

Children's Minister for St Mary and St Cuthbert Chester-le-Street

The Post

St Mary and St Cuthbert's is a large Anglican church set in the historic town of Chester-le-Street. We have a strong history of children's work and we are looking for someone who can further deepen our children's ministry and help us in supporting our families work. Would you like to be part of this exciting missional opportunity to reach children and families in the community?

The Place

Chester-le-Street is a place of rich historic significance, founded in the Roman times, with a fascinating Christian heritage. A market town in the North East of England with excellent transport links, Chester-le-Street offers easy access to the three major cities of the North East as well as beautiful countryside and coastline within a twenty-minute drive. The parish of St Mary and St Cuthbert covers the entire town, alongside neighbouring villages. We are a medium sized, relaxed and informal evangelical church who worship using a variety of service styles.

Having been at the forefront of pioneering church-planting during the 1980s, we have recently re-imagined our service pattern and from this, we have grown our families' ministries. We have also refocused our vision to be "*A multi-generational church that makes life-long disciples of Jesus, where everyone flourishes.*" In July 2023 an associate Rector Dave Edmondson was appointed with specific responsibility for overseeing our work with children, young people and families.

The Role

We have a strong history of children's and youth ministry and this role offers an exciting, creative opportunity to deliver children's work whilst working closely with the Associate Rector, and soon to be a paid Youth Minister. We also have a team of willing volunteers who are experienced and passionate about children's and families work. Among these volunteers, some are very experienced and some are new to Children's ministry.

Chester-le-Street is a town made up of lots of young families and we are keen to further our ministry amongst them. We have good relationships with the five primary schools within the parish and an especially strong relationship with our wonderful Church of England primary school.

Our toddler group has recently restarted, alongside a steady and growing Sunday Kids ministry and a monthly Messy Church. We are keen for more activities and further mission and discipleship amongst children and families. There is limited children's provision in the town and there is a real missional opportunity here.

We would expect the person in this role to be at Church on Sunday, leading groups, helping with intergenerational services and generally being present to build relationships. We expect this part of the role to be around 3 hours each week, with

the remaining 17 hours split across the week, following discussion with the Associate Rector.

Once a month there will be a requirement to work on a Sunday afternoon. Monday and Tuesday mornings are also key times, so we would require the successful candidate to be able to work at these times.

There is the potential for this role to be term time (39 weeks) plus an additional 20 days during school holidays.

Job Title: Children's Minister

Job Location: St Mary and St Cuthbert's, Chester-le-Street

Hours of Work: 20 hours per week

Salary: £25,000 FTE, Pro rata (£13,520)

Length of Contract: Permanent

Main Responsibilities.

1. To proclaim to good news of Jesus to children in Chester-le-Street.
2. To work alongside the Associate Rector, enabling children's and families ministry to flourish in our parish.
3. To enthuse, enable and recruit volunteers for our children's ministry.
4. To oversee, develop and help to deliver our Sunday Morning Children's ministry.
5. To oversee and deliver our weekly toddler group.
6. To support the running of our monthly Messy Church.
7. To be part of the leadership of our once a month intergenerational service.
8. To look to develop new after school group(s) for children.
9. To be part of the team delivering special activities and services around the main Christian festivals.
10. To be a key leader in restarting children's holiday clubs.
11. Be part of the team engaging with local schools.
12. To maintain good safeguarding practice in children's ministry, make sure the records remain GDPR compliant and be able to manage a children's ministry budget.
13. To acknowledge that responsibilities can change, and this list may not be exhaustive.
14. To be aware of and work within the diocesan safeguarding policies and procedures.

What we can offer You

A staff team to work alongside

A team of willing volunteers

An exciting role with opportunity to be creative

A programme of training and resourcing where needed.

Experienced clergy with children's ministry experience.

A salary of £25,000, Pro rata (£13,520)

Pension contributions of 5% employees contribution and 3% employers contribution.

80 hours of holiday per year, plus days between Christmas and New Year and statutory bank holidays

A fantastic and exciting place to work with use of an office.

An encouraging and supportive congregation.

Person Specification

Essential = E

Desirable = D

Personal Attributes

- A vibrant personal faith in Jesus Christ - E
- A passion to reach out to families to share the love of Jesus with them.- E
- An understanding of, and empathy with, the challenges of family life. - E
- A willingness to support parents and carers in their parenting and to support nurturing faith at home. - E
- A team player – someone who is able to enthuse and inspire volunteers. - E
- An eagerness to learn and develop, to try new things and work with flexibility and enthusiasm. - E
- Ability to respect matters of confidentiality and sensitivity. - E
- Vision, initiative, and self motivation. - E

Experience and Qualifications

- A history of several years working with children - E
- Previous experience of working with children within a Christian context - E
- Children's work qualifications - D
- Driver's license - D

Skills

- Ability to communicate and engage with groups of adults and children - E
- Ability to organise own workload and have initiative - E
- To be collaborative working alongside others - E
- To express the Christian faith age appropriately and creatively - E
- Excellent pastoral skills with adults and children. - E
- Confident IT skills - E
- Excellent literacy and numeracy. - E
- Ability to come alongside and develop others. - E
- Knowledge of and commitment to good practice in Safeguarding. – E
- Knowledge of varied social media channels. - D

There is a genuine occupational requirement that the post holder is a Christian.
The post is subject to references and an enhanced DBS disclosure.

For more information or an informal conversation contact the Associate Rector Dave Edmondson on dptedmondson@gmail.com