

## **Job Description: Children and Young People's Worker**

*St. Mary the Virgin, Dedham*

### Children and Young People's Worker

St. Mary the Virgin is seeking to appoint a Children and Young People's Worker to oversee ministry to children (3-10 year olds), young people (11-18 year olds) and their families. This is an opportunity for a Bible-loving and well-organised Christian to work prayerfully with a range of leaders and volunteers (lay and ordained) to support evangelism and discipleship amongst children and young people, in partnership with parents.

St. Mary the Virgin has a growing, diverse congregation that is a mixture of people from the village and others drawn from nearby villages. We mainly comprise three groups of people: young families, 'empty-nester' parents and retirees and our desire is to be a vibrant intergenerational community of worshippers of our triune God.

As a church, we seek to depend upon God in prayer and be nourished by the preaching of God's Word, the Bible, as we believe it equips us with what we need to live life for His glory. In the last three years we have grown considerably and have welcomed a number of families in to our regular worshipping community.

### Aims:

- To create a safe environment for children and young people:
  - To explore the Christian faith,
  - To grow in love for the LORD, and
  - To understand better His plans and purposes for their lives
- To help the parish of St. Mary the Virgin, Dedham to be a place that embrace children and young people in its worshipping life
- To equip parents, grandparents, godparents and carers to help them raise children and young people to know and trust the LORD

### Main responsibilities:

- To work with families in the parish to equip them to "bring [their children] up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4)
  - Co-ordinating volunteers for Junior Church, our children's group for 3-10-year-olds that runs every Sunday except the first Sunday of the month
  - Leading Junior Church at least once a month
  - Working with the monthly youth group, DJB
  - Establishing a monthly Bible study for DJB
  - Co-ordinating termly/yearly outings, e. g. [Sorted](#), a yearly gathering in London for those aged 14-18, and [Sorted Nano](#), a yearly gathering in London for those aged 11-14, and/or
  - Promoting Christian summer holiday programmes, such as CPAS' [Ventures and Falcons](#), [Contagious](#) (local) and [Birch Hall Adventures](#) (summer holiday programme and fun days out)
- To visit Dedham Church of England VC Primary School:
  - To lead Collective Worship sessions, and

- To help with End-of-Term Assemblies and Seasonal Festivals hosted at St. Mary's
- To support the local Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs) and the ministry teams in establishing a culture of practices and behaviours amongst volunteers and the whole church family which allows children and young people to be safe, including risk assessments for all activities and taking advice or and/or disclosing any relevant incidents locally and/or to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team (DST) in Chelmsford

#### Training:

This post will require the successful applicant to undertake training on a course such as [Training for East Anglia Ministry \(TEAM\)](#) or [GYD Academy](#) and/or consider getting a Mentor from the [Growing Young Disciples](#) community

#### Salary:

£10,982.40 (if candidate becomes permanent this may be reviewed)

#### Hours:

This is a part-time position for 16 hours a week. Working pattern is negotiable. Annual leave is 9 days (72 hours), ideally in school holidays.

#### Length of contract:

One year, with a view to permanent

#### Line manager:

Rural Missioner, Revd. Phillip Young

#### Supported by:

- Rural Missioner, Revd. Phillip Young,
- A representative from the Dedham PCC, and
- A representative from Dedham Ecclesiastical Lectureship Trust

#### Requirements:

We are looking for someone who:

- Has an active Christian faith, incorporating at least regular Christian fellowship (ideally both mid-week in a small group Bible study and public worship on Sundays), Bible reading and prayer, and be in good standing with an evangelical / Bible-believing congregation
- Can happily affirm and work within the framework of [an evangelical Anglican basis of faith](#)
- Has a demonstrable passion for working with children and young people (and, ideally, some experience working with them to encourage them in the Christian faith), an ability to work well with people of different ages and backgrounds and a willingness to take direction from the Rural Missioners / line manager
- Has an awareness of contemporary culture as experienced by young people, including at school, online and socially, and an awareness of challenges around mental health and Christian discipleship today
- Regular Sunday attendance at a service at St. Mary the Virgin, Dedham and availability for some evening meetings

It is a Genuine Occupational Requirement that the person appointed is a committed practising Christian. The Employment Equality (Religion and Belief) Regulations 2003 Section 7.2 applies.

Any appointment will be dependent upon the outcome of an Enhanced DBS check and references.