



St Mary's Church Wargrave
With Knowl Hill

Job Description: Children and Youth Worker

ROLE PURPOSE: To implement our vision for every child / young person in the Parish to hear the gospel in a way they can understand and to be faithfully disciplined.

JOB & PARISH OVERVIEW

The Parish of Wargrave with Knowl Hill is seeking a Children and Youth worker to lead, develop and grow this area of ministry. Our vision is for every child / young person in the Parish to hear the gospel in a way they can understand and to be faithfully disciplined. We are looking for someone who has a deep Christian faith, godly character, who is confident in Scripture, creative and passionate about sharing the faith with young people.

Wargrave is a vibrant community on the River Thames and within easy access into London. In addition to Wargrave, the Parish consists of 3 other communities - Knowl Hill, Warren Row, and Crazies Hill. Activities for children occur on a Sunday morning at St Mary's Wargrave. We have excellent relationships with the 5 church schools (4 primary and 1 secondary) in the Parish and are in regular contact with them. We would like to see this work grow. The last census suggested there are over 800 young people under the age of 18 living in the Parish. This is a huge opportunity for sharing the Gospel.

God has blessed us with a core group of families who are committed to the church. There is also a great team of Junior Church helpers (5 people willing and able to teach from the front, 1 pianist, and 6 helpers). We have recently built a beautiful extension to the main church building, which we call "Church Centre", a fairly large and flexible area that has served this ministry very well. We call the ministry on a Sunday "Junior Church", in order to communicate that children and young people are a crucial part of the church and should therefore receive equal, if not more, devotion. Alongside Sundays we run a thriving mums and toddler group called "Butterflies" with over 30 mothers attending, most of whom do not attend church on a Sunday. We have previously run a youth group and would like to get this started again as we have young people who would benefit from it.

This is a full-time or part-time staff position, depending on the availability of the desired candidate, but it definitely includes Sunday mornings. The expected salary for this position is between £25,000 - £30,000 FTE (depending on experience), plus pension contributions. We are looking for someone to begin in January 2024, but an earlier start date could be considered.

KEY TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1) Prayer:** pray for our children and young people, their families and the volunteer members of the youth and children's team. We have a weekly 15 min prayer meeting via zoom.
- 2) Junior Church:** Lead and participate in our Junior church groups: ensuring the different groups have appropriate teaching materials. Support, manage, recruit and train volunteer leaders.
- 3) Supporting parents:** Develop and maintain relationships with the parents of Junior church members and equip them to raise their children in the training and instruction of the Lord.
- 4) Broader church activities:** Participate in the weekly operations meeting. Contribute to all-age services as required. Lead other seasonal church events for children, particularly around Christmas and Easter.
- 5) Outreach:** Lead midweek outreach activities such as the Youth Group. Run an annual holiday club. Develop additional outreach activities as opportunities arise.
- 6) School activities:** Support the existing work in schools (including school assemblies). Develop the relationships with the schools further, including looking at the possibility of after school clubs.
- 7) Safeguarding:** Know and implement the church of England's safer recruiting and safeguarding guidelines.

OTHER DUTIES

Alongside the duties specific to the role it is expected that you will:

- Be an active member of the staff team by, among other things, attending the weekly staff operations meetings.
- Be a committed member of the church family by, among other things, joining a homegroup and attending the monthly church prayer meeting.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

You will be able to demonstrate:

- A living and growing relationship with Jesus; a passion for the gospel; a commitment to living out and modeling the Christian life in line with orthodox ethical standards of the Bible.
- Experience of and ability to teach the Bible to children clearly, creatively and engagingly.
- Experience of and ability to encourage parents in the discipleship of their children.
- Experience of and ability to work effectively with volunteers: recruiting, managing, training, supporting and caring for them.
- An ability to relate to a broad range of people.
- Self-motivation; the ability to manage your own workload and to respond to shifting priorities; the ability to work effectively both in a small staff team and with volunteers.
- Advanced skills in Microsoft PowerPoint, Word and Excel or equivalent Google applications.
- Be first aid trained (training can be provided).

CONDITIONS (LOCATION, HOURS OF WORK ETC), SALARY & BENEFITS

- Fixed term contract of 2 years with the possibility of extension, and subject to a six month probationary period.
- Work from home with meetings occurring in St Mary's Church, Wargrave
- Reporting to the Vicar and operations team.
- Working days and times flexible but to include Sunday Morning
- Holiday entitlement of 33 days FTE (including bank holidays) and no more than five Sundays.
- It is a Genuine Occupational Requirement under the Equality Act 2010 that the postholder be a practicing Christian.
- An enhanced DBS Disclosure will be required for the successful applicant as part of our safer recruitment procedures.

APPLICATIONS

Send a covering letter, CV and 2 references to Annie Hobden da Silva (annie@wargravechurch.org.uk) by 17th November 2023.

Should you like to discuss this opportunity, please contact Revd John Cook on 0118 940 2202 or johnrmcook@btconnect.com