

CHILDREN'S & FAMILIES PASTOR

Job Description

Job Title	Children's & Families Pastor
Reports to	Generations Pastor
Location	St Richard's Three Bridges
Salary	£24,000 PA
Contract	35 hours per week, including Sunday. Permanent contract subject to a successful 6-month probation period.
Benefits	25 days holiday per year plus bank holidays; pension scheme
Start Date	September 2022

Opportunity Summary

We are a vibrant HTB Network Resource Church of England church based in three sites across the Centre of Crawley. We love Jesus; we love Church, we love people and we love Crawley. There is a growing staff team and a regular Sunday congregation across the sites of around 350 adults and 30 children (0–11 year-olds) with many more who come to a 'tots' groups and with whom we have occasional contact.

Like many churches, we long to see younger generations thriving as disciples of Jesus from an early age as they connect with him in many different ways. This is an opportunity to help us to create an engaging church community where families are loved, supported and encouraged, and where children play a central part in what we do.

Person Specification

We are looking for God's person called to this post. Is that you?

We are seeking a person who embodies our core values.

Hungry: Passionate for Jesus and for the Kingdom of God to come in Crawley.

Humble: To have a keen sense of your identity in Christ, not thinking too highly or lowly of yourself.

Home: Hospitality and welcome are your priorities as we create a community of both comfort and challenge, where each person is seen, heard and loved.

Essential skills and behaviours

- You love Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and you have at least 3 years experience in working with and discipling 0-11 year olds.
- We want to join in with what God is doing in Crawley, and beyond. You feel a call to join this church family, and to move to the local community if you don't already live here.
- We believe that God transforms us through his Word and Spirit. You have had experience of this and of teaching the Word to children and families in inspiring and creative ways.
- You love spending time with children, have natural rapport with 1-11 years- olds, and are passionate about nurturing the faith of all of our children
- You have excellent organisational and team leading skills.
- You have experience of working within and leading teams, and can understand, embrace and live out our team values.
- You can gather, equip and release teams of volunteers, working closely with the clergy team in offering pastoral care and leadership to the Children and Families' team.
- You have a genuine love and appreciation of people from different cultures, backgrounds and ages.
- You have experience of running/being a leader at children's events.

Desirable skills and behaviours

- You have had training in children's work, along with experience of leading in Christian contexts.
- You have experience of children's work both with those from families already connected to church, and those outside church circles.
- You have knowledge and experience of safeguarding best practice and the ability to ensure that everything done is in accordance with our safeguarding policy. If you don't, what is essential is that you swiftly learn this.

There is an Occupational Requirement for this post to be filled by a committed Christian.

Job Specification

The post-holder will have two areas of responsibility - this list is non-exhaustive

1. Heading up our children and families' ministry in our family of churches (with 0-11 year-olds).
 - To champion the vision of children and families in the wider life of the church

- To take a lead in running 'Kids Church' (initially at St John's). To teach the Bible in a way that is both passionate and accessible, so that our children are eager to encounter more of God.
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- To equip and grow the volunteer team, being aware of their need to grow in discipleship as they disciple the children.
- To enable children to exercise their gifts in different way in the church, making sure they have a voice and can participate in times of prayer ministry etc.
- To lead and facilitate the Tots group at St John's
- To work collaboratively with the generations team and wider staff team in shaping all-age worship opportunities.
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- To run the 'Light Party' and other events for Children and families throughout the year.
- To Run Courses for parents and carers such as Kids Matter, Parenting for faith etc
- To facilitate sessions with children during visits from primary school.

2. Spearheading our Children & Families Hub

- To be responsible for all Hub activities taking place at the St Richard's site, making sure that they are in line with the vision and Values of the church and that they are fully safeguarding compliant.
- To initially run midweek school drop off and pick up sessions with a view to developing a weekly program of children and family activities at St Richard's.
- With the wider team develop clear pathways through the hub into discipleship for both adults and children.
- To work in partnership with the Three Bridges school and other educational and child care providers to develop the St Richard's site into a centre for quality children's work.
- To run regular events for families to connect with the church and come into contact with the gospel.
- Build a strong team to assist in running weekly sessions and regular events.

Other

- Keep up to date with developments, trends & resources within children's ministry.
- Engage with wider church strategic and pastoral issues as required.
- Facilitate local children & youth work networking hub

- Embrace and seek to model the vision and values of the church as outlined by the Vicar and uphold the code of conduct supported by the Church of England.
- Maintain life-giving patterns of personal prayer, worship, Bible study and church fellowship

The Children & Families Pastor will report to the Co-ordinating Curate for Generations, involving a weekly catch-up meeting and regular review with them.

The role is full-time, based in Crawley, West Sussex, and offers a salary of £24,000. There are 25 days of annual leave allotted, to be taken during school holidays

It is expected that the post will have considerable flexible working arrangements, with time-off in lieu when extra hours are worked some weeks.

Working some evenings and Sundays – except when on leave - will be necessary, as will becoming a member of the St John's worshipping community. This post will be subject to an enhanced DBS check.