



# Why We Need a Children's and Families Worker

## SUMMARY

We are 100% committed to Children's Work in the Church and continue to consider this a core ministry. We recognise and acknowledge the faithful and high quality commitment and work of many members of our church family who give their time, talents and gifts to ministry with children and their families under the age of 11 every week.

However, we have the opportunity to reach out to up to 800 children in this age group through our links with local schools and our community and we need a qualified Children's and Families Worker to help us develop this work during the week, as well as on Sunday.

### Conclusions of the PCC Children's Work Review issued in April 2009

- We recognise the need for coordination and communication between different children's groups, activities, workers and resources.
- We recognise the need for the ongoing development of children's work, such as mid-week clubs or clubs for primary aged children.
- There is a value in offering support to parents through parenting groups and courses.
- We recognise the need for ongoing training for those who work with children on behalf of the church in a variety of roles and capacities.
- We recognise that our primary aim in children's work is to serve and outreach to families/parents with children under 11 with the gospel.



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## Our Experience...

Employing a trained and experienced Youth Minister to help inspire and focus our work with young people, aged 11 and over, has revealed the benefits of having one person with direct responsibility for developing a vision and strategy in a particular area of ministry.

The fruit has been a united and cohesive group of young people who are on fire for God, excited about, and fruitful in, their mission to tell people about Jesus, growing in their faith and in their supportive relationships with each other.

In the same way, the Clergy, PCC, and Church Wardens, also believe that it is right to seek funding for an experienced, and trained, Children's & Families Worker who will focus on our work with children under 11 years of age.

## We have a great team of volunteers

We recognise and acknowledge the faithful and high quality commitment and work of many members of our church family who give their time, talents and gifts to ministry with children and their families every week.

Our gifted team of volunteers are currently working with about 80 children who are involved in our activities for children, aged 11 and under, through Sunday School and our mid-week groups for Tots and Pre-Schoolers such as Totstop, Noah's Ark and Allsorts.

## Substantial growth is possible...

Through our links with local schools, however, we have the opportunity to reach out to up to 800 children in this age group and we need a qualified Children's & Families Worker who will be responsible for helping us to develop this work during the week, as well as on Sunday.

Among the conclusions issued in April 2009 by the PCC Children's Work Review (a small group set up by the PCC to assess the need for a children's worker) were:

- We recognise the need for coordination and communication between different children's groups, activities, workers and resources.
- We recognise the need for the ongoing development of children's work, such as mid-week clubs or clubs for primary aged children.
- There is a value in offering support to parents through parenting groups and courses.

- We recognise the need for ongoing training for those who work with children on behalf of the church in a variety of roles and capacities.
- We recognise that our primary aim in children's work is to serve and outreach to families/parents with children under 11 with the gospel.

## **Aims and Objectives of the Children's and Families Minister**

- To co-ordinate the work of the church in 3 age ranges: 0-3; 4-6; 7-11
- To encourage children to come to faith and help them integrate into the church community
- To build bridges between the church and children and their families in the local community
- To integrate outreach from the church with nurture at the church
- To advocate for children and their families within the life of the Church

## **Duties and Responsibilities**

- To recruit new members for the Children's and Families Team
- To build, develop and equip the existing Children and Families Team members
- To spend a good proportion of their working hours in direct contact with children and their families
- To co-ordinate and support the church's work with under 11s and their families, including, inter alia, the following groups:
  - Sunday morning groups
  - Parent and Toddlers
  - Parent and Toddler services
  - Church playgroups
  - Holiday Happening days and Holiday Clubs
- To develop appropriate new initiatives in the church's work with children under 11 and their families.
- To facilitate good two-way communication between all involved in children's work in the church and the clergy, worship leaders, youth work, PCC and wider congregation.
- To develop existing links with local primary schools, for example, by leading assemblies.

- To liaise with the members of the church's Children and Families Team on priority setting, issues and development opportunities.
- To offer leadership and pastoral support to the members of the Children and Families Team, and provide resources and training, so that all members of the team can benefit from each other's gifts and grow together
- To link in with Diocesan and other appropriate Christian Children's Work provision
- To manage and account for the agreed Children's Work Budget and Expenditure in cooperation with the Children's and Family Work Advisory Group

## **The Current Position**

**The Clergy, PCC and Church Wardens, have agreed that we need an experienced, qualified Children's Worker to help grow our work in this area. They are, therefore, asking the church to increase its giving by up to 20% to fund a Children's Worker by the beginning of 2011.**