

Children & Families Minister



St Mary's Ferndown

Children & Families Minister

Could you be our new Children and Families Minister?

St Mary's Ferndown is a vibrant charismatic evangelical Anglican church with a growing children and families ministry. Since the end of the pandemic we have prioritised rebuilding this important area. We now regularly have over 30 children and youth at our main Sunday service, where we run two children's groups most weeks. We also have a thriving mid-week toddler group where we often have 50 children attending, plus their parents/carers.

All this has been achieved through the commitment and hard work of our clergy, staff team and especially our committed volunteer team. But there is so much more we want to see and enormous potential to develop these ministries and expand our outreach and discipleship for children and families. Therefore, we are now looking to grow our staff team and appoint a new part-time Children & Families Minister to lead and develop these ministries.

At St Mary's we believe children and young people aren't just the church of tomorrow, but the church of today. We believe even very young children can enjoy a relationship with God. Our heart is to see our children grow as worshippers, as lovers of God's word, and as Spirit-filled missionary disciples. We are looking for someone who passionately shares these values.

We are keen to shape the role around the gifts and experience of the person God is calling to join our team. Core responsibilities will include:

Sundays - Overseeing and developing the Sunday children's provision.

Toddlers - Overseeing and developing Little Sheep, our Tuesday morning toddler group.

Special Events - Designing and organising seasonal children and families' events.

Additional responsibilities could include:

Schools Work – We have a strong relationship with our local CofE First School (Hampreston) where we lead weekly assemblies, but we would love to explore running a lunch time or after school club. We have a growing relationship with Ferndown First School and often host their end of term services. We also lead a monthly assembly at Ferndown Middle School (Y5-Y8) where the new headteacher is open to further engagement.

Family Discipleship – Over the last 18 months we have been experimenting with different ways to enable families with younger children to engage in mid-week discipleship group and we would love to see this develop further.

After School Café/Kids Club – We would love to relaunch a mid-week kids club. Recently we have started opening our wonderful Beacon Café for an extra hour on Wednesdays and offering special after-school snack deals, which has proved really popular. There is an opportunity to build relationships through this and potentially launch a new outreach-focused group.

Youth Work – We are currently developing exciting plans for our Sunday and mid-week youth activities. Our new children and families minister could play a key supporting role in this.

If you are excited by some or all of these opportunities and think God might be calling you to join our team, we'd love to hear from you!

Role Description

This Role Description is non-contractual. This post is subject to Salisbury Diocese Safer Recruiting procedure, including satisfactory outcome of appropriate enhanced DBS criminal records check; and to evidence of entitlement to work in the UK. There is a genuine occupational requirement for this role to be filled by a practising Christian in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

Summary

Role Title:	Children & Families Youth Minister
Reporting to:	Team Vicar
Role Overview:	To lead and develop our ministry & mission to children and families and share in the general ministry & mission of St. Mary's Church
Employment:	This is a permanent part-time position of 12-24 hours per week (0.3 – 0.6 FTE) (negotiable, 12 hours covers the core responsibilities with up to 12 additional hours to undertake additional responsibilities)
Review:	The role is subject to a six-month probationary period, followed by regular reviews.
Salary:	£12-£14 per hour (dependant on experience)
Location:	St Mary's Church, Ferndown
Times	Sundays 8am-11am, Tuesdays 9:15am-2:30pm, remaining hours worked are negotiable and flexible but may be dependent on the timing of other activities (e.g. youth group, school assemblies, etc.)

Core Responsibilities

- Overseeing and developing all areas of children's ministry, including discipleship, outreach, communications and administration.
- Leading, encouraging and inspiring the children's volunteer team.
- Overseeing, organising and developing our groups and provision for children aged 0-11 at our 9am Sunday morning service (Church@9).
- Overseeing, organising and developing our mid-week baby, toddler and preschooler group Little Sheep, especially the Bible story and worship time.
- Sourcing materials for all Sunday and mid-week groups.
- Planning and leading All-Age services, in collaboration with clergy and other staff
- Regularly leading Sunday and mid-week children's groups and activities.
- Organising at least three events per year aimed at either discipling families attending St Mary's or reaching out to families in the community (e.g. Light Party, Pancake evening, Easter craft morning, Christmas event)
- Overseeing the safer recruitment, training, equipping and support of the wider children's team in partnership with the St Mary's safeguarding team.
- Monitoring effective safeguarding practice across children's ministry.

What We Offer

- Friendly and supportive team environment where individuals are encouraged to use their gifting to shape mission and ministry
- Weekly prayer times for staff, annual away days and regular staff social events
- Regular line management catch-ups for support, direction and accountability
- Opportunity to undertake relevant training and retreats for personal development, learning and spiritual growth.

- An environment where ministry to children, young people and families is seen as strategically important to the life of the church
- Reimbursement of work expenses
- Enrolment in the occupational pension scheme in accordance with current legislation
- Annual leave entitlement - 25 days per year including a maximum of 6 Sundays, plus 3 compulsory days between Christmas and New Year (pro rata), with at least 10 days (pro rata) should be taken within the school summer. It may be required to work some bank holidays, in which case additional leave may be taken in lieu.

Working Specification

- All staff may be called upon to undertake other duties in support of the staff team
- All staff are expected to actively seek to identify, equip and resource emerging leaders
- A DBS and other safeguarding checks will be required. All St Mary's Church staff undertake regular, compulsory Safeguarding training
- Staff will often be dealing with vulnerable people, confidential financial and personal information or issues of a sensitive nature
- Staff will also need to be aware of the data protection issues surrounding the role

Person Specification

Skills and Qualities

We are looking for someone who:

- Has a strong evangelical charismatic Christian faith that is lived out.
- Has vision to develop and grow our existing children's work and grasp new opportunities.
- Is highly motivated and demonstrates high levels of initiative.
- Has excellent organisational skills.
- Loves children and is passionate about seeing children grow in faith and relationship with Jesus.
- Wholeheartedly believes that children are the church of today, and longs to facilitate them in taking an active place in the Body of Christ.
- Can encourage in children a love of scripture, prayer and operating in the gifts of the Spirit.
- Is able to inspire a hunger for more of God in children.
- Is passionate about equipping Christian parents to help their children grow in faith.
- Is passionate about building a strong children's team and prioritises developing the gifts and skills of others.
- Is a confident and able group leader and public speaker
- Has a heart to reach out to families with no current connection to church.
- Is a team player who will work well with the existing staff team and encourage and recruit volunteer children's ministers.

Experience

- Experience of leading in Christian children's work.
- Experience of working with and developing volunteer teams.

How to apply for the job

For more information, including a full job description and application form, please go to www.stmarys-ferndown.org.uk/

Completed application forms to be returned to Diane French: pccsecretary@stmarys-ferndown.org.uk by **5pm 30th August 2024**.

There is a genuine occupational requirement that the post-holder is a practising Christian. The post holder would be required to participate in weekly team worship, lead team devotionals and pray with members of the church or staff.

Appointment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced DBS check, and successful completion of St Mary's Safer Recruitment process.