

## **Children's and Families' Worker at St Peter's Wolvercote, Oxford**

We are seeking a new Children's and Families' Worker to be Team Leader for our children's work at St Peter's, with an option of an additional Children's Outreach role.

### **The Church and its activities**

St Peter's is a thriving church 2.2 miles north of Oxford city centre, serving a very varied village and suburban community. The Vicar is the Rev'd Charles Draper, who is assisted by three associate clergy. St Peter's has a warm, lively and mutually supportive congregation, ranging from families with young children and teenagers to those who have recently retired and the elderly.

All Age "Family Communion", with participation from the children, take place every two months and also on Christmas Day and Easter Day. It is hoped to increase this to monthly. "Children's Church" meets on all other Sundays during term time, starting after the first hymn, and coming back into church at Communion. Young people are admitted to Communion after preparation from the age of 9 upward.

Children's and Young people's groups meet for their Sunday sessions in two adjoining Church Rooms. There are separate groups for the 10+ and 13+ groups, drawn mainly from a thriving group of altar servers.

For further information about St Peter's visit [www.stpeterswolvercote.org](http://www.stpeterswolvercote.org)

### **Details of the post**

#### **Children's and Families' Worker (6 hours per week):**

- Oversight and overview of the Sunday Children's Church sessions, including organising a rota of volunteer leaders and helpers
- Regular presence in church on a Sunday morning (3 Sundays a month during term time), and taking a turn on the rota as leader once or twice a month, providing a positive role model for new volunteer leaders
- Team building with the volunteer leaders
- Arranging training for the volunteer leaders
- Planning sessions and crafts together with the volunteer leaders at a termly planning meeting
- Obtaining resources and materials for Children's Church
- Upgrading our Safeguarding, in consultation with our church Safeguarding Officer
- Liaising with the PCC to be an advocate for young families in the life of the church, and to encourage joined up thinking

- Looking for ways to advertise Children’s Church in the community
- Liaising with the Vicar and the Director of Music to develop new music in family worship
- Support in planning and delivery of Family Communion, especially enabling participation of children
- Support in a practical way around Festivals such as Mothering Sunday and Easter
- Offering support to the 10+ and 13+ groups, which have a volunteer leader
- Arranging occasional social events for children and young families, liaising with “St Peter’s Net” who are able to provide catering support
- Involvement in children’s activities in the annual church Fete

**Additional role as Children’s Outreach Worker (adding a further 2 hours per week averaged out across the year):**

- Taking over organising and leading “Explorers” events in church for children and young families three times a year or more around Festival times (Christmas, Easter and summertime) just after close of school on a Friday afternoon, organising a team of volunteers for this
- Liaising with the Wednesday afternoon ‘Tots under Two’ group to bring it more under the umbrella of the church.
- Liaising with local uniform groups e.g. beavers/cubs/brownies
- Exploring any other ways to liaise with our community and advertise the church’s Children’s work

**Person Specification**

We are looking for:

- A practising Christian, committed to growing in their faith
- Experience of working with children and young people and their families
- A passion for making Christian teaching accessible to children and young people
- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- Good organisational skills
- Ability to work as part of a team and be flexible
- Ability to connect with families
- Understanding of the cultural and social issues influencing the lives of children and families today, and ready to be adaptable to new ideas and new ways of working
- Caring, resilient, approachable, resourceful, innovative, with a friendly nature and sense of humour
- Sympathetic, understanding and supportive of the ethos of the parish of St Peter's
- Flexible about time and pattern of work

## **Terms and conditions**

Salary will be £12.75 per hour, reviewed annually.

The Children's and Families' Worker will be employed by and accountable to St Peter's Wolvercote PCC, with the Vicar as Line Manager. There will be a probationary period of six months. Mentoring support will be available.

There is an entitlement to 5 weeks holiday per year (implying absence from the Sunday services) to be negotiated with the Line Manager.

Under the Diocesan Child Protection Policy the appointee will be required to undergo the enhanced DBS check for adults working with children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

## **The application process**

Letters of application, which should refer to the Person Specification above, along with curriculum vitae and the names, addresses (postal and email) and telephone numbers of two referees, should be sent to:

The Church Administrator, St Peter's Church Office, First Turn, Oxford OX2 8AQ  
(01865 236094) or E-mail: [officeatstpeters@gmail.com](mailto:officeatstpeters@gmail.com) by Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July.

All applicants are invited to visit the church for our 10.00am Parish Communion Service and Children's Church on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July. (Please let us know in advance that you are coming.)

Enquiries can also be made to the Vicar on 01865 553992,  
Email [charlesdraper@btinternet.com](mailto:charlesdraper@btinternet.com)

It is hoped to hold interviews during the week beginning Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July, at a mutually agreed time and date.