



Children & Families Leader

Job Description

Title:	Children & Families Leader
Employer:	Christ Church, Alsager (Church of England)
Line Manager:	Rev Toby May (Vicar)
Work Base:	Parish Office
Work Area:	Alsager (Cheshire)
Hours (term & vacations):	20 hrs per week (including 2.5 hours on Sundays) Some flexibility possible, especially out of term-time
Remuneration:	£10,000 - £12,000 pa (dependent on experience)
Training:	On-going support for training and development. Some initial training may be also offered if needed (eg 1 year diocese course)
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 work of Christ Church Alsager with children aged 0 – Year 6 and their families, both within the church and the local community, with the aims of...

- The children 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.
- The children and their families in our town experiencing God's love through our work with them and being inspired to get to know Jesus for themselves.

Specific Duties and Responsibilities

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

1. To develop the vision for children and families work and to promote and implement it within the context of the church's wider vision.
2. To lead, motivate and work with the team of children and families 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, including:
 - To have oversight of 'Kids For God' (children's work on Sundays)
 - To run the Cherubs Toddler Group (Monday afternoon)
 - To lead Fusion –after-school club for Yr4-Yr6

- To play a key role in Messy Church for Families
 - To support annual parenting courses
 - To lead elements of all-age services
 - To work with the youth leader preparing the children for transition to youth work in Year 6
 - To resource necessary teaching material and equipment
4. To show pastoral care for children, their families and the children's work helpers.
 5. To promote spiritual development of children in the church.
 - Helping children to be integrated into the church community
 - Acting as a voice for children in church affairs.
 6. To work closely and effectively with the leadership team, other staff and church members.
 7. To undertake administration, communication, networking and publicity as required for children and families work.
 8. 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.
 9. To improve already good links with four local primary schools, through taking regular assemblies, hosting school visits etc
 10. 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 (town carnival, church festivals etc) Working, as appropriate, with other member churches of Churches Together in Alsager
 11. To uphold Christ Church's policy on Child Protection across the span of Children's work.

The post-holder will be expected to **worship** regularly at Christ Church throughout the term of the appointment.

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

Whilst this is currently a 20 hour a week post, we expect this work to grow, so there may be opportunities in the future either to expand the role or to recruit support staff team members.

There are opportunities for the post-holder to use other gifts that they may have in the life of the church –not to just be 'The Children & Families Leader' and we will encourage the use of these gifts.

In addition to **support** provided by the church, extra support is available from the Diocesan Children's Advisor and network.

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 their families. Will also need to be comfortable working within the Church of England.
- A leader who can inspire and grow a team of volunteers and share 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, backed up by effective communication skills
- A commitment to being involved in the corporate worship of this church
- Creativity and innovation
- A sense of humour
- A full driving licence would be a benefit, as would basic ICT skills
- Some recent experience in church-based children's work would also be desirable

There is a Genuine Occupational Requirement (GOR) that the post-holder is a Christian.

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

Christ Church Alsager -The Context

www.christchurch-alsager.org.uk

Alsager is a commuter town of 15,000 people in the south east corner of Cheshire. It has a largely middle-class population with one comprehensive school of 1,600 pupils and five primary schools. It is also home to sports facilities of the Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU).

Its good schools and communication links make it popular with families. It is 3 miles from the M6 junction 16 and the railway station is on the Crewe-Derby line. Regular bus services run through the town, including to Stoke-on-Trent shopping centre (Hanley) and Crewe station, from which there are connections to Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, London etc.

Christ Church is a Church of England parish church of about 150 adult members and a regular Sunday Congregation of around 100 adults plus 20 children and young people. It is a growing evangelical church, with Bible-based teaching, open to the work of the Holy Spirit, with a strong family emphasis, a thriving youth work and a vision for growth.

Our aim is to follow Jesus Christ and to grow in 3 directions:

Upwards: deeper in our love for God

Inwards: stronger in our relationships with one another

Outwards: wider in sharing God's love with our community.

Whilst being Church of England, we are influenced by movements such as New Wine, Spring Harvest, Soul Survivor and Alpha. Our vicar has been in post since Summer 2006 and is supported by a Leadership Team and Church Council, to whom staff are ultimately accountable.

The church has a hall on the same site which in recent years has been extensively renovated and developed, providing excellent facilities for use by church and community, including an office and dedicated rooms equipped for youth and pre-schoolers. It is situated close to the comprehensive school (Alsager School) on Church Road about ½ mile from the town centre.

The church is very active with a high level of participation from many members. We have two styles of service on a Sunday, the first is more formal with organ-led hymns, the second is linked to our children's work with songs led by a band and regular all-age celebrations. We have also recently begun Messy Church for families twice a term. We strongly encourage people to be part of 'Growth Groups' (aka cell/home groups) and to use their gifts in the life of the church. Some groups are mixed, others are more specific (eg 18-30s). For the community, we run Alpha courses, socials, parenting courses, a toddler group and get involved in town events such as the local carnival.

Our work with **children and families** currently includes 'Kids for God' on Sunday mornings for aged 0-Year 6, good relations with four local primary schools (taking regular assemblies, church visits etc), a large toddler group, 'Fusion' (an after-school club for Yr4-Yr6) and parenting courses. We have an enthusiastic team of around 25 volunteers in total, some with professional expertise. We believe that there is plenty of opportunity for growth in each of these.

For the last 3 years, most of this work has been led by a children & families work student (via the Centre for Youth Ministry). She will graduate this year and is looking to move into full-time teacher training. She is keen to help the new leader with a smooth transition so we have allowed for a few weeks of overlap before the summer holiday period.

We also have a good history of **youth work** in the church and we encourage young people to explore their gifts in the body of the church. For Yr7-Yr9, we run a Sunday group, a midweek after-school club and a very popular open youth club (attracting around 50-80 each week). There is also a Youth Growth Group for Yr11-Yr13. We are developing strong links with the secondary school next door, which is allowing us to explore new initiatives such as mentoring.

Our current **Youth Leader** has been with us in part-time training for three years and we are pleased that he will be staying with us, becoming full-time from September. Clearly it will be important that the successful candidate works well alongside the youth worker and our part-time administrator who is also part of the team.

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
christchurch-alsager.org.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 interest in the job to:

Rev Toby May at:

christchurchoffice@hotmail.co.uk

or

Christ Church Office (C&F Leader Job)
35 Church Road
Alsager
Stoke-on-Trent
ST7 2HS

Tel: 01270-872291

If you'd like to talk to us about the role, then this will be easier before Easter.

We need to receive your application by 13th April 2012.

Interviews will be held on Sunday 29th April 2012.