

St Elisabeth's, Eastbourne

Younger Children and Families Worker

(Part time, up to 16hrs per week)

We are looking for a passionate and enthusiastic Younger Children and Families Worker to further develop our work, who will:

- **Nurture faith** in children and parents we are already in contact with, building on the excellent foundation, teams and good practice that we have.
- **Establish new outreach** with young families who access our Church Centre
- **Equip, encourage and grow** the St Elisabeth's community in this ministry.

The successful candidate will have passion and love both for God and for children and families, and will be committed to journeying alongside them to help them become fully 'themselves in Christ.'



Closing Date: Midday Thursday 11th January 2018

Shortlisting: Thursday 11th January

Interviews: Friday 18th January

www.sainte.co.uk

INTRODUCTION FROM THE VICAR

Thank you for taking the time to consider this position. Let me provide a little detail about our Church community. We are a small community with big plans to reach out to our local area with the good news of Jesus in word and deed.

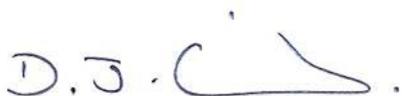
We are situated in the Old Town area of Eastbourne, an area with a very mixed demographic, from social housing to aspirational housing, nestling between the sea and the South Downs. Being set slightly away from the town centre, we have many residents who do not have easy access to town centre facilities. Within the parish boundary are three primary schools, meaning there are many children living in what we see as our principal mission area – our parish. We have a partnership with Eastbourne Foodbank and local charity, People Matter, who help individuals back into the workplace, which gives a flavour of some of the areas we seek to be proactive in. We very much seek to connect with our local community.

Our midweek toddler group, Totz, is bursting at the seams, and we see this as an area where God is acting. In the spirit of John 5:19 (“Jesus can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does”), we want to get behind his activity. The primary hope of the position is to help families who attend activities such as Totz to come and be part of the worshipping community. Early years are crucial in the development of the future adult and we, likewise, see this younger age as key to a child’s future Christian development. We want the children we have contact with to experience the wonder of God’s love and to explore his church. In the same way that mothers/carers pass on their values and beliefs to their children, we see this age as a valuable time to explore Christian belief with both parent/carer and child. This is more than ‘seed sowing,’ rather wanting to see both children and parents/carers to worship God.

As for the flavour of this church, we are an Anglican Church which holds a 'central' theological viewpoint, which proactively encourages the work of the Holy Spirit and where worship is expressed traditionally and contemporarily. St Elisabeth’s is rather unique. In 2004, due to significant building issues, we had to move from our old church building into the adjacent hall, which is now our church. We function as a church and community centre, with our worship space, alongside other areas of the building, being used by numerous community groups during the week, these being both Christian and secular in nature. On average, our Sunday mornings see around 80 people of all ages, attending one of our two morning services. Our PCC have agreed that children’s work is focused towards our more informal, 11am service. During the week, around thirty children and twenty adults attend our toddler group. Overall, our building sees around 900 people attending for different activities during the week. Lots of opportunity to build up relationships with people!

The old church building is still standing and being a huge derelict building, it has rather ‘over shadowed’ what we do. Thankfully, after fifteen years, the legal process to see its demolition has finally begun! In that sense, we see this position, alongside the demolition of the old church, as something of a fresh start in our parish story.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. J. C.' followed by a stylized flourish.

David Gillard
Vicar

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Younger Children and Families Worker (initially, 1 year contract).

Hours: Up to 16 hours per week (to be agreed at interview, with salary adjusted pro-rata. It could also be that hours are reduced over school holidays and extended in term time), including weekend work and some evenings. There may also be busy times in the year when the role may require more hours (e.g. when special events are being put on in festivals, holiday club etc.) and we would expect the post holder to take time off in lieu.

We see this as a significant position in our overall strategy as a church and would see the successful applicant as a key colleague to the vicar and PCC.

Salary: £9100, for 16 hrs per week, with four weeks leave and no more than six Sunday's off (pro rata).

Accountable to: Vicar and PCC of St Elisabeth's Church.

Role Purpose: To facilitate numerical growth in families with young children (e.g. 0-7) attending by

- **Nurturing faith** in children and parents we are already in contact with, building on the foundation, teams and good practice that we have.
- **Establish new outreach** with young families who may access our Church Centre.
- **Equip, encourage and grow** the St Elisabeth's community in this ministry.

Key Tasks:

1. Nurturing faith in children and parents/carers

- Developing our Totz programme on a Sunday morning, while working alongside our Kidz team - growing, equipping and supporting our excellent team of leaders.
- Developing ways of growing faith in families, primarily through pastoral conversations.
- Supporting the Thursday Totz team, building relationships with those who come
- Organising and running creative 'stepping stone' activities, primarily from our toddler group to Sunday mornings.

2. Establishing new outreach with children (not exclusively with infants, depending on particular gifts and experience) and families

- Connecting with existing outreach work
- Developing new opportunities with young families who access our church centre, especially using creative play
- Playing a significant role in developing the strategy for children and families' ministry, in liaison with the PCC, the vicar and other key leaders.
- Being an advocate for children's ministry within the wider vision of the church and PCC.
- Opportunity to create new community outreach projects

3. Working with the PCC to secure funding to see the position develop.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

This is initially a one year contract, while our PCC has undertaken to secure funding for subsequent years from internal and external sources. The job description, terms and conditions, together with the role will be formally reviewed after six and nine months, to 'fine tune' for future development. An enhanced DBS check will be carried out prior to appointment. There will be a probationary period of three months.

Pension: Workplace pension will be commenced at 1% of annual income.

Expenses: All relevant expenses will be repaid, but agreement must be obtained in advance of purchase.

Grievance procedure: copy available.

Disciplinary procedure: copy available.

References and eligibility to work in the UK:

Appointment is subject to the receipt of two referees that are satisfactory to the interviewing panel, of which one should be your present employer. You must also show proof of your ongoing eligibility to work in the UK.

Termination of contract:

Where the contract of employment is terminated by your employer you are entitled to the following notice, one week during the probationary period and therefore, one calendar month. If employment continues for more than two years then you are entitled to a week's notice for each year of service up to a maximum of 12 weeks.

If you terminate your employment, you must give notice of one calendar month.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Please write explaining how you feel you would fulfil the key tasks and person specification, alongside how you see yourself enhancing the ministry of St Elisabeth's. Please would you also provide details of two referees who we will seek to contact before interview, sending this to Revd David Gillard (david.gillard@sainte.co.uk) by midday Thursday 11th January, 2018. Shortlisting will occur on Thursday 11th January 2018. Interviews will take place on Thursday 18th January, 2018.

You are invited to come and worship with us on a Sunday morning and to contact the vicar for an informal visit of the church before interview.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

	Essential	Desirable
Key Qualities, Faith and Character	<p>A Christian in full sympathy with the theological ethos of St Elisabeth's.</p> <p>A faith which is deep, genuine and infectious, drawing others to Jesus.</p> <p>A character which, by God's grace and in God's strength, models Jesus to others, recognising that we are all a 'work in progress.'</p> <p>Good interpersonal skills and ability to be at ease with both children and adults.</p> <p>A natural love and passion for children and their families.</p> <p>Ability to work under their own initiative, to prioritise and to be 'self-starting' and to be able to motivate themselves and others.</p>	
Experience, understanding & skills	<p>A proven track record of work with children and their families.</p> <p>Ability to be creative in appropriate craft work – we see this as part of both our creativity and Godly play, while our wider parish values include developing links with creative groups.</p> <p>Some experience of 'discipleship' work with children within the church either in a formal or volunteer role.</p> <p>Experience of speaking 'up front' and group work with children.</p> <p>A thorough understanding of Safeguarding policies and the ability to work within and adhere to them.</p> <p>Competent IT skills (MS Office; social media).</p>	<p>Significant experience of church based children/families work either paid or voluntary.</p> <p>Experience of discipleship/outreach work with families.</p> <p>Able to drive</p>
Leadership	<p>Proven experience of leading others as well as being a team player.</p> <p>Ability to discern, grow and implement vision, and to inspire others towards this vision.</p> <p>Experience of organising events and managing projects.</p>	
Education	<p>Good standard of education in line with the requirements of the post</p>	

Note: There is a genuine occupational requirement that the job-holder is a Christian, comfortable with working within the spirituality of the church. Appointment is subject to satisfactory references and a satisfactory DBS disclosure at an enhanced plus level.