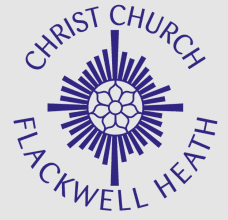




Children's Minister Role Profile

April 2024

Children's Minister Christ Church Flackwell Heath



Could you be our Children's Minister?

Christ Church is a Christ-centred, community-focussed Anglican parish church serving the village of Flackwell Heath, on the edge of High Wycombe. Over the last two years we have been on a journey of growing deeper with God, recognising our need to grow deeper as a church so that we can invite those we serve in our parish to grow deeper themselves.

One of our current priorities is growing deeper with children and families. Flackwell Heath as a village is home to a large number of children and families, with three schools serving primary-aged children. The size of our children's work at the moment does not reflect the community we serve, and we are committed to changing this.

As a church, we are aware of our urgent need to grow younger. To help us both support the ministries run by our volunteers and develop new ministries to work with children and families - both in church and the community - we have successfully received funding from the Diocese of Oxford to employ a Children's Minister on a full time, three-year fixed term basis. We have intentionally chosen to focus on Children's Ministry, which in this context means children aged 0-11, to build a solid foundation for the future.

Our desire is to build a sustainable and long-term pattern of Children's Ministry at Christ Church, thinking creatively and openly about what we need to do to reach this missing demographic. This role comes with the full support of the Vicar and PCC, and we are willing to consider flexibility around working hours for the right candidate.

As you read and pray through this Role Profile, we hope you will be asking the question, 'might God be calling me to Flackwell Heath?' If so, we are looking forward to hearing from you.

James

Revd James Dwyer | Vicar

+ Role Summary

- **Reporting to:** Revd James Dwyer, Vicar of Christ Church
- **Employment:** This is a full time (37.5 hours per week), three-year fixed term post
- **Remuneration:** £27-30,000 per annum depending on experience (or pro rata equivalent)
- **Review:** The role is subject to a three-month probationary period, followed by an annual review. As this role is being funded in part by the Diocesan Development Fund, there may be additional reviews as required by the Diocese

The post is subject to Oxford Diocese Safer Recruiting procedure, including satisfactory outcome of the appropriate enhanced DBS criminal records check; and to evidence of entitlement to work in the UK. There is a genuine occupational requirement that the post-holder is a practising Christian in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

+ What We Offer

- A friendly and encouraging work atmosphere and a desire to see new ideas and initiatives as we grow into the future
- The support and backing of the Vicar, PCC, and the church family
- A church where growing our children's ministry is a priority
- Encouragement to you to grow and deepen your faith
- A supportive Ministry Team, with the chance to pray together, grow together, and attend team days and social events
- Commitment to helping you have a sustainable work/life balance, including regular quiet days and retreats
- Space to work at Christ Church, and practical resources (e.g. laptop and mobile phone) if required
- Expenses paid as appropriate
- Encouragement to undertake relevant training and retreats for those working in Children's Ministry

+ Role and Key Responsibilities

- To lead the work of making disciples among the children of Flackwell Heath
- To serve as part of the leadership of Christ Church Flackwell Heath, reporting to the Vicar and overseeing a team of volunteers
- To oversee all current activities relating to Children's Ministry (for children aged 0-11), including Junior Church and All Age Worship on Sundays, Messy Church (midweek), and other occasional activities. Oversight of these ministries includes practical (e.g. rotas and content), pastoral (e.g. supporting and leaders and families), and theological (e.g. discerning how we are shaping young disciples) elements
- To discern what new opportunities might be on the horizon, reflecting on what God is doing in our church and following his call into the future
- To develop a renewed vision for our Children's Ministry, and implement the structures needed to bring this to life
- To build relationships with parents and carers, equipping families to live out their faith at home
- To work with our part time Family Support Worker to develop new opportunities to reach the community

- To work with Deanery and Diocesan colleagues to share resources and minister together, where possible, for the sake of God's Kingdom
- To safeguard our children and their volunteers, working with our Parish Safeguarding Officer
- To work with our three village schools, becoming someone who seeks to bless our school communities and be a witness to Jesus in them, through existing work such as assemblies and seasonal services but also through new initiatives
- To manage our Children's Ministry, including people, practicalities, and finances

+ Skills and Qualities

The person we are looking for is:

- A committed follower of Jesus
- Someone willing to become a worshipping member of the Christ Church family
- A good team player who understands the dynamics of teamwork
- Naturally gifted at connecting with children, and passionate about seeing them grow in faith
- A good communicator and able to efficiently organise their work
- Able to set wise boundaries and live graciously within them to retain a healthy life balance
- Someone with a track record of inspiring faith in children
- A leader and delegator – someone who can cast vision, recruit team members, and manage a volunteer team
- Able to build and nurture relationships and appropriate boundaries with a wide group of people, including children, parents, schools, church members, and the wider local community
- Someone with experience in, and with knowledge of, good safeguarding practice

+ Experience Required

Our priority is to find the person that God is calling into this role, and we are open to his Spirit's leading. In terms of experience, our prayerful reflection is that we are looking for the following:

Essential experience

- Experience working in children's ministry in a Christian context, whether in an employed or voluntary capacity
- Experience working with volunteers in an oversight capacity
- Experience working with parents of children and with schools

Desirable experience

- Able to use social media as a missional tool
- An understanding of the Church of England
- Experience of working with wider ministry colleagues (e.g. at a local, Deanery, or Diocesan level)
- An understanding of the theological aspects of children's ministry

+ Working Specification

- The role holder will report to the Vicar
- This role is being advertised as full-time, including evenings and Sunday mornings. We are willing to consider part-time applications for the right candidate
- The role is a fixed three-year post
- Space is available at Christ Church Flackwell Heath for groups
- Expenses will be paid in full
- Pension contributions: Automatic enrolment in the occupational pension scheme in accordance with current legislation, with the option to opt out if desired
- Holidays: 28 days plus Bank Holidays (or pro rata equivalent), including six Sundays. Time off in lieu will be given
- Salary: £27-30,000 per annum depending on experience (or pro rata equivalent)

+ What next?

Hopefully there's enough information here to help you begin to discern whether God might be calling you to Christ Church. If you have further questions, or want an informal conversation with no expectations, please contact Revd James Dwyer on james.dwyer@ccfh.org.uk.

If you would like to apply, please download the application forms from our website (www.ccfh.org.uk/vacancies) - you'll find all the instructions for applying on the forms, but again, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

May God bless you as you listen for his voice and respond to his call.