

Children, Youth and Families Ministry Leader
St Luke's and St Mark's Downham (SE London)
£28 – £30,000 35 hours p/w

St Luke's and St Mark's Downham are looking for a Children, Youth and Families Ministry Leader to develop our mission and ministry with children, youth and families on the Downham Estate. St Luke's and St Mark's are two of four churches which makes up the Church of England Parish of Catford and Downham, one of the poorest parishes in the UK (within the bottom 8%).

- Do you long to see children and families from the margins of church and society experience the love of Jesus and find a place in His church?
- Can you play your part in seeing God's Kingdom come amongst people with chaotic lives and in a church with few resources but loads of heart, opportunities, and a faithful God?
- Do you long to see children with special educational needs (SEN) and their families welcomed and integrated into the church?
- Can you work with us to develop Fresh Expressions of Church (FXC) to connect with and disciple people who don't connect with traditional forms of church?
- Do you want to be part of a diverse, supportive team with a shared commitment to the local community?
- Do you want a Children and Youth Work role that doesn't fit the usual mould?

Application Process:

To apply send a CV and covering letter setting out why you believe that you are suitable for this role to Rev. Nick Walsh at revnickwalsh@gmail.com by midnight on Sunday 3rd July 2022.

Email or telephone (07774516204) conversations and informal visits to the Parish in advance are encouraged.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to visit the parish and meet the congregation(s) and community; this will then be followed by a formal interview.

Background:

St Luke's and St Mark's Downham are looking for a Children, Youth and Families Ministry Leader to develop our mission and ministry with children, youth and families on the Downham Estate. St Luke's and St Mark's are two of four churches which makes up the Church of England Parish of Catford and Downham, one of the poorest parishes in the UK (within the top 8%).

St Luke's is a small (average attendance of 25 adults and 8 children/youth) but active church with the building open 6 days a week for the community. Our flagship project is the Front Room Club, a community café for adults, particularly those who are socially isolated or have mental health needs, out of which our Parish Nurse and Front Room Team support the community, and we run sewing classes, seated exercise, quizzes, bingo, trips, etc. The Front Room also hosts 6-8 SEN student volunteers from one of the local secondary schools on a Friday.

St Mark's has a small, formal morning service with an average attendance of 8-10 adults and 2/3 children/youth; a vibrant (and chaotic) Messy Church with an average attendance of 20 children and 15 adults. St Mark's is also exploring establishing an informal Sunday afternoon service. The majority of St Mark's community work is run by Pathways (a team of local families); who lead Messy Church as well as running several activities during the week.

Job description:**Main tasks:**

- Equipping and enabling others to lead their own ministries
- Coordinating activities for children and young people at our Sunday services. Whilst this may include the traditional model Sunday school, our primary aim is to create genuinely all age services (e.g. using material such as Explore Together from Scripture Union).
- Leading our existing children's ministry and developing new groups and activities
- Supporting the Pathways team in running Messy Church
- Line managing the Children, Youth and Families staff (youth worker and sessional children's worker) and volunteer team.
- Support families to grow in faith together
- Supporting the church to welcome and support children with special educational needs/autism and their families.

- Developing resources from our learning to share with the wider church
- Playing a full part in our worship and community activities
- Being a key part in relaunching Forest Church
- Developing our relationships with local schools
- Being an integral part of our safeguarding leadership team
- Contributing to our social media and marketing

Person specification:

Essential :

- The ability to build meaningful relationships, without judgement, across a wide age range, responding sensitively to the diversity within our church family and wider community and to those who do not conform to middle class or religious values.
- A personal faith in Jesus Christ demonstrated through regular reading of Scripture, prayer, giving and church involvement
- A longing to see people from every walk of life discover the love of Jesus and a living faith in him.
- Demonstrates leadership qualities, be willing to lead by example and be committed to further training.
- A proven track record of children's ministry leadership, school ministry or equivalent transferable skills (voluntary or paid).
- Understanding of Christian faith and ministry in areas of urban social housing and other socially disadvantaged areas.
- Willing to serve practically and 'get stuck in' (for example, chairs will need moving and washing up will need doing!).
- Able and willing to lead acts of worship, preach and pray publicly

Desirable:

- Understanding of working with people with Special Educational Needs
- Understanding of ethnic diversity, especially Christian faith in African and Caribbean cultures
- Understanding of the Church of England and a willingness to work within its structures and values
- Able to communicate in a variety of ways, adapting to the audience
- Ability to write and deliver reports to the leadership team and funding bodies

Responsible to: Operations and HR Coordinator (line manager), Team Vicar and DCC

Place of Work: Downham

Hours of work: 35 hours – the role will require flexibility including a commitment to Sunday mornings and other weekend working, some evening sessions, church festivals and school holidays.

Salary: £28-30,000 per annum plus pension contribution and expenses.

Status: Funding for this role is secured for 1 year – we will work with the successful candidate to secure further funding. The role is subject to 3 months' probation and an annual review.

Occupational requirement: There is a genuine occupational requirement for the post holder to be a practising Christian committed to the life and worship of St Luke's. The post is subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure and satisfactory references.

There may be some restriction on holidays at particular times of the year, for example if significant events relating to children and families have been arranged during the period leading up to Christmas or over Easter.