

## CHILDREN'S PASTOR

£26000 - £27000

We are a multi-generational, vibrant, Anglican Church on the South Coast, with over 500 people attending each week before the pandemic. Our vision is to be shaped by Jesus, to grow disciples, to build community and reach out to transform Poole and beyond.

We are privileged to have weekly contact with around 150 children, and engage with over 500 at the school. We long for children to know how much they are loved by God, to discover their identity in Christ, and grow as disciples of Jesus. This is an exciting time to re-imagine Children's Ministry at SML as we move into a new season after the pandemic.



### JOB DESCRIPTION

The Children's Pastor is a full member of the staff team, actively participating in staff and extended staff meetings and prayer meetings.

The purpose of the role is to lead, manage and develop the children's ministry at St Mary's Longfleet, discipling and caring for all children aged 0-11, and partnering with parents/carers as they nurture their children's faith.

Our Children's Pastor will be a passionate advocate for children, and focus on:

- Developing the **Vision for Children's Ministry**
- Facilitating **Sunday & Midweek groups**
- Growing the Children's **Volunteer Team**
- Building relationships with **Parents & Carers**
- Working in partnership with **Longfleet School**

### KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

#### Sunday

- Facilitate and lead the Sunday groups
- Help all children to grow in their love and understanding of the Bible, and to experience the ministry of the Holy Spirit
- Offer the children opportunities to worship and pray creatively, within a fun environment
- Prepare appropriate material, ensuring it is age-appropriate
- Ensure there is adequate team each week

## **Midweek**

- Oversee, plan and lead midweek groups (currently Blast YR-Y2 & Fusion Y3-Y6)
- Plan and co-ordinate seasonal events (Christmas, Easter, Summer Sundays)
- Run annual events for children and families (currently kids' breakfasts, Christmas socials, Light Party, Holiday Club, annual weekend sleep-over)
- Support and develop SML's work with pre-schoolers, especially through supporting the leader of Sunshines, our mid-week parent & baby group
- Oversee our accessible church ministry 'Our Space'

## **Kids' Team**

- Lead, encourage and develop the volunteer leaders and helpers of Children's groups
- Identify, recruit and train leaders for Children's Groups
- Organise the annual thank-you for volunteers

## **Parents & Carers**

- Build relationships with families of 0-11s, working in partnership with parents/carers
- Ensure there is regular communication with parents/carers about children's activities

## **School**

- Maintain and build our relationship with our partner school Longfleet Primary School
- Help deliver assemblies, lunch club, special events and church visits
- Potential opportunity to become a school governor

## **Other Responsibilities**

- Oversee New Wine Discipleship Year interns and other placement students working in the children's department
- Creatively plan and lead All-Age Services alongside clergy and staff team when required
- Lead action songs and make sure children feel included in the body of the church
- Work closely with the Youth Pastor to ensure a smooth transition between children and youth ministries at Y6
- Create opportunities for children to be actively involved in the wider life of SML,
- Network etc

## **Administrative Responsibilities**

- Oversee our safeguarding policies and procedures for children's ministry alongside safeguarding leads
- Assist with database administration
- Manage the budget and resources for the Children's Ministry department
- Maintain website/blogs/social media

## **PERSONAL SPECIFICATION**

### **Essential skills**

- Experience of working with children in this age range
- A love of children, and a passion to see them grow in their friendship with Jesus
- A secure and intimate relationship with Jesus, with a life lived in obedience to him\*
- A team player, with the ability to encourage and work collaboratively with other staff and volunteers
- An excellent communicator with adults and children
- Excellent organisational skills, working well under pressure and meeting deadlines
- Confident to lead, humble to learn, and willingness to serve as part of a team
- Skilful at creating programmes, and with an ability to plan ahead
- Clear understanding of Child Protection Policies and practice relating to the safeguarding of young people
- Pastoral awareness and sensitivity

### **Desirable skills**

- A relevant qualification e.g. in children's ministry, teaching or schools work
- Experience of working in a church setting
- Experience of overseeing a budget
- Confident user of church management databases and a range of software
- A knowledge and understanding of how to produce resources and teaching which is accessible and inclusive of children with additional needs.
- Musical ability to lead children's songs and actions

## **WHAT WE OFFER**

### **Salary and pension**

- Salary: range B1 - B3 (£26000 - £27000) depending on experience
- Auto-Enrol Employer Pension Scheme
- Expenses incurred in the role to be paid in full

### **Annual Leave & Working Hours**

- Bank Holidays and 30 days holiday per year
- Working hours - Full time (40 hrs/wk)

### **Personal Development**

- Provision of training and courses, and personal resourcing through conferences
- To be supported by a mentor/spiritual director
- Supportive line management from the Associate Vicar, ultimately responsible to the Vicar
- Annual and mid-year reviews with Line Manager & Vicar
- Administrative support
- Work-base in Children's and Youth office in the Church Centre

## Location

- Miles and miles of glorious beaches from Sandbanks to Christchurch
- Easy access to beautiful countryside, including the Purbecks, the New Forest, and Brownsea Island
- Fantastic opportunities for water sports, cycling, walking, and boat trips
- Poole's historic quayside in the heart of the Old Town
- The Lighthouse Theatre (home to the BSO), and Tower Park with its cinema and Splashdown water park
- Wide range of bars, pubs and restaurants

## Applications

If you are interested in applying, please submit:

- a completed application form (including the names and contact details of two referees), including a small photograph of yourself
- your CV
- a covering letter to the Revd Andy Perry

either by post to the Church Office, or by email to [gillian.rutherford@smlpoole.org.uk](mailto:gillian.rutherford@smlpoole.org.uk)

**Deadline:** midnight on Monday 21st June

Please do contact the Revd Mark Hay if there is anything you want to discuss or clarify about this post prior to applying:

[mark.hay@smlpoole.org.uk](mailto:mark.hay@smlpoole.org.uk)

01202 253527

**Interview:** To be held on Wednesday 30th June

\*NB There is a Genuine Occupational Requirement (GoR) for the successful applicant to be a Christian and this GoR applies under the Equality Act 2010.