

Job Description for Children and Youth Team Leader at Christ Church, Highbury

Who we are

Christ Church, Highbury is a diverse, outward-looking open evangelical church in the Diocese of London. Inspired by the love of God, we welcome and seek to serve all in the name of Jesus Christ.

We long to see this church develop as a beacon for children's ministry by providing a centre of excellence for children's and youth work where best practice and new ideas can emerge.

We are praying for a Children's and Youth Team Leader who will help us fulfil this vision.

Children's and Youth Work at Christ Church - an overview

Christ Church has a large number of children and young people who are an important part of our church community.

Currently, children's and youth groups operate during our two morning services, and over 100 children between the ages of 0-14 attend regularly. During the 9am service a creche and a children's group run, and at the 11am service, a creche and four different children's groups operate, all led by a dedicated team of volunteers.

On Friday evenings church members run an open youth club.

The church building is used for a number of children's activities during the week including a baby and toddler drop-in on Mondays, Rainbows and Brownies, a children's choir, and parent and toddler singing groups.

Highbury has a very popular Church of England Primary school, St John's Highbury Vale. A team from Christ Church is involved in conducting 'Open the Book' assemblies at the school once a week, and once a year the school comes to Christ Church for its Christmas, Easter or Harvest service.

Within 400metres of Christ Church, there are two secondary schools, Highbury Grove and Highbury Fields. In the past, there have been links with these schools, and there may be scope to redevelop these.

We are conscious of the privilege and responsibility that come with being a church that has so many opportunities to work with children and young people. We are keen to be outward looking, and would like to launch a new 'Messy Church' congregation in the near future, which we hope will appeal to a wide cross-section of children and families in the community.

We see a need to support, encourage and empower our team of willing, capable and enthusiastic volunteer leaders, and recognise that this will be an important component of the children and youth team leader's role. At the same time, the new post-holder will benefit from a supportive group of leaders and helpers who are keen that our work with children and young people develop and thrive.

We are praying that this new post has a significant impact on the spiritual life of our children and young people.

Purpose of the role

To help Christ Church develop as a beacon for children's ministry by providing a centre of excellence for children's and youth work, making disciples of Jesus Christ amongst children and young people through the training and development of lay leaders and volunteers.

To help the church develop and build contacts with and support disadvantaged children, young people and their families.

Essential activities

1. Work as part of the staff team at Christ Church, Highbury to deliver the church's vision in relation to children and young people.
2. Be responsible for all aspects of children's and youth work within the church and the church's wider ministry.

These responsibilities will include:

The development and leadership of a team to launch a new Messy Church congregation;

Receiving training to launch and run Circle of Security Parenting@courses.

Working with the church leadership team to create and shape a new missional strategy that will engage more children and young people in the life of Christ Church;

The recruitment, training, support and development of current and future leaders and helpers;

The co-ordination of all aspects of the children and youth programme, ensuring a balanced and engaging programme of activities and teaching across the age ranges;

Encouraging and enabling the integration of children and young people into the of the church;

Oversight of the church's commitment to its Child Protection Policy;

Ensuring all work is carried out with due regard to the church's Health and Safety, Confidentiality and other policies and procedures.

Line Manager - the Vicar of Christ Church

Essential characteristics, experience and skills required for the role

- Proven experience of leading and implementing successful Children's and/or Youth work within a church context - a minimum of three years experience is preferred.
- A passion to work with all age groups from pre-school to 18.
- Experience of recruiting, training and deploying lay leaders and volunteers within Children's and/or Youth Work is desirable but not essential
- The ability to generate and communicate a clear vision for Children's and Youth Ministry, and see this through from vision to action.
- Good long-term strategic thinker who can create a plan and break it down into clearly implementable and measurable elements.
- Understanding of working with young people with special needs.

- A formal qualification in Children's Work, Youth Work, Theology or a related area is preferred but not essential.
- Willingness to engage in continuing professional development.
- The ability to communicate effectively with all ages.
- Team player and team builder
- Spiritual maturity
- A good understanding of the Bible and the application of its teaching, and a desire to continue to grow as a disciple of Christ yourself
- Good organisational skills

Enhanced safeguarding checks will be required

Salary: £29,000 to £32,000 (depending on experience)

Hours: 37 hours per week, 25 days holiday per annum. Working pattern negotiable, but will include regular Sundays.

This is initially an 18 month post with a view to becoming permanent.

All applicants must provide a full CV and a covering letter explaining why they feel they fulfil the requirements of the post.

For further details, please contact The Revd Andy Chrich, Vicar of Christ Church.

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