



CHILDREN & FAMILIES PASTOR

JOB PACK

MARCH 2020

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If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact our Associate Minister, Stuart Phillips – 07804 227678 or stuart.phillips@stjohnsdukinfield.com. To apply for this position please send a CV and a 500 word personal statement to Stuart's email address.



CHILDREN & FAMILIES PASTOR

PART 1 – OVERVIEW OF ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Our Ethos

Our ethos is summarised in our purpose statement, which is:

"We exist to transform lives and communities by bringing people into a living and growing relationship with Jesus Christ."

We want this statement to guide us in who we are and what we do as a church.

Who are we ?

St John's is located in Dukinfield - a town in Tameside, on the eastern edge of Greater Manchester, and nestled in the foothills of the Pennines. We are a growing and lively Anglican church in the evangelical tradition with about 150-200 people of all ages attending on a Sunday morning.

We are an ordinary group of people who believe God is bigger, better and closer than we can imagine. We believe God has revealed himself in Jesus and speaks to us through the Bible, his Word to us. This makes the most profound difference in our lives, but we also want this to transform our world and community for the better. We have a passion to share this and communicate with people who do not necessarily have any religious commitment but feel there must be more to life than this. This means that we reach a wide and diverse group of people, especially at our 10.15 Sunday service.

With this in mind, our objectives and activities are to be:

- A church where lives are changed and unchurched people become disciples of Christ
- A church which demonstrates to our community and locality that churches do grow in this day and age
- A church with a foundation of grace, communicating that people matter to God, reaching out to those who are hurting and without hope
- A church having the faith to try new things and willing to make mistakes
- A church desiring to be a model, an encouragement and a resource for other churches
- A church where people enjoy life and are excited about Jesus.



Leadership

St Johns is led by a staff team of 6 people, in partnership with a PCC of 22 people.

The Staff Team

The Staff Team provides a forum for reviewing, discussing and planning the weekly ministry of the church, and looking ahead and planning for realising the longer-term vision of the church. It also provides an opportunity to discuss current pastoral needs among the church family, and plan responses to those situations.

The team is made up of:

- The Vicar, and an Associate Minister (both full time paid employees)
- The Associate Minister for our partner church – St James Millbrook
- A Lay Reader with a particular interest in the pastoral care of leaders
- An Executive Pastor with particular interest in overall strategy of the church
- Our 2 Churchwardens.

This team meets weekly on a Monday morning. The current children's, families and youth leaders attend on a regular basis, as do other ministry leaders when needed.

The PCC

St John's Parochial Church Council (PCC) is effectively the Governing Body for the church. It is responsible for working in co-operation with the Vicar, the Reverend Tim Hayes, in promoting the mission of the Church across the parish.



CHILDREN & FAMILIES PASTOR

PART 2 – OVERVIEW OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES & YOUTH MINISTRY

Our ministry with children, families and youth works in line with the mission statement of the church and exists *'to transform lives by bringing people into a living and growing relationship with Jesus Christ'*. As we build into the lives of our youngsters, and their families, we long for them to know and experience a real sense of belonging to Christ and to the whole church family.

1. BACKGROUND TO THIS APPOINTMENT

The staff team, PCC, members of the children and families' ministry, and youth ministry, along with the wider church family have been prayerfully considering where we felt God was leading us. After numerous meetings and a lot of prayer, we believe that God is calling us to reimagine how we disciple individual families, within the context of a wider church family. The vision therefore, is a model that sees children surrounded by parents, with extended family and friends, and then surrounded and encouraged by a loving, empowering faith community that will help them on a life long journey with God. As a result of this, we are looking to employ a part-time Children and Families Pastor to enable the vision we have for children, youth and families to further develop and grow.

2. CURRENT SITUATION

Families Ministry

We have already been working to establish some of the ideas we have for our model for supporting families. In October 2019, we ran our first **'RAISING FAITH'** sessions with 23 people attending over the seven-week course, some of whom went on to complete the Alpha course which followed. We are hoping to offer the Raising Faith course annually as a vehicle for highlighting families' spiritual needs and encouraging parents/carers and grandparents in their discipleship. Alongside this, we have planned a programme of stand-alone sessions to equip families to grow and worship together across the generations. We have established a families and children's Facebook page and we are building a team of families who are involved, in a variety of ways, at our monthly all age service. We have also built up a lending library of books on the subject of parenting for faith.

NGAGE (Sunday morning children's ministry)

St John's Children's Ministry (**NGAGE**) meets on a Sunday during the 10.15am service. Over the previous year, we have welcomed a few new members to each group. We are grateful to God for numerical growth, but our hopes and prayers are for the children to be in a living and growing relationship with Jesus.



Our numbers currently stand at approximately 30 children, ranging in age from pre-school to 11 (Year 6). We run three groups on a Sunday morning;

- *See & Know* - for pre-school children and their carers, with a weekly attendance of around 6 children and 6 adults
- *Seekers* - for children between Reception and Year 2 (ages 4 to 7), with a weekly attendance of around 10 children
- *Groundbreakers* - for children between Year 3 and Year 6 (ages 7 to 11), with a weekly attendance of around 15 children.

We have a committed volunteer team who deliver these groups on a rota basis, to enable all those serving in Sunday morning ministry to attend services, so that they can receive teaching that will help their own spiritual growth. We continue to pray for more volunteers to support these group and we envisage that the Children & Families Pastor would play a role in supporting this.

Fusion Youth Ministry (Monday & Wednesday)

Fusion works with young people in Years 7 to 13 (aged 11 to 18). We meet on a Monday night between 7.30 and 9pm for those in Year 7 to 11, and on alternate Wednesdays (Fusion Connect) for those in Year 11 to 13. We see on average 20 to 30 young people each week, and spend time socialising and playing games before small group-based Bible study. We also meet on a Sunday morning, alongside NGAGE (Café Fusion), for Bible study and breakfast.

Annual Children's & Youth Weekend Away (Quinta)

In April, we run our annual Children and Youth Ministry weekend away, for 7 to 18 year olds, at the Quinta Centre, near Oswestry. In 2019, we took over 50 children, young people, and a team of adults from church to enjoy the beautiful surroundings, and learn about the life of Paul, through games, teaching, art and craft.

Toddler Group

On a Tuesday afternoon a Toddler group, run by leaders from church, meets in our Church Centre. This gives parents/carers and their young children an opportunity to play, do crafts, and share refreshments. Numbers vary but average around 20 to 30. The majority of this group are not church attenders, but will often ask about blessings/baptism for their children, and are invited to special events, especially at Christmas.

St John's School

St John's school is a Church of England primary school 5 minutes walk from church and enjoys a close partnership with St John's Church.

The school has a strong Christian ethos shown in its mission statement, '*Love of God, Love of Neighbour, Love of Oneself*', which is at the centre of all it does. The school's embedded partnership with church supports both children and adults in developing their understanding of key Christian values. This is expressed by the Vicar leading assemblies twice a week, and a number of church members involved in the life of the school as staff, governors, and volunteers. The relationship between church and school has already been very fruitful for both in many ways, and there is great potential to expand this in ways for the benefit of local families, and to share God's grace and life with them.



CHILDREN & FAMILIES PASTOR PART 3 - JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title	Children & Families Pastor
Location	St John's Church Centre, Vicarage Drive, Dukinfield, Cheshire, SK16 5HZ
Hours of work	25 hours per week, including some evening and weekend working
Responsible to	St John's PCC
Reporting to	Associate Minister

OVERALL AIM OF POST

To grow and deepen our ministry to children and families, resulting in:

- More families coming to faith in Christ and joining the church
- More non-church families developing regular links with St John's
- More children becoming disciples of Jesus and growing in him.

MAIN TASKS OR ACTIVITIES OF THE JOB

1. Encourage, resource, and support the discipleship of children, and their families, through connection with St John's Church and related ministries.
2. Develop positive and effective relationships with children and families across St Johns, related ministries, and the wider community; promoting awareness of, and encouraging engagement with, all aspects of Children and Family Ministry, in order to develop faith and increase discipleship among these groups.
3. Lead on ensuring all aspects of Children and Family Ministry align with, and work towards, our goal of increased discipleship among children and their families.
4. Support the coordination and development of St John's existing Sunday morning Children's Ministry, engage, working with volunteers and engaging with parents to further increase the effectiveness of this ministry.



5. Develop and deliver a range of activities to support connections, and opportunities for discipleship, with children and families. These will build on existing activities and relationships whilst also showing initiative and vision to develop new activities to meet need and deliver against our vision for Children and Family ministry.
6. Identify, adapt, and develop, relevant resources to train, teach, and encourage parents, carers, and children in their discipleship at home, in everyday life, and in church
7. Reach out to non-Christian families, both in everyday relationships, and in offering opportunities to engage with the Christian faith.
8. Maintain and develop our close relationships with St Johns School, and our Toddler group, in order to unlock potential in these ministries.
9. Recruit, train, resource, and support a diverse team of new and existing volunteers to support the delivery of all aspects of Children and Family Ministry across St Johns.
10. Contribute to planning and delivering our monthly All Age Sunday service in conjunction with the Staff Team and other leaders.
11. Communicate well with the church leadership and congregation so that the church can be always aware of developments in the ministry.
12. Ensure good systems and record keeping are in place.
13. Effectively apply all relevant Safeguarding practices, in line with legislation and appropriate guidance.



CHILDREN & FAMILIES PASTOR PART 4 – PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential

1. There is a genuine occupational requirement for the post holder to be a Christian with a personal commitment to a life of Christian discipleship.
2. Committed to an orthodox view of Scripture, expressed by enthusiastic endorsement of the doctrines, practices and lifestyle of the Evangelical Alliance statement of faith held by St John's Church. See <https://www.eauk.org/about-us/basis-of-faith>.
3. A good overall knowledge of the Bible and a passion to teach and apply it correctly and personally.
4. A well-developed devotional life that will be a basis for you to grow in your personal walk with the Lord, and to sustain your leadership and ministry.
5. An able communicator in large gatherings, small groups, and one to one.
6. A knowledge of safeguarding issues and ability to pass a DBS check.
7. At least 1-year experience of working with children and/or families in either a voluntary or paid capacity.
8. Enjoys being around people, a love of the church, and a heart for families and children.
9. Able to work and initiate well both in teams and alone.
10. Able to recruit, train and encourage volunteers.
11. A commitment to see St Johns Church as their spiritual home, and to attend weekly Sunday services, our monthly Worship Central mid-week gatherings, church prayer meetings, be part of a Connect group (our name for House groups), and leadership meetings as required.
12. Good time keeping and personal management skills.
13. A desire to grow in your own life, including a willingness to respond to challenges, undergo regular reviews, and an ability to give and receive feedback.
14. Competent IT skills.

Desirable

1. A formal qualification (undergraduate and/or postgraduate level) in theology, children's/families mission, or other related fields.