



ST JAMES
CHURCH
BULKINGTON



Growing Faith Workers

Draft Job Description and Person Specification for a Church/School Link Worker:

Overview

Growing Faith is a Church of England initiative that envisions children, young people and households coming to faith, growing in discipleship and contributing confidently to the Church. Children and young people are full members of the Body of Christ, and we want households, schools, and churches to be places of mutual learning that receive the gifts children and young people bring, and enable them to flourish in their gifts and vocation.

The role of the Growing Faith Link Worker is to provide dedicated time and professional input to the growth of faith in children and families, with a focus on collaborative working with St James CofE Academy. This will build on the excellent relationship between the school and church, and build on relationships with local community organisations. There will also be opportunities to build a connection with Arden Forest Infant School.

The Church of St James Bulkington serves the village of Bulkington in Warwickshire, a large and growing village of around 6000 people.

The overarching aim of this role is to encourage and enable the spiritual growth of Children and Young People (and their families), and in line with the Growing Faith ethos, this will be done by identifying support that can be offered in School, through Church, and within the Home. For this reason the post holder will need to establish and maintain fruitful working relationships within the Church; with local schools; and with parents/carers within the community.

Hours and Remuneration

Start date: By mutual agreement

Contract: This is a fixed term appointment for 2 years, with the possibility to extend. It will have a probationary period of six months.

Hours: 24 hours per week (including attendance at Sunday morning service, weekly daytime and evening activities, team meetings and training as required)

Employer: The Parochial Parish Council of St James Church Bulkington

Salary and Pension: We can offer a yearly salary of £16,848 based on a 24 Hour week (subject to experience) plus pension contribution.

Annual Leave: Five weeks holiday (120 Hours including a maximum of 5 Sundays) plus Bank Holidays.

Flexible Working: There is a possibility of flexible working, including the post being a term-time post with additional hours. Exact hours and days will be agreed with the successful applicant after interview.

Role Description

Specific to role

- In collaboration with the Vicar and other Church staff to; identify, develop, implement and reflect on projects and initiatives that enable parents, children and young people to have a life-enhancing encounter with the Christian faith and the person of Jesus Christ. This will be done in partnership with St James CofE Academy.

- Develop and maintain a culture that recognises and welcomes the capacity of children and young people to transform the Church and the World; listening to and prioritising their voices, and their needs.
- Develop and maintain fruitful relationships with local schools, particularly with St James CofE Academy.
- Develop fruitful relationships with local families; providing practical missional support in relation to challenging aspects of family life, and encouraging spiritual development and discipleship within the home.
- Provide support and development for all those within the church who are working with families, children and young people – advocating for the needs of Children and Young People within this space.
- Be willing to share learning outside of the Church and be open to learning new skills and developing understanding of children, young people and families ministry.

General

- Ensure that all relevant regulations and policies for working with children and young people are understood, adhered to and complied with. Undertaking training for yourself and providing guidance to volunteers as required.
- Develop and manage budgets and expenditure in conjunction with line manager.
- Assist with identification and applications to grants to support the *Growing Faith* project.
- Be aware of issues around mental health in children, young people and parents.
- Engage with safeguarding and other training as required

Person Specification

Skills and knowledge

- You will have a proven ability to lead, inspire and organise others, coupled with the ability to work constructively as a member of a team.
- You will have the demonstrated ability to communicate the Christian gospel effectively to families, children and young people and to equip them to grow in their faith.
- Have a good track record of working within a church context on a variety of community activities.
- You will be a creative person who identifies opportunities and inspires others to try new things.
- You will have excellent interpersonal skills and be able to relate well to a wide range of people, both from within and outside the church – building rapport quickly and developing open and trusting relationships.

Personal Qualities

- You will be a mature Christian with a firm faith, sympathetic to, and able to work within the Central/Liberal-Catholic tradition of the Church of England
- You will be committed to growing in your faith and will be able to organise your time to include space for both personal prayer and bible study.
- Ideally, you need to be willing to be a committed member of St James Bulkington and play a full part in the life of the church and community.
- You will be professional, friendly and approachable, including when under pressure.
- You will be culturally sensitive, and able to work with people from different backgrounds.

- You will be discreet and trustworthy, able to sensitively manage private or confidential information appropriately.

Qualification

- A standard of education commensurate to this role
- A training qualification to work with children, young people and families, or equivalent practical experience.
- Some formal theological study is desirable, or a willingness to apply yourself to further training and study appropriate to the role.
- Full driving licence is desirable.
- The right to work in the UK

The post holder will have a vibrant and active Christian faith and a secure understanding of the Christian faith and ability to engage with families, children and young people in faith issues. It is therefore an Occupational Requirement (Schedule 9 part 1 of the Equality Act 2010) of this post to have a committed Christian faith and be actively involved in worshipping in a church community.

This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check, a confidential declaration form in line with safer recruitment guidelines, and employment and personal references will be requested.