

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOINT YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES WORKER KIRDFORD AND RUDGWICK CHAPELS (WEST SUSSEX)

Overview

- An exciting and challenging opportunity, working with two village churches in close proximity, developing and expanding their ministry amongst families and young people.
- Eager to develop God-given skills and gifts and longing that younger generations should know Christ.
- Be responsible for and develop the existing youth work in one church.
- Take responsibility for all-age services, using creative approaches to engage young people and attract other families.
- Support existing church families and help both churches to engage further with their village communities, particularly families moving into new housing developments.
- Form good relationships with local schools, taking assemblies and seeking ways to develop these links.
- Explore further ways of developing this role, and the churches' ministry to families and young people – e.g. through social media and/or streaming events.

Overall Purpose of the Role:

This is an exciting and challenging position, working with two village churches in close proximity, developing and expanding their ministry amongst families and young people, to create an attractive church community for young people and their families.

Reporting to:

A representative from each church, working together.

Responsible for:

Voluntary teams working with children and families within the churches and communities.

Hours:

Full time (part time considered).

Contract Length:

We would plan for an initial appointment for one year, with the possibility of an extension to three years and the potential for a long-term post.

Person Specification:

- It is an occupational requirement that the post-holder is a Christian and accepts the FIEC basis of faith.
- A person who wants to grow in Christ, whose life and character are consistent with their Christian faith, who is willing to learn and develop their God-given skills and gifts. Committed to sharing their relationship with Jesus and longing that younger generations should know him.
- Experience of working with young people and families in a church context, whether paid or voluntary.

- Although focusing on young people and families, we would want the post-holder to be committed to both fellowships, working as part of the overall team and willing to be 'hands-on' with the practicalities of running activities.
- Ability to think creatively, communicate and get alongside families and young people of all ages including the use of social media and the possible development of on-line events and materials.
- Confident, motivated and reliable, with a good sense of humour and good organisational, time management and administrative skills.
- Kirdford Chapel and Rudgwick Chapel are small fellowships in village environments, so the post-holder will need to be sensitive to working in this culture and the challenges it brings.
- A full driving licence essential.
- It would be desirable but not essential, for the post-holder to have some musical ability.
- This position will be subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure check and satisfactory references.

Principal Responsibilities

1. Run the existing children's group at Kirdford, The Good News Club for children of Junior School age.
2. Develop the youth work, to possibly include other groups, to reduce the large age range currently covered by Good News and reach older young people.
3. Develop the existing relationships with the parents of the young people and the village communities.
4. Devise and implement a strategy for using social media, streaming events and on-line communication to reach children and young people including those who are contacted e.g. through schools work, but do not live in either Kirdford or Rudgwick.
5. Support and encourage families that have some contact with the churches and seek ways of engaging with other families in the villages – especially in the new housing developments.
6. Develop links with local schools, which may include taking assemblies from time to time. Rudgwick has a primary school and an independent day school. The Junior school for Kirdford children is in the next village, Plaistow, and the main Senior School for both villages is in Billingshurst.
7. Help with and facilitate Family Services and special events for children, including the reinstatement of an all-age service at Rudgwick, using creative ideas.
8. Understand and implement best practice in children's work, including Health and Safety and Safeguarding policies and procedures.
9. Take an active part in the life of both churches.
10. Take responsibility for the communication and advertising of church activities for young people and families in a contemporary and effective way.
11. Look for creative ways of developing the role, giving consideration to possible further activities for families and young people.

Remuneration

A competitive employment package will be offered which will depend on the age and experience of the person appointed. The package will include pension contributions and can include accommodation if required. The successful applicant will need their own transport.

Start Date

To be discussed in view of the continuing epidemic and restrictions on church activities, but the appointment will not necessarily be delayed until the end of the current restrictions.

Closing Date

Applications must be submitted before 1 December 2020.

Version 5 – updated 21/08/2020