



Job Description - Children and Families Development Worker

Job Profile:

The aim of this post is to see more children, young people, and their families encountering Jesus and living their lives as followers of Jesus with clear emphases on discipleship, mission and growth. The person who takes on this role will have oversight and responsibility for pioneering new initiatives and setting the vision for growing the children and youth work at St James with St Matthew's.

Employed By: St James with St Matthew's PCC

Salary range £22k - £24k pro-rata depending on experience

Hours: between 25 and 30 hours a week including Sundays and some evenings – for discussion at interview

Reports to: Incumbent – Rev Helen Coffey/direct supervision - Mrs Tracy Leather

Works with: Incumbent, Volunteer children's leaders, PCC sub-teams

Length of post: 4 years (with 6 months probationary period)

Holidays: 6 weeks pro-rata per annum inclusive of Bank and Public Holidays

Place of Work: The Parish St James Eccleston Park with St Matthew's Thatto Heath, with a workspace provided in the Office at St Matthew's Centre

Other Terms:

- There is an Occupational Requirement for the post-holder to be a practicing Christian, in accordance with the Employment Equality Act 2010, and there is an expectation that the successful candidate will become a regular and committed member of St James with St Matthew's, active in Sunday worship and midweek activities.
- An enhanced DBS Disclosure will be required for the successful candidate.
- The PCC operates an auto enrolment pension scheme for which employer contributions would be made at the rate required by legislation for the time being.

Enquiries: Please contact Rev Helen Coffey, Eccleston Team Rector – 07742590672 or info.stjameswithstmatthews@gmail.com to discuss this exciting opportunity or please send your CV and covering letter to the same email address or St James Vicarage, 159a St Helens Road, Eccleston Park, Prescot. L34 2QB. Informal visits to the Parish are also welcome.

Application deadline: 10th April 2023

Interview date: week beginning 17th April 2023

Ideal start date: As soon as possible please!

Key Roles and Responsibilities: priorities to be identified and agreed as part of job plan

Children

To provide pastoral oversight and effective leadership for our children's groups, enabling appropriate and creative programmes that promote and develop their own specific aims with clear emphases on discipleship, mission and growth.

To develop Bible teaching and activity programmes to enthusiastically disciple children as followers of Jesus, enabling them to discover, develop and use their God-given gifts.

To be an advocate of children within the wider life of the Parish enabling their voice to be heard and interests represented in all aspects of Parish life and decision making.

Families

To work with clergy, Worship and Prayer pcc sub-team, and other relevant congregation members to lead and develop good quality all age worship, encouraging and resourcing others to participate and lead worship that engages all ages.

To build relationships with parents and enable families to fully integrate into the life of the Parish.

To provide resources and opportunities to support family life (parenting courses, training events etc.) and to offer discipleship opportunities for parents (Alpha, Christianity Explored for example.)

To develop and manage forms of communication and social media that connect effectively with families

Mission

Working with clergy, Mission and Outreach pcc sub-team, creatively explore and develop new areas of outreach for children and young families

Building on our research, plan and launch a new worshipping community for families at St Matthew's.

To participate in our current Schools ministry, and to foster our links with our uniformed organisations, to help develop them as opportunities for mission and service for the wider church membership.

Promote good partnership working with our close neighbouring parishes.

Research funding bids to extend the range of engagement opportunities – especially in St Matthew's community.

Leadership

To be a 'Leader of leaders' - recruiting, training, resourcing and encouraging current and new lay volunteers involved in children and families work.

Maintain an up to date understanding of best practice and current thinking in children's and families work, through CPD and training, and to incorporate this into parish ministry.

Continue to develop your own professional, personal and spiritual life.

Create a culture of safety, where every child and young person is valued within the group.

To liaise with the PSO regarding all safeguarding matters, ensuring all volunteers have appropriate DBS checks and safeguarding training.

Person Specification

Essential

A passionate disciple of Jesus, filled with the Spirit and sustained by God's grace

A clear passion for the discipleship of children and young people

Experience of working with children and young people in a variety of settings

A knowledge of the bible and an ability to communicate the gospel in a way that engages children

The ability to create engaging and relevant projects and activities for children and families

Ability to lead up front in a variety of settings (large and small groups in school, toddlers, church settings)

Flexible on working hours (weeknight and weekends)

Build and develop our team of volunteers, including recruiting new volunteers in lines with Safer Recruitment guidelines

Ability to work independently and as part of a team

A self-starter who is organised and enthusiastic, and who doesn't take themselves too seriously

Open and friendly disposition, ability to be tactful, enthusiastic, and committed to the values of our church

High energy levels, a cheerful disposition, and the ability to work under pressure

Highly organised with good administration skills. IT literate.

Excellent communication skills (verbal and written) and ability to communicate with people of all ages and backgrounds

Ability to accept instruction and negotiate differences of opinion and ideas with grace.

A person who is reliable, trustworthy and honest, respecting the confidential nature of some aspects of this role

Enhanced DBS (or willingness to have one)

Good time management, proven ability to meet deadlines and maintain good attendance.

Willingness to undertake further training as identified

Desirable

Full driver's licence and use of a car (expenses reimbursed)

Experience of working in schools

Relevant creative skills which can be shared eg: Media/ music/ sport/ art/ worship/ teaching/dance

Experience in leading parenting courses

Experience of monitoring and evaluating projects.

Graduate or relevant qualification or children's work experience (Please justify)

GCSE Maths and English or higher

Information Park

Children's and Families Leader

Overview

St James with St Matthew's is an Evangelical Anglican Parish between St Helens and Prescot, in the Diocese of Liverpool. Our website is www.stjameseccleston.org. We work closely with our neighbouring parishes. There are two church buildings within the Parish – At one end St James is recently reordered and has just celebrated its centenary. This is where we gather for Sunday worship. At the other end of the parish, St Matthew's church is not used for worship, but the adjoining centre is our mission base.

St James



This is where we gather for Sunday Worship – we have a Sunday Club called Jigsaw, an updated creche area and a great welcome space at the back of church with our kitchen facilities.

Mid-week, we have a toddler group called Prampushers.



One of our schools is 5 minutes walk away – the children come down to church for all kinds of things, but particularly Experience Christmas and Easter, and their Christmas Carol Concert. The chair of governors is a member of our church family.



Our monthly Café Church is noisy, messy and fun! We intentionally invite pre and post baptism families to this interactive act of worship.

St Matthew's



This is our mission hub.

Coming out of covid, we received a fresh vision for God's purpose for this building. Now it's home to our amazing Pre-school Nursery, where we're working with a partner who really understands our passion to bless this community with learning opportunities and specialist provision to help them be school-ready and eager to learn! Our nursery owner says 'I help the families, not only the children'.

Our Food Pantry is open twice a week and regularly provides 120 families with a top-up shop, reduces local food waste, and provides a community hub and warm space for those visiting Pantry. Our volunteer team recently celebrated their first anniversary.

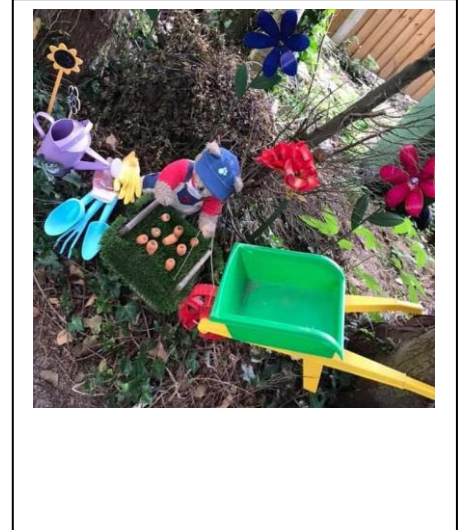


St Matt's mid-week baby and toddler group is called Supertots! Some families like our groups so much that they come to both! This was our pancake party.

The school at this end of the parish is a Methodist Primary school – we have an excellent relationship with them, and support school families from our Food Pantry and our school uniform exchange, as well as gifts and food hampers at Christmas. Here's our (about to depart) team curate playing Shaun the Sheep in Experience Christmas!



The two ends of the parish are very different socio-economically, but both abound with engagement opportunities. We have a significant number of baptisms for a parish this size – 17 in 2022, and we seek to offer excellent pre and post baptism engagement, with messy and interactive prep sessions, and regular post baptism invites and connection points. Over the years we have hosted lots of family social and outreach events – light parties, bbq’s, teddy bear’s picnics, easter egg hunts, summer fairs and Christmas shopping experiences, family film and craft sessions. We regularly run Alpha groups.



We are thoroughly committed to our two primary schools – clergy provide weekly assemblies in one and fortnightly assemblies in the other. We lead classroom-based teaching sessions to meet RE learning outcomes for Christianity in the community school and have run Big Question sessions with the children and The Bible Course with staff from the faith-based school. We are invited to regular planning and pastoral meetings with each Head, and other work together on events like visits to church, Experience events, trips to the Cathedral and any other opportunities we can think of all flow from these excellent working relationships.

Vision and Opportunities

We're looking for a person who can engage with our Parish life as it is and share in leading us forward into the growth we believe God has for us in this part of St Helens. We currently have a 'once in a generation' opportunity to reshape church life and witness in this parish with the sale of the old church hall behind St James, releasing capital we want to spend in ways that ensure the priorities of numerical growth, growth in depth of discipleship and growth in mission and outreach.

We're looking for a creative, innovative, evangelistic 'leader of leaders', able to develop our existing work and volunteers, but also pioneer new work and outreach amongst children and families. As a Parish we are blessed with many opportunities - both those which draw people to church (school, baptism, pre-school/toddler groups, festival services etc) and those which enable us to reach out into the community (schools work, special events, food pantry, nursery) We're looking for a person with vision, and a passion to share the love of Jesus with children and families, to discern the most appropriate means of mission and evangelism in our context, and who is willing to make brave decision and generate new initiatives to make this happen.

We're already praying for, and preparing to welcome just the person God is calling to join us 😊