

Children and Families Leader - Job Description

Title:	Children and Families Leader
Employer:	The PCC of Christ Church Alsager
Line Manager:	Rev Daran Ward (Vicar)
Work Base:	Christ Church Office
Work Area:	Alsager (Cheshire)
Hours (term & vacations):	Full Time. 40 hrs per week (at least 2.5 hours on Sundays with some flexibility possible especially out of term-time). Job-share could be considered.
Remuneration:	£23,000 - £27,000 pa (dependent on qualification and experience)
Training:	On-going support for training and development.
Holidays:	25 days pa (pro rata) to be taken in school holidays unless otherwise agreed + 8 Bank Holidays



Aims and Objectives - Overview

To oversee, develop and expand the ministry of Christ Church with children aged 0 - Year 6 and their families, both within the church and the local community, with the aims of:

Discipleship

- The children and families in the church becoming more excited about God and growing deeper in their love for Jesus, such that they want to share it with their friends and families.

Mission

- The children and families of our town experiencing God's love through our work with them and being inspired to get to know Jesus for themselves; which leads to a journey of faith, a commitment to Christ and becoming disciples who love to share their faith and participate fully in the life of the church.

Specific Duties and Responsibilities

To oversee, develop and lead Christ Church's work with children and their families, including:

1. To develop the vision and strategy for children and families work and to promote and implement it within the context of the church's wider vision. To be discerning in determining when activities have come to the end of their season and need to end.
2. To lead, motivate and work with the team of children and families work helpers and to be responsible for recruiting and training them.
3. To co-ordinate the church's work with children aged 0 – Year 6 and their families, all of which have some degree of Christian input, including:
 - To have oversight of 'Kids For God' (children's work on Sunday mornings)
 - To run the Cherubs Toddler Group (Monday afternoon) – includes Christian input
 - To be involved in support groups for parents/carers such as the Parent Chat Group
 - To run Tea on Tuesdays – bringing families together for food and fellowship
 - To run lunchtime clubs in three local primary schools and co-ordinate Christ Church's assembly provision in four local primary schools

- To take a leading role in running Messy Church (about 9-10 times per year)
 - To lead elements of all-age services
 - To run annual events e.g. Easter Detectives (Good Friday)
 - To resource necessary teaching material and equipment
4. To ensure good transitions into youth work from Year 6 through working in partnership with the Youth Leader
 5. To undertake administration, recruiting, communication, networking and publicity as required for children and families work – including via social media and website updates
 6. To offer pastoral care for children, their families and the children’s work helpers
 7. To run a programme of visiting families who take part in church-run activities
 8. To promote the spiritual development of children and their families in the church.
 - Helping children to be integrated into the church community
 - Acting as a voice for children in church affairs
 9. To provide opportunities for parents/carers to explore faith and to support them in growing in discipleship
 10. To explore and set up new work with children and families as appropriate; developing ministries to reach families who are not in contact with the Christian church.
 11. To work closely and effectively with the vicar, other staff and church members.
 12. To maintain and grow the already good links with four local primary schools, through taking regular assemblies, hosting school visits etc
 13. To be involved in mission initiatives for families within the local community. Leading children’s work within community events that the church participates in or organises (e.g. town carnival, church festivals etc)
 14. To host Zoom meetings and provide online content (e.g. live streaming, pre-recorded) when it is not possible to meet in person.
 15. The Children and Families Leader will work within the Church of England House of Bishops’ safeguarding guidelines to promote a safer church.

The Children and Families Leader will participate in weekly staff meetings.

The Children and Families Leader will be expected to take a full part in the life of the church family at Christ Church. There are opportunities for the post-holder to use other gifts that they may have and not to just be ‘The Children and Families Leader’ and we will encourage the use of these gifts.

As a church, we support staff members in developing their skills through relevant on-going training when appropriate. In particular, depending on the successful candidate’s skills, we may offer a relevant training course during the first few months or year of the post.

In addition to support provided by the church, extra support is available from the Diocesan Youth, Children and Families Missioner and network.

Children and Families Leader - Person Specification

We are looking for:

- An evangelical Christian who is committed to seeking and serving God, living a lifestyle that promotes the vision and values of the church and sets a good Christian example to children and families.
- Someone who is currently a regular and active member of their existing church and would also be comfortable working within the Church of England.
- Recent experience of church-based children's and families' work (paid or voluntary) is essential.
- A leader who can inspire and grow a voluntary team, sharing responsibility effectively.
- The ability to work both as part of a team and under their own initiative, whilst being accountable – responsible and responsive to supervision.
- A willingness to serve and to build relationships with both children and adults.
- An understanding of, and commitment to, the needs of children and their families.
- An enthusiasm for sharing the gospel with others in word and action.
- Effective written and spoken communication and presentation skills – including appropriate use of social media and ICT.
- A commitment to being involved in the corporate worship of this church.
- Creativity and innovation.
- A sense of humour.
- Relevant qualifications in children's and families' work and/or schools work would be desirable.
- A full driving licence and access to a vehicle would be desirable.
- Someone who lives in or is willing to move to live in Alsager (or nearby) would be desirable.

We take safeguarding seriously at Christ Church. This appointment is also conditional upon receiving a satisfactory enhanced DBS Disclosure.

Christ Church Alsager – The Context

Our vicar, Rev Daran Ward, joined us in March 2019. The attached parish profile produced for the appointment of the vicar provides details of the context.

We also have a full-time paid Youth Leader, part-time paid administrator and a self-supporting curate in the staff team. The children's, families and youth work are supported by a large team of volunteers, some with professional expertise.

Christ Church has had a paid Children and Families Leader for the last 13 years. One of them went on to lead families work at a local Methodist church; another moved to lead children's work across a benefice of seven churches; another to train to be a vicar; and the current post-holder is leaving to take up a teaching post in a primary school. We have also had a paid Youth Leader for the last eighteen years. One of them went on to be a vicar; another is the Youth, Children and Families' Missioner for the Diocese of Chester; and the previous Youth Leader left to become a radio presenter for UCB. The current Youth Leader has been in post since January 2020.

We hope that this profile has inspired you. We are excited about this stage of growth as a church within our community and look forward to sharing that journey with the successful candidate.

To get a better feel for the church, please have a look round our website at

www.christchurchalsager.uk

How to Apply

If you would like to apply for this post, then please send a current CV with a covering letter explaining your suitability for the job against the criteria outlined in the job description and person specification to **Rev Daran Ward** at vicar@christchurchalsager.uk

Please also include details of two people who will give references for you – name, address, phone number and email address. At least one of the two should be a leader in a church (for example a minister, youth leader, churchwarden etc). References will only be sought from candidates who are offered an interview

If you'd like to talk to us about the role, then you can give us a call on 01270 878537.

Given the nature and context of the work it is an occupational requirement that the post holder should be a communicant member of the Church of England or a full member of a church within Churches Together in Britain and Ireland in order to fulfil the main purpose of the post. This post is therefore exempt under Schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010.