

Full-time Children and Families Minister

Church on the Heath,
Elvetham Heath, Fleet, Hants
churchontheheath.org.uk



Job Title:	Children and Families Minister
Church:	Church on the Heath, Elvetham Heath, Fleet
Line Manager:	Reverend Patrick Butler
Working hours:	Ideally full-time (40 hours), but will consider part-time or job share for the right candidate(s)
Salary:	£20-24,500p.a. (full-time)
Holiday:	Five weeks p.a (full-time)

About the Church on the Heath

The Church on the Heath was planted twenty years ago on a new housing development, Elvetham Heath, in the north of Fleet as a partnership of Anglican, Baptist, Methodist and URC churches. Our vision is to be community where everyone can encounter the transforming love of Jesus and our passion is to serve Christ effectively in the community of Elvetham Heath.

We are a lively, growing fellowship of 200-300 on a Sunday morning, including up to 70 children and young people, and 25 in the evening. Since January, we have expanded to two services on a Sunday morning. The first is a service of worship, word and prayer, with no provision for children beyond a crèche and a *Book Nook*. The second we have called *All Together Worship* and is an exciting adventure into what it means to be intentionally inter-generational in our worship and discipleship. We began with some ideas from Scripture Union's *Explore Together* programme and are steadily evolving what this looks like in our context. Currently, we begin with worship and an all-age talk/activity, followed by time to engage with the theme in a choice of activities dispersed around our building. We finish by drawing back together for a time of sharing what we've learnt about God and ourselves.

Our non-Sunday children's activities include quarterly Messy Church (40 adults and 60 children), weekly Noah's Ark and Little Lambs toddler groups and a MU Bumps and Babies group (together about 25 pre-school children). We have run occasional holiday clubs (up to 60 children) and also support the Fleet Churches Together (FACCTS) Open the Book team which takes assemblies in all of the local infant, junior and primary schools.

Our current staff team includes a Minister, Assistant Minister, Youth Minister, Pastoral Care Minister and two office administrators.

We are looking to appoint Children and Families Minister to grow our children's ministry both inside and outside the church.

Job Purpose

To direct, develop and oversee ministry to, with and by children and their families.

Responsible for

Sunday and midweek volunteer teams

Hours and place of work

Full-time (forty hours per week including Sundays), though part-time or job-share will also be considered. Most work will be during normal office hours although there will be some evenings and Saturdays. You will be expected to take a full day off each week and a paid annual retreat. You will be allocated suitable working space in a shared office and provided with a laptop and phone.

Responsibilities

Sundays:

- To be a part of the team planning and running Sunday worship, with particular responsibility for ensuring relevance for children and their families, including leading and preaching on an occasional basis
- To encourage children and families to be actively involved in Sunday services and in the life of the church

Weekly:

- To attend and contribute fully at our Ministry Team meeting
- To oversee Messy Church, Noah's Ark and Bumps and Babies
- To initiate after-school clubs and activities as appropriate
- To deepen the relationship with the local primary school through visits and hosting groups at the church
- To collaborate with FACCTS (town-wide schools ministry) and the Open the Book team in appropriate ways as time allows
- To provide, along with the Minister, appropriate preparation and follow-up for families considering baptism, thanksgiving or dedication
- To encourage parents by introducing Parenting for Faith and other appropriate courses and events
- To liaise with the Pastoral Care Minister in providing pastoral support to children and families

Other:

- To coordinate seasonal events for children and their families, including an annual Holiday Club
- To recruit, train and resource volunteer leaders
- To work with the Youth Minister to ensure good transitions across age boundaries
- Undertake administration, communication, networking and publicity as required
- To attend and report to the monthly ECC (Ecumenical Church Council) meetings

General:

- To work with the ECC and the Ministry Team in growing a vision for the mission of the church, particularly as this relates to children and families
- To comply with the church's Safeguarding Policy at all times (enhanced DBS disclosure required)
- To become a member of the Church on the Heath and play a full part in the worshipping life of the community
- To pray for the children, their families and the volunteer teams
- To attend training and development days run by our partner denominations and others, by agreement with the Minister
- Other tasks and responsibilities in consultation with the Minister

Personal Specification

- A personal faith in Jesus Christ
- Experience of working with children and families in a church context, whether paid or voluntary
- A love for children and families
- A confidence that can motivate and inspire others
- Ability to lead and resource a volunteer team
- Ability to communicate effectively to those in the church and outside, drawing on both an understanding of children's developmental stages and a strong grasp of the scriptures
- Good organisational, time management and administrative skills, together with the ability to use church management software and Microsoft Office
- Comfortable using social media
- Willingness to learn and develop their both Christian faith and their skills and gifting
- The role holder could be lay or ordained and preferably accredited to one of our Partner Denominations
- A qualification in children and families ministry or teaching would be ideal
- There is a genuine occupational requirement for the role holder to be a practising Christian