member of the worshipping community, providing an effective link between families and other church members.

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 salary will be between £9.50 to £10.00 per hour 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 Children's Ministry Co-ordinator will be expected to recruit new volunteers in line with our safeguarding policies, supported by the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

For an informal conversation about the role, please contact Rev. Aidan Watson by emailing [aidan.watson@christchurchdownend.com](mailto:aidan.watson@christchurchdownend.com) or calling the church office to be put in contact on 0117 908 9867.

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

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

[www.christchurchdownend.com](http://www.christchurchdownend.com)