St Luke's

St Matthew's

Under 18s Worker (Full time)

We are looking to appoint one full time (or two part time) worker (s) to work with our under 18s. Salary £27,000 a year. This is a full time role but could be two half time positions which can be split according to experience e.g. 0-10s and 11s-18s or church-based and community-based. The role starts in October 2024 or as soon as possible thereafter.

St Matthew's and St Luke's are partner churches, bringing God's love to South Oxford through active engagement with local people. The two churches are located at the heart of two very different communities within the same parish. Our vision is to grow as a church, share Jesus, and be at the heart of our community.

Job Description:

Aims:

To enable development of under 18s' faith journey, both in and outside the churches, in partnership with the Vicar and staff team.

- Carefully thinking through the impact of the church's approach on children's faith journey (whether currently part of the church or not)
- Giving church children an opportunity for a pastoral relationship with another trusted adult (a non-parent), and with an approachable representative of the church
- Training, empowering, motivating volunteers.
- Creating activities to which local church members could invite neighbours' children, to help them relate to church.
- Increasing the churches' presence in the community to families and children.
- Sustaining the churches' ethos as multi-generational.

Major Aspects to the role

Church focussed

- Overview of under 18s work in the churches
- Training and co-ordination of volunteers for church work with under 18s
- Direct work with under 18s of both churches
- Engaging with children, parents, volunteers and church strategic processes to develop children's work in church, e.g. lead/attending/planning for children's and families vision group and occasionally PCC committees.
- Establishing and maintaining systems and communication channels to enable support and co-ordination of volunteers, e.g. rotas, Whatsapp, meetings.
- Facilitating under 18s' Sunday groups in the churches: at the moment St Matthew's focussed, but under regular review.
- Involvement in all-age service planning for both churches, where appropriate.
- Attending staff meetings

Community outreach focussed

- Sharing the strategic overview in partnership with the Vicar and staff team of outreach to under 18s: exploring new possibilities (e.g. building relationships within the community to assess need and make connections) and establishing these regular activities.
- Training and coordination of volunteers for outreach
- Direct work with children in outreach activities, building relationships that act as a bridge to church.
- Engaging with the local community (including school and nursery) and building relationships to identify need and exploring possibilities for children's outreach work, especially to focus on re-growing a children's group at St Luke's midweek.
- 1 weekday activity per week at each church
- Seasonal outreach events: planning and running
- Creating synergies with Young Adults' Worker where appropriate

What we can offer:

Two congregations committed to growing our youth and children's work and open to new and creative ways of engaging with the community.

An ethos of multi-generational church embraced by both congregations.

A dedicated staff team including a Pioneer Worker for young adults and a pastoral minister who supports parents.

A volunteer base with committed individuals to support the work.

A local church primary school and nursery for outreach opportunities

An established group of teenagers and a small group of primary school children as Sunday School.

An established Messy Church which is ripe for development going forward.

We are looking for someone:

- with a heart for working among under-18s and see their discipleship flourish
- who is excited about sharing the good news of Jesus
- who is able to work with volunteers
- who can work independently as well as be part of a team
- who is willing to work collaboratively with the PCC to develop the vision of the churches
- who is creative, patient and kin.
- who is willing to go out into the community and have confidence connecting with people.
- who has a working knowledge of social media or at least a willingness to learn, and to be prepared to take a share in our work to increase our digital presence.

Requirements

- A clear DBS check will be required for this role.

- There is a Genuine Occupational Requirement that the person filling this role must be a practising Christian and be prepared to worship and work within two Church of England churches.
- A qualification in youth work and/or ministry is desirable but not essential

Working Hours
Working hours are 37.5 hours per week worked flexibly, depending on activities. Attendance at evening meetings should be counted as hours worked. Sunday working is essential.

Holiday
Holiday entitlement is 25 days per year (pro rata) plus bank and public holidays. The role normally includes working up to Christmas Eve and during Holy Week including Easter Sunday, with TOIL available where this includes any Bank Holidays.

Place of work
The role will be based in St Matthew's Parish Centre, Marlborough Road and St Luke's Church, Canning Crescent, although we do not expect this to be an office-based role.

Salary
The salary for this role is £27,000 per annum. In addition, a 6% pension contribution on qualifying earnings will be made. The PCC uses the NEST workplace pension scheme.

Contract length
This post is a permanent contract. A six-month probationary period applies. The notice period will be one month.

Full details of employment conditions are given in the St Matthew's with St Luke's Employment Handbook.

Closing Date for Applications
Friday September 13th 2024. Interviews in week beginning September 26th. To apply, send CV and covering letter to office@stmatthewsoxford.org.uk.
For an informal chat with the Vicar ring the Parish Office on 01865 798587.