



THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

JOB DESCRIPTION

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| Title of Post: | Children, Youth and Families Worker at Patna Waterside and Dalmellington Parishes, Presbytery of Ayr. |
| Responsible to: | This is a Ministries Council Appointment (employing body of Faith Nurture Forum) but you will be responsible to the Parish Minister, Interim Moderator or nominee in the first instance. |
| Hours: | 0.5 FTE (18.75 hrs) |
| Date: | May 2022 |
| Main Purpose of post: | We are looking for someone with the energy and desire to see faith develop amongst the children, youth, and young families within our parishes, and work as part of a team to help develop a healthy, growing, missional and transformational community within Patna Waterside and Dalmellington Parishes. |

CONTEXT FOR THE ROLE:

Patna Waterside and Dalmellington parishes are small rural communities in East Ayrshire, both of which are classed as priority areas, with few activities available for children and young people. In addition, both churches currently have aging congregations. There is therefore a pressing need for the community, and for the sustainability of both church congregations, to develop and provide activities for children, young people, and their families, to encourage them to integrate more fully within their communities and to engage more with the life of the church within each parish. Currently, both congregations have positive connections with local primary schools and are regularly asked to provide services and input for school assemblies. It is envisaged that this role will build and expand on these existing connections.

In terms of worship there is a mixture of “contemporary” and “traditional” praise complemented by multimedia input. During lockdown worship was made available on-line, there is an active Facebook output and whilst it was not possible to visit schools Easter videos were prepared and much appreciated by the schools.

MAIN DUTIES

- To seek God for fresh vision for children and young people within our parishes.
- To develop a programme of activities for the children and young people of Patna Waterside, Dalmellington and Bellsbank.

- To coordinate and oversee the children and young people's work through Bible teaching, games, activities, events, and help them to come to faith and grow as disciples of Jesus.
- To prayerfully build and develop a team of volunteers who can assist with the developed programme of activities for children and young people.
- To develop links with local families of children and young people within the parish, in order to build positive relationships between the church and the community.
- To encourage families with young children and young people to take an active part in church worship and to develop their gifts and talents.
- Explore new ways of the church buildings being used for church and community groups to increase their use for activities and engagement
- To build on our existing relationships with local primary schools, by leading assemblies, and speaking at school services, several times per year (Christmas, Easter, School Leavers).
- To help and support the existing 'mums and chums' group currently run at Bellsbank.
- Expand the online presence of the church including through the increased use of social media
- To attend, and contribute to, church worship in both parishes, and to occasionally share reflections, or preach, at worship services.

Additional Duties

- To communicate to the Kirk Session and congregation, information, and vision for the work at least half yearly.
- To play an active and full part in the annual Team Report submission to presbytery.
- To contribute fully to the Faith Nurture Forum appraisal process.
- Undertake such other duties as may be required from time to time by the Parish Minister.

OUTCOMES

- A clear and agreed programme of activities for children and young people which addresses the needs of the church and the community, and which aligns with the existing mission plan of the parishes.
- A stable and motivated team of volunteer helpers.
- Improved connection with the community of children, young people, and their families to encourage participation in the programme of activities and attendance in worship services.
- Stronger connections with local primary schools and other children and youth-based community organisations.

Person Specification: Children, Youth and Families Worker

| Skills, abilities and knowledge | Essential | Desirable |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Significant experience in children, young and families work | ✓ | |
| Previous first-hand, experience of leading, or coordinating activities for children and youth | ✓ | |
| Ability to build, motivate and work alongside teams of volunteers | ✓ | |
| Ability to communicate effectively using strong interpersonal and written communications skills | ✓ | |
| Excellent planning and organisational skills | ✓ | |
| Ability to engage with people who have little or no church connection | ✓ | |
| Understanding of the issues that affect children and families in Priority areas and the ability to relate to them | ✓ | |
| Experience and expertise in the use of IT applications, specifically social media and electronic communication | ✓ | |
| Knowledge and understanding of the congregational life of the Church of Scotland | | ✓ |
| Driving license and access to a car | | ✓ |
| Personal Qualities | | |
| Committed Christian with a live Church connection which is a Genuine Occupational Requirement in terms of the Equality Act 2010 | ✓ | |
| Ability to develop and maintain positive relationships with children, teenagers and volunteer workers | ✓ | |
| Demonstrate an enthusiasm for mission to children and young people, especially those in difficult circumstances | ✓ | |
| Flexibility and adaptability | ✓ | |
| Effective team leader and member | ✓ | |
| Ability to work with minimum supervision and a readiness to use own initiative | ✓ | |
| Interest in the ways in which media and communication can benefit the work within the parish | | ✓ |
| Educational requirements | | |
| Qualification or accredited training in youth / family work, or can demonstrate significant, relevant and recent experience in this area. | ✓ | |
| On-going commitment to continuing professional development including willingness to work towards qualification and accredited training. | ✓ | |

Terms and Conditions: Children, Youth and Family Worker – Patna Waterside and Dalmellington

- Salary is based on the MDS scale of £26,136 - £29,547. This is the full-time salary scale and actual salary will be pro rata to 0.5 FTE.
- Normal hours of work will be 18.75 hours per week. The nature of the work calls for a degree of flexibility, thus hours of work, which are as agreed with the line manager, may vary from day to day.
- The post is based at Patna and Dalmellington parish churches.
- There are 5 weeks paid leave (187.5 hours pro rata) in each full holiday year which runs from 1 January to 31 December. Entitlement is based on full weeks worked. There are also 9 statutory holidays. Entitlement increases after 5 years' service to 6 weeks (225 hours pro rata) annual paid leave
- Travel expenses by public transport or by use of own car at rates as agreed by your Employer and reviewed annually. Car mileage and allowance will be paid by the Employer in the first instance and re-claimed from the Presbytery on a quarterly basis.
- Membership of Disclosure Scotland PVG Scheme will be required.
- In order to comply with the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996, the successful applicant will be asked to provide document(s) confirming their eligibility to work in the United Kingdom.

Informal enquiries can be made to David Lewis by emailing iadl@btinternet.com

Closing Date: Monday, 29 August 2022

How to Apply

Applications should be sent by email to recruitment@churchofscotland.org.uk and must be received by 12 noon on the closing date.

Applications should comprise:

- A personal statement, outlining how your skills, experiences and personal qualities match the requirements of the role outlined in the job description. Please provide reference contact details for your last 2 periods of employment (this would normally be your direct line manager/supervisor). If you have had more than 2 employers in the last 3 years, please provide referee contact details for that period. References will not be contacted until later in the process.
- A full CV, including educational and professional qualifications alongside a full employment history showing positions held, responsibilities and relevant achievements.
- A personal information form, to be downloaded and attached.

Applications without a CV, personal statement and personal information form will not be taken forward in the process. Each document should be a maximum of 2 sides of A4.

For more information on any of our roles, please contact

recruitment@churchofscotland.org.uk