



# **CHILDREN'S PASTOR JOB PACK APRIL 2021**

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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](mailto: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'S PASTOR**

### **PART 1 – OVERVIEW OF ST JOHN'S 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.

#### **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.

#### **Leadership**

St Johns is led by a staff team of 7 people, in partnership with a PCC of 21 people.

#### **The Staff Team**

The staff team comprises our Vicar, Tim Hayes, along with Associate Ministers and lay leaders. It meets weekly on a Monday morning, providing a forum for reviewing ongoing church activities, and for making longer term plans related to the church's ministry and mission. It also provides an opportunity to discuss and respond to current pastoral needs among the church family. The Children's Pastor would be a member of the staff team and would be expected to attend our weekly meetings.

#### **The Parochial Church Council**

St John's Parochial Church Council (PCC) is effectively the Governing Body for the church. It is responsible for working with the Vicar, Tim Hayes, to promote the Church's mission across the parish.



## CHILDREN'S 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 THE CHILDREN'S PASTOR APPOINTMENT

Some two years ago, we felt as a church that God was calling us to re-imagine how we disciple children and young people. The vision, which was developed after much prayer and discussion, is a model where children are supported in their faith by parents, 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.

Whilst the Covid pandemic has delayed us in implementing some of our plans, it has already led to changes in the way in which we engage with children and their families. This has reinforced our conviction that God is calling us to consider new ways of discipling our children and young people.

To that end, we are looking to appoint an inspiring and enthusiastic person who is ready to pioneer new work that will enable children to encounter the love of God and to find a home in the life and worship of St John's Dukinfield. The Children's Pastor will work alongside our (voluntary) Youth and Families Pastors as we seek to strengthen our ministry to children, young people, parents and extended families.

#### 2. CURRENT SITUATION (Pre-Covid)

##### **NGage (Sunday morning children's ministry)**

Our Sunday-based children's ministry comprises an introductory All Together Time of around 20 to 30 minutes at the 10.15 service, before children and adults engage in separate, age-appropriate teaching. Our All Together Time aims to introduce the Sunday's teaching points in an engaging and accessible way to people of all ages and faith stages.

The teaching in our children's groups enables children to engage in more depth with the teaching points of the day. In recent years we have welcomed a few new members to each group and 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.



Before the pandemic our numbers stood at approximately 30 children, ranging in age from pre-school to 11 (Year 6). We normally 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 work with 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 and we envisage that the Children's Pastor would take the lead in expanding and developing the team.

### **Families Ministry**

Our families' ministry is led by our Families Pastor, who works on a voluntary basis. Before the pandemic, we had 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, in our services. We have also built up a lending library of books on the subject of parenting for faith.

### **Fusion Youth Ministry (Monday & Wednesday)**

Our Fusion Youth Ministry is headed up by our voluntary Youth Pastors. 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 the 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 by the involvement of a number of church members 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 for the benefit of local families, and to share God's grace and life with them.



## **CHILDREN'S PASTOR PART 3 - JOB DESCRIPTION**

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

### **OVERALL AIM OF POST**

To grow and deepen our ministry to children, resulting in more children becoming disciples of Jesus and growing in Him.

### **MAIN TASKS OR ACTIVITIES OF THE JOB**

1. Lead Sunday Morning Children's ministry:
  - develop a framework of teaching and resources for our volunteer team to deliver, in line with Sunday Morning teaching
  - co-ordinate the planning and delivery of our Sunday morning 'All Together Time', introducing the Sunday teaching to children and adults in an engaging and accessible way
  - liaise with staff team, other ministry leads and volunteers to align children's programmes with the church teaching series
  - work with staff team to plan and deliver monthly All Age Services
  - look for innovative ways to engage and disciple children
2. Lead, support and develop our growing voluntary team:
  - encourage new volunteers to engage with the children's ministry
  - look for and, on occasions, deliver suitable training to volunteers
  - oversee communication with volunteers so that they are aware of their upcoming responsibilities and how their role contributes to our vision for our children
3. Contribute to the planning and delivery of annual church events which engage with children and their families, including Quinta and Holiday Club.



4. Build on and develop our links with St John's School and our toddler group.
5. Communicate well with the church leadership and congregation so that the church is always aware of developments in the ministry.
6. Work in partnership with the Families and Youth Pastors to develop our ministry to Children, Youth and Families, in line with the church's vision.
7. Ensure good systems and record keeping are in place.
8. Effectively apply all relevant Safeguarding practices, in line with legislation and appropriate guidance.



## **CHILDREN'S PASTOR**

### **PART 4 – PERSON SPECIFICATION**

There is a genuine occupational requirement for the post holder to be a Christian with a personal commitment to a life of Christian discipleship.

St John's is a member of the Evangelical Alliance and endorses EA's Statement of Faith - see <https://www.eauk.org/about-us/basis-of-faith>. We would expect applicants for this position to share our belief in the authority of Scripture in all matters of faith and conduct.

#### **Essential**

1. A committed Christian, seeking to grow in faith.
2. A love for God's Word and a desire to see it embedded in the lives of our children.
3. 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.
4. Enjoyment in being around people, a love of the church, and a heart for children and their families.
5. A good communicator in large gatherings, small groups, and one to one.
6. An ability to work and initiate well both in teams and alone.
7. An ability to recruit, train and encourage volunteers.
8. Good time keeping, personal management and IT skills
9. An understanding of safeguarding issues and ability to pass a DBS check.
10. A commitment to see St John's church as your spiritual home, and to play a full part in the life of the church.
11. Experience of working with children in either a voluntary or paid capacity

#### **Desirable**

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