

FAMILY WORKER AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, SANDHURST, BERKSHIRE

ROLE DESCRIPTION AND PERSON SPECIFICATION as at April 2021

This vacancy has arisen due to the relocation of our current family worker who has established a solid foundation over the past five years.

Our purpose as a church is:

- Knowing God for ourselves;
- Growing as individuals and as a church;
- Showing God's love in the world.

Purpose of the post:

Families in British society are under enormous pressure from a combination of factors including parents' paid work, insecure employment and financial worries, relationship breakdown, illness and bereavement, as well as social trends which impact the mental health of children and young people, e.g. through social media, consumerism, pornography etc. In the past year these pressures have been compounded as a result of the Covid pandemic. At the same time, the place of the Church and the Christian faith within family life is declining in our society, and it is harder to connect with families of school-age and pre-school children due to alternative Sunday activities and the time-pressures of modern family life.

As a church we need to work harder to connect with and support families in our community, including those already involved in church life, those who ask for baptism and those not directly involved with any church. The role of the Family Worker will be to extend pastoral care, spiritual nurture and outreach to families within and outside the church community, both through direct contact and by encouraging Christian families to support each other and reach out to others outside the church.

Indicative role description

Within the context of St Michael's Church:

- Build relationships with parents and children attending St Michael's, to help them integrate faith and church within their busy lives;
- Foster networking and mutual spiritual, social and practical support between families;
- Provide pastoral care and support to individual families as needed;
- Work with the Rector, the Youthworker and other leaders involved with activities for families, children and young people, in order to facilitate a co-ordinated approach.
- Encourage and support families in personal growth and development, to help them to express their discipleship through active participation in church-based and outreach activities.
- Collaborate with the Rector and others in leading services, meetings and events attended by families.
- Promote the work with families to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the wider church community.

In outreach:

- Lead the development of an ongoing programme of Christian outreach to families, using specific activities, such as Messy Church, holiday club programmes, social events, parenting courses etc.
- Work with the Rector in welcoming and following-up families who ask us to baptise their children.

- Build relationships with parents and carers of non-church families, in order to help them find faith and grow in it.
- Build new and develop existing links with outside agencies which support families (e.g. Bracknell Forest Council) and with other local churches working with families;
- Strengthen and develop church links with the three Primary Schools in the parish, and work in these schools as opportunities arise, e.g. leading a weekly Bible Club, supporting parents.

Person specification

The postholder will be able to demonstrate:

- Excellent inter-personal skills and the ability to work as part of a team, encourage the involvement of others and build teams of volunteers
- Experience of successfully working with children and families in a church situation (whether in a paid or unpaid capacity)
- A good understanding of family life in the present context
- Skills in relating to people of varied backgrounds and positions of religious faith
- The ability to use existing networks or create new ones in order to facilitate peer-to-peer support between families
- Ability to understand and be able to follow policies and procedures, especially with regard to safeguarding and confidentiality
- The ability to use strategic thinking in order to develop long-term plans
- A vibrant Christian faith, and a commitment to prayer and to personal development and growth
- Self-motivation, good personal organisation and flexibility
- Ability to use social media and other communication methods for networking with parents and promoting the Christian faith and the work of the Church
- An Occupational Requirement exists for the post-holder to be a practising Christian in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

The appointment is subject to an enhanced DBS Disclosure.

What we offer to the postholder

The Family Worker will meet regularly with the Rector as line manager, and will also receive professional support for the pastoral care aspects of the role through regular supervision meetings with a trained psychotherapist. In addition, Oxford Diocese provide advice and networking opportunities with other Family Workers through their Discipleship Enablers and Children's and Family Ministry Specialist.

We are committed to assisting the postholder to develop their abilities through appropriate training in, for example, bereavement, mental health awareness, safeguarding, lone working.

Paid hours: *Up to 37.5 per week; hours of work to be flexible, including evening and weekend working as required; at least one full day off to be taken each week.*

Applications are invited from candidates interested in flexible full time or part time working, and we would be happy to consider structuring this post as a job share for suitable candidates.

Salary: £24,000-27,000 p.a., depending on experience and qualifications

The Employer is the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Michael and All Angels, Sandhurst.