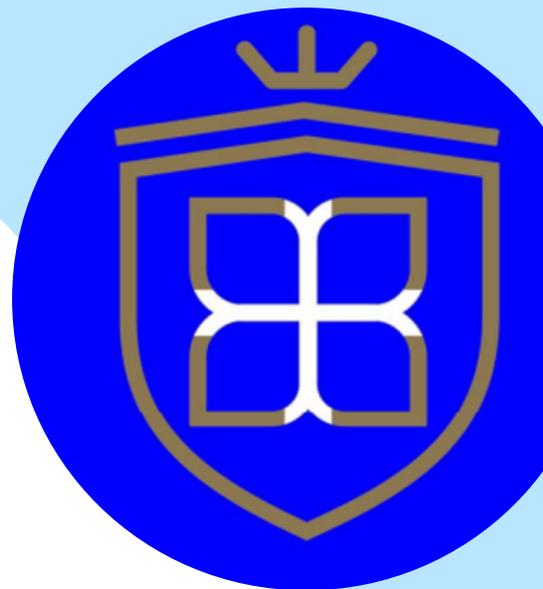


HUYTON DEANERY URBAN CHAPLAINCY

# CHILDREN & FAMILIES WORKER

ST GEORGE & ST PAUL



**CLOSING DATE: 24TH AUGUST 2023 INTERVIEWS: 7TH SEPTEMBER 2023**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The churches of St George and St Paul, in the Deanery of Huyton, Liverpool, are seeking to appoint a Children and Families Worker to help them realise a vision of seeing their existing ministries grow and flourish in the midst of their local communities.

The post falls directly within the remit of the Huyton Deanery Academy, and specifically within its Urban Chaplaincy – where partners are collaborating across parish boundaries to share specialist resources and skills.

This post can be a full-time position or part-time (0.8) depending on the needs of the applicant.

Both churches share much in common as community churches whose very identity is bound up in serving their local communities in very practical ways. Both churches have pioneered new patterns and structures of worship and both have a strong partnership with a local more established and 'traditional' church – St George aligned to the older church of St Mary Knowsley Village, and St Paul's with the historic church of St Mary the Blessed Virgin, Prescott.

We recognise that split roles across different churches can often be complex, but believe that this opportunity will be different for the following reasons:

1. The incumbents of these twin church partnerships have an excellent relationship, have worked full time with young people, and share a passion to see their young people and families thriving.
2. The two churches are very close- just over two miles apart (straddling the M57), and share similar community profiles.
3. The hopes and dreams of both churches point to a single candidate whose required roles and skills would serve both churches in almost identical ways.
4. There is ample opportunity to plan once and deliver twice, across both contexts, reducing workload.

## **BACKGROUND: ST GEORGE'S, HUYTON**

St George's Church and Community Hub serve a fast growing population (much recent house-building) which in 2018 was ranked by the Church Urban Fund as the 25th poorest parish in the UK. Against a background of extreme poverty, high levels of deprivation and social isolation, the church has been working tirelessly over the last six or seven years with various partners to address the physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs of the community.

Of particular note to this application was a sought-after Parents & Tots Group on a Thursday, and a thriving Family Church – pioneered on Saturday afternoons, but then migrating to Monday afternoons after school – both run with a good supporting partnership of volunteers.

With the interruptions of Covid, changing patterns of family life and other new initiatives, these two groups have not yet re-started but are very much on our priority list. With the right person in place to lead these groups (with volunteers) and work alongside the Vicar in the local primary school, we are looking forward to St George's continuing to engage with local children and families in 'growing faith'.



## **BACKGROUND: ST PAUL'S, PRESCOT**

St Paul's was built by the people, for the people, and was consecrated in 1956. Ahead of its time, St Paul's was pioneered as a mission church, with money for its construction raised by the community of the surrounding estates. Today, St Paul's sits in the midst of a community which falls in the top 1% in the country on the poverty index.

St Paul's is on the precipice of an exciting state of change, with the backing of its original congregation who used to meet for a more traditional service on a Sunday morning. The church works seamlessly with St Mary and St Paul's Primary School next door, recognising themselves as mission partners, and with the school catering for a plethora of pastoral needs across the community.

In 2018 the church and school began a Thursday Coffee Morning which has gone from strength to strength. Only this December did a mum from the Coffee Morning, along with her two children, get baptised during the Coffee Morning itself, with the entire school community joining for the service. Various missional acts of worship have been trialled over the past year and the church, with support of the school, dream of launching a weekly Thursday afternoon family service.

The church has worked tirelessly to foster strong relationships with local families, and the relationship with St Mary and St Paul's is tantamount to this.



## ROLE DESCRIPTION

We are seeking to invest prayer and resources to this particular role as we believe it is key to the future health and growth of both these churches, with a dedicated employee helping to build vision and inspire volunteer teams to enable the work to flourish. We acknowledge good work and existing links already laid in both locations, but recognise that we now need specific leadership to take this forward and be more intentional and relational in how we grow our family and children's ministries. We are beginning to grow younger congregations, and want to nurture them and their families into life-giving faith.

The focus of this role will be mission and ministry to ages 0-11 and their families through:

- Family Church
- Parents and Tots groups
- School Assemblies/links with local schools
- Promoting 'Growing Faith'

Due to the nature of both churches, preparation time and resources will be transferable between contexts, reducing the need for doubling up or the need for excessive preparation. Rather, there will be the opportunity to prepare well and deliver twice, benefiting both churches.



## **AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

1. To re-establish the Family Church at St George's, ensuring there is a warm welcome for new families and that the church is accessible to all.
2. To extend and develop the work with under 5's and their families, through Parent & Toddler Groups, and to reach out to new children and their families.
3. To work with the Coffee Morning team at St Paul's to further develop and grow this ministry of outreach to local parents.
4. To be instrumental in the implementation of a Thursday afternoon service at St Paul's, attracting families from St Mary and St Paul's CofE Primary School, in close collaboration with the Senior Leadership Team.
5. To exercise active pastoral concern for the children and their families and be available for support, advice and mentoring on their faith journey.
6. To manage, support, train and develop the team of volunteers working with children across both churches, recruiting additional volunteers as needed, so as to enable all planned activities and services to take place safely.
7. To plan, deliver and evaluate sessions.
8. To represent the needs and views of the church's children/young people to the PCCs.
9. To commit to regular team meetings with the local vicars, help to shape vision with them and their Ministry Teams, and report to PCCs on a half yearly basis.
10. To share in assemblies and partake in the local school ministries with the local vicars.
11. To promote the welfare and health and safety of children and young people by ensuring that the relevant policies and procedures are known and put into practice.
12. To maintain an active prayer life and personal continuing spiritual development.
13. To undertake such training and updating as may be advisable for the role and to maintain a personal development record.
14. To raise any issues that may detract from the work or the post holder's wellbeing in a timely and appropriate manner.
15. To carry out other duties which might reasonably and practically fall into this role.

## INDICATIVE WORKING RHYTHM ACROSS TWO PARISHES

### WEEKENDS

St George Family Church to be re-established, provisionally on Saturday afternoons each week, but with the option of Sunday worship in the future.  
Therefore one weekend day free each week.

### MONDAYS

**OFF! (If 0.8 position)**

### TUESDAYS

Assembly: St Mary & St Paul Church Primary and/or Parents & Tots  
Review and Visioning meeting over lunch each week  
Supervision with one incumbent once a month or a rhythm to be agreed

### WEDNESDAYS

**OFF!**

### THURSDAYS

Coffee Morning and Thursday afternoon Family Church at St Paul's

### FRIDAYS

Assembly at Knowsley Lane Primary School followed by St George's Parents and Tots. Preparation time in the PM.

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Preferable</b>
<b>Experience and Qualifications</b>	<p>Previous experience of leading work with children in a church setting.</p>	<p>Experience of working with families in a pastoral environment.</p> <p>References from previous experience in Children and Family Work</p>
<b>Skills and Abilities</b>	<p>Effective communicator with children and adults. High level of organisational skills.</p> <p>Ability to work both independently and collaboratively. Social media savvy!</p> <p>Flexible and adaptable, with the ability to inspire others and work well in teams.</p> <p>Ability to foster good relationships with local organisations and schools.</p> <p>The ability to manage and effect change.</p>	<p>Previous experience of managing volunteers.</p> <p>Previous experience of running church youth groups and holiday clubs.</p>

## PERSON SPECIFICATION (CONT.D)

	Essential	Preferable
<b>Values</b>	<p>A practising Christian, supporting the vision and values of St George and St Paul, and with a love of children and families</p> <p>Gritty realisation of working with complex families in challenging communities.</p> <p>Committed to the values of 'Growing Faith'</p> <p>Committed to good practice in safeguarding children and young people, and to personal and professional development.</p> <p>Open and honest in sharing both successes and concerns and with a willingness to approach issues differently, and with humility, patience and humour!</p>	
<b>Commitment to Safeguarding</b>	<p>This post includes regulated activity with children and candidates must undergo a safer recruitment process which includes an enhanced DBS and barred list check. A Confidential Declaration form must be completed prior to interview and references will be taken up.</p> <p>The applicant will be expected to adhere to the safeguarding guidelines of the Church of England and undergo regular training on safeguarding matters.</p> <p>The successful applicant will need to provide proof of right to work in the UK before taking up the post.</p> <p>Both parishes, are fully committed to the safeguarding of children and adults, with safeguarding policies to be found respective websites.</p>	

## **CONTRACT DETAILS**

### **Job Title**

Children & Families Worker

### **Start Date**

As soon as possible, ideally October/November 2023 but later if currently under contract

### **Contract**

3 year initial contract (6 month probationary period). To be commissioned under the Huyton Deanery Urban Chaplaincy, funded through the Deanery Mission & Growth Fund, as the first phase of a longer appointment, so with every intention of extending to repeating 2 year cycles.

### **Location**

The Parish of Earlsfield St Mary (Knowsley Village) with St George, Huyton and St Paul's Prescot, part of the Parish of St Mary, Prescot.

### **Employer**

Huyton Deanery, Liverpool

### **Responsible to**

The Area Dean and the Incumbents and PCC's of both parishes

### **Line Manager**

Supervision will be with one of the vicars, alongside regular team meetings

### **Contract Hours**

37.5 hours for full-time post. 30 hours for 0.8. The ability to work flexibly on occasion.

### **Days off**

One day midweek (Wednesday) and one day each weekend (most likely this will stay as Sundays, with the possibility of Saturdays in the future). Additional day off on a Monday if 0.8.

### **Annual Leave**

25 days per annum plus bank holidays, pro rata, to be taken in negotiation with the line manager. Holidays will usually be taken in school holidays

### **Salary**

£23-25,000 pro rata, depending on experience

### **Pension**

Statutory rate for employer contributions

### **Particular Requirements**

There is a genuine occupational requirement for the job holder to be a practising Christian.

**Safeguarding:** Confidential Declaration and Enhanced Full DBS required.

**Applications Closing Date:** 24th August 2023. **Interviews:** 9am–12.30pm Thursday 7th September