



JOIN OUR TEAM

WE ARE SEEKING A PART-TIME
**CHILDREN, YOUTH &
FAMILIES' WORKER**



The United Benefice of East Blatchington and Bishopstone – Children, Young People and Families Worker

Job Description

We are looking for a committed Christian Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) Worker to work with our two Anglican churches in the United Benefice of East Blatchington and Bishopstone.

Though we have two different churches, we have already been working together to serve the families and young people of both our parishes. This has led to the creation of benefice wide childrens and young people's work and we move between our two locations, and sometimes elsewhere!

Both of our churches are rooted in the Eucharist as the central heart of our faith, therefore we hope to help our children and young people to also draw into this, to learn who Jesus is, and the immense love that God has for all his people. Our CYF work is inclusive and progressive in its theology and approach to discipleship and though our main services are traditional and liturgical (one prayer book, the other modern catholic) there is scope and space for a mixed ecology.

Starting date: ASAP Ideally Autumn / Winter 2023.

Hours: 0.5 post = 18 hours/week

Holiday: 5 weeks pro rata plus bank holidays

Salary: £12.480 pa (£26,000 FTE) Plus Pension Contribution.

It may be necessary to work bank holidays and Sundays but Time Off In Lieu will be available.

Place of work: It will be necessary to work across the benefice, across both churches, developing our benefice approach to children and young people's work and bringing together the members and volunteers from both parishes. The post will be based in the office at the Chapel Rooms at St Peter's Church, East Blatchington (whose location can be found through the postcode BN25 2HE).

Employer: Bishopstone PCC on behalf of both parishes. Line managed by the Rector of the United Benefice.

Purpose of role

The primary purpose of the role is to further develop and build upon the existing work in the United Benefice with children, young people and families. This would include modelling the Christian life to children and young people, reaching out to unchurched families across the United Benefice and exploring the potential for new ministries in this area. Being rooted in Eucharistic traditions we hope to draw families and young people into the riches of a sacramental faith and the living Gospel in our midst. We currently run a monthly 'Little Fishes' group for 0-8 years old and a monthly 'Lighthouse' group for secondary school age young people. Though these groups are small they are very intentional in pursuing the faith. At other times we welcome the local primary school to our church and try to run special events around the main seasons (ie Christmas and Easter). Our hope is that our CYF worker will be able to build on these whilst also looking creatively at what else might work. We are very keen to explore an outdoor family service using the natural; beauty of Bishopstone parish. With a combined population of 11,000 in our benefice we know very well that there are families who we would love to meet and welcome into our life together.

It is expected that the post holder would seek to motivate the children, and build upon existing work by creatively expanding our ministry. The post-holder will engage with schools and nurseries in the area (Seaford Primary, Blue Door nursery and others) to strengthen our relationships with parents, carers and providers for children and young people. We also see an opportunity to strengthen the links with our community hall users - including the Marine Cadets, the Nikki Bond Dance School and the Brownies.

The post holder would be expected to strengthen, grow and develop the children's and families and youth ministry by working with the ministry team to encourage and build up the volunteer teams within the United Benefice.

Ultimately, the aim is to grow faithful disciples of Christ from among the children, young people and families in the area through faithful witness, through engaging and exciting ministry and through perseverance. We are a very creative benefice and open to new ideas that could help us reach further.

Key relationships

The CYPF Worker will be employed by the PCC of Bishopstone and will be accountable to and line managed by the Rector of the United Benefice of East Blatchington and Bishopstone.

The Diocesan Youth Officer will provide support as needed and provide a link with training and networking run by the Diocese. This includes monthly gatherings as well as 2 retreats a year. Also the main youth event in the diocese called Maycamp.

Meeting other local youth workers will be important for understanding the crossover of young people between communities and joining up for events and festivals and there is a local (Deanery) network of youth workers who the post holder will connect with for the sharing of ideas, resources and peer support. This allows networking with the youth leaders from the CofE and Baptist church.

It is important to be a part of our Sunday Services within the benefice. This will develop the relationships and establish the post holder in the life of the church.

Key Responsibilities

To prayerfully discern the vision and strategy for the ministry to children, families and young people, alongside the Ministry Team.

- To build intentional relationships with young people, introducing them to Jesus Christ and walking with them through discipleship.
- To help recruit and oversee the volunteer team
- To help plan and lead an exciting program for all age ranges within the benefice; for example, youth groups, toddler groups, drop in's etc
- To be involved in the family life of the church, leading services, youth discipleship, youth trips and camps, developing their giftings, as well as finding opportunities for young people to serve the church and local community.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential:

You will be:

- A wholehearted follower of Christ, with your faith expressing itself in love.
- Demonstrate a passionate for serving, supporting and developing children, young people and families as they come to know Christ and grow in faith.
- Able to work as a member a team and take the lead when necessary.
- Able to build and maintain positive relationships with people of all ages
- Demonstrate pastoral care skills and able to relate to young people and their parents/ carers, including non- judgemental listening & questioning skills.
- Able to inspire and encourage commitment from adult volunteers.
- Self-motivated.
- Able to use creative and innovative techniques to solve problems and develop initiatives.
- Able to work independently, while sharing information and contributing to the United Benefice's strategic goals.
- Highly organised, able to prioritise tasks and meet deadlines.
- Able to work efficiently and accurately under pressure.
- Have good Biblical knowledge and ability to teach it effectively.
- Have good IT skills.

Qualifications and Experience:

- We are looking for the right person with a genuine heart for Christ and young people. We recognise that there are formal qualifications which would be desirable (such as JNC or Level 6) but we are open to those who have experience rather than qualifications. We are also willing to support a successful post holder with gaining these qualifications if needed.

- Experience in leading youth work, ideally within a church context including open access community youth work
- Experience in leading a team of volunteers
- Experience in building community links e.g. with schools, local authorities, and agencies
- A clean DBS Enhanced Level check to work with children

This post carries a Genuine Occupational Requirement under the Equality Act 2010 that the successful candidate is a Christian.

Desirable:

- Experienced in designing and delivering training to mixed groups.
- Enthusiastic to explore and deploy all possible communication channels and social media.
- Able to identify possible funding sources for specific projects and produce funding bids/applications with guidance.
- Full driving license and access to a car. (Travel expenses are available)

Application details:

Please submit your CV with a covering letter describing your approach and passion to this area of ministry, to The Rector by 31st August 2023

The Reverend Arwen Folkes (Rector)

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