

Children and Families' Missioner Christ Church Highbury

Job Description

Job Title:	Children and Families' Missioner
Employed by:	Christ Church Highbury
Salary:	£24,000 p/a (pro-rata)
Hours:	3.5 days p/w (Flexible, but would need to include: Sunday morning worship, weekly Monday afternoon staff meetings, and regular Wednesday afternoon assemblies.)
Probationary period:	3 months
Responsible to:	Curate
Work location:	Christ Church Highbury
Time Off in Lieu:	Agreed with line manager in advance
Annual Leave:	25 days p/a (pro-rata)

Vision for the post:

Christ Church Highbury is a thriving parish in the Stepney Area of the London Diocese. Its vision is 'to be faithful to God, love each other and bring God's life to the world'. The church aims to achieve this through being a Christ centred and growing community and an outward looking and serving community. The church refers to this approach as 'roots down, branches out'.

The parish is seeking an experienced Children and Families Missioner who can apply this vision specifically to its work with young people and their families, both within the church and in the wider community.

Context:

Christ Church is located in the Highbury Barn neighbourhood of the London Borough of Islington, at the top of Highbury Fields. It is a mixed parish, with some of the most well-off and well-educated in the UK living alongside the most deprived. There is one primary school, St John Highbury Vale (with which the church has strong links) and two secondary schools, Highbury Fields Girls' School and Highbury Grove mixed comprehensive. As a congregation, we are seeking to build stronger relationships outside the church and children and families is a key area in which to do this.

The Junior Church consists of: Baby crèche; Toddlers; Beginners (foundation stage); Explorers (KS1); Adventurers (KS2) and Pathfinders (Yr 6+). Numbers are particularly large in the pre-school age groups, owing to our close links with St John's school, which requires regular church attendance for school admissions. This gives our church families a particularly interesting dynamic,

as many might not attend church without the school factor. It also means that there are very strong links with parents at the school.

Main activities:

- To provide oversight and coordination of Junior Church on Sundays, including support of the Junior Church volunteer team.
- To coordinate pastoral support and discipleship of families of children and young people in the church and wider community.
- To engage with the life of St John's Highbury Vale Primary School and other local schools, developing relationships with pupils' families.
- To develop outreach initiatives which connect with families in the Highbury area.

Outline of expectations within main activities:

Christ Church – worship and spiritual life:

- Develop and organise materials for Junior Church.
- Oversee the team of Junior Church volunteers, providing training and pastoral care.
- Working with the Worship Team, develop appropriate and engaging all-age worship.
- Help to develop both children's and parents' relationship with God, building up their confidence in living out their Christian faith in their day-to-day lives.
- Pray regularly for Christ Church's work with children and their families, encouraging others to do the same.

Families:

- Build and develop relationships and support networks for families, both within Christ Church and in the wider community (e.g. groups that meet in the church; the school; other external activities.)
- Provide appropriate training and support for parents (e.g. parenting courses).
- Connect with baptism families. Participate in the delivery of baptism preparation events. Maintain and develop relationship with families following their baptism.
- Be a more visible and better known presence in the local community, by establishing a programme of creative and engaging activities.

Schools:

- Act as the key point of contact between Christ Church and St John's Highbury Vale primary school, delivering school assemblies on a regular basis.
- Be a visible presence of the church (alongside the clergy) at key school events, developing relationships with staff, parents and governors.
- Make and develop relationships with other local schools in the area.

Other Responsibilities:

- Liaise with other church members and staff as required.
- Attend PCC and other church meetings as required.
- Produce written reports about the work.
- Act as an advocate for children and their needs in partnership with the Children's Champion.
- Overseeing DBS checks and implementing the church's safeguarding policy.
- Establish good relationships with other Christian Children and Families' workers in the area, including the Stepney Hub.
- Participating in and initiating fundraising activities that will raise resources to support the work of Christ Church Highbury.

Support and Supervision:

- The successful applicant will meet regularly with the curate of Christ Church Highbury, who will provide line-management and supervision. The incumbent will oversee this.
- Formal review of progress will take place on a monthly basis for the first 5 months, followed by a formal appraisal at 6 months. Appraisal thereafter will take place after one year in post, and annually on the anniversary of commencement of appointment.
- Regular meetings with others involved in children's ministry in Islington, Stepney and the wider diocese.

Person Specification

Skills and Experience Required:

Essential

- Experience of working with children.
- Confident in leading teams of volunteers.
- Proven ability to develop and nurture faith in fun and relevant ways.
- Experience of working in/with schools.
- Experience of delivering pastoral care.
- Working knowledge of Safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Good understanding of the challenges presented by an urban, multi-cultural context.
- Good level of Biblical/theological knowledge.
- Person of prayer.
- Able to work well in a team, as well as using one's own initiative.
- Able to organise and plan work, meeting deadlines.
- Willing to learn new skills and be developed.
- Good IT (including MS Office) and administration skills.

Desirable

- Qualification in Children's Ministry (or related area).
- Experience of working in an urban, multi-cultural context.
- Able to develop teams.
- Able to think theologically.
- Able to lead children's worship.
- Awareness of current trends in children's work thinking.

Qualities:

- Good communication skills
- Leadership skills
- Adaptable
- Enthusiastic
- Resourceful
- Reliable
- Resilient
- Has a heart for the vision, work and mission of Christ Church.

Further information:

There is a genuine occupational requirement for the successful applicant to be a committed Christian.

It will be necessary to work on Sundays as well as some Saturdays/weekday evenings agreed in advance, with time off given in lieu.

The parish of Christ Church Highbury is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all those who are vulnerable. We expect our staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service disclosure and identity check. Appointment will be dependent upon a satisfactory Enhanced DBS Check and satisfactory references.

Applicants must be legally entitled to work in the UK.