

St Christopher's, Walworth
Children, Youth & Families' Minister
including Children's Church, Youth Church and Messy Church

One year fixed-term contract (with possibility of renewal)

About St Christopher's

St Christopher's, Walworth is a joyful, passionate and diverse place that sits within the Open Catholic tradition of the Church of England.

Context

We're situated off the Old Kent Road and East Street, on the edge of Zone 1, 15 minutes' walk from Elephant & Castle (80 Tatum Street, SE17 1QR). Our community is complex and always surprising. Statistically we're one of the 5% most deprived parishes in the country, so our church has a really important role to play. St Christopher's is part of Pembroke House, a community centre which runs or hosts various social outreach projects (www.pembrokehouse.org.uk). The building was fully refurbished in 2009, and is light, warm, flexible and attractive.

Aims

The purpose of St Christopher's Children's Church and Youth Church is to enable their members to grow in the knowledge of the love of God the Father and of his Son Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

This knowledge is something each member can experience by exploring, deepening and articulating their relationship with Christ and of his body, the Church.

The Children's Church and Youth Church should combine elements of worship and teaching. They should be age-appropriate and allow individuals and the group to progress. The Children's Church and Youth Church should be rooted in the liberal Catholic tradition, and encourage active participation in the life, worship and work of St Christopher's Church.

Worship in the Children's and Youth Church should be imaginative, engaging, instructive and accessible.

Messy Church is church in and of itself, not simply a feeder for the Sunday morning congregation. It seeks to offer local people who attend projects at Pembroke House a new way of exploring the Christian faith, who might find it hard to access traditional church.



Background

St Christopher's employed a part time Youth and Children's Worker (who also set up our Messy Church) 2016-17; for the three years prior to that the children and youth were in the care of a succession of gifted Pastoral Assistants. In 2015 the Parochial Church Council pledged to support its children and young people as part of its Mission Action Plan.

Around 25 people under the age of 19 worship here each Sunday morning, drawn from a pool of just over 40, the great majority of whom were born in this country to parents who moved here from West Africa, particularly Nigeria.

During the Sunday service the Children's Church (ages 3 – 11) meets for activities, crafts, songs, storytelling and prayer on the theme of the Gospel for the day, and the Youth Church (ages 11 – 18) meets for discussion, food and fellowship. You will be expected to lead both these groups, one for around 25 minutes and the other for around 20 minutes. Children and teenagers are involved in planning and leading big services, such as our Harvest Festival, and Christmas and Easter services.

The Pathfinders' group (ages 8 – 13) meets once a term for focused discussion, activities, and games. They have enjoyed trips and socials together, including an overnight camping trip in June 2017.

Our Messy Church was planted in October 2016 and meets 4-6 pm on the first Sunday of each month, with a diverse congregation of 35 to 55 people. A team of 5 people meet monthly for planning, food and fellowship, and to grow as disciples. You will be expected to nourish Messy Church members through pastoral visits and to promote Messy Church among people who attend community events and projects at Pembroke House. You will require the sensitivity to recognise that these projects are for people of all faiths and none, and that the projects are not provided for the purpose of evangelism.

There are opportunities during the week for one-to-one mentoring sessions with children and young people who live locally, and for outreach playing football nearby.

Role Responsibilities

1. To co-ordinate and resource the Youth Church and Children's Church groups at St Christopher's

a) Plan sessions for the Youth Church and Children's Church which complement the theme of the adult worship for each week and which reflect the church's liturgical year.

b) Build relationships with the children's parents and encourage them to join in with church activities including volunteering.



c) To research and lead trips, socials and camps, especially for the Pathfinders and Youth Church, including fundraising if necessary and recruiting assistants.

d) Lead St Christopher's ministry to children and youth.

e) Engage with the Diocese of Southwark's Advisor on Children's Ministry and publicise training for volunteers provided by the Diocese.

2. To initiate, enable, manage and animate St Christopher's monthly Messy Church.

a) Encourage, equip, expand and nurture a Core Team of volunteers who will meet to plan sessions, help source and prepare materials and equipment, lead an activity and clear up.

b) Choose the menu for the Messy Church meal, shop within the given budget, cook, serve and wash up, or recruit volunteers to do all this.

c) Be responsible for co-ordinating the outreach for Messy Church in the parish, and across all Pembroke House projects through building relationships with people.

3. To manage budgets for materials, resources and trips out for the Children's Church, Youth Church and Messy Church.

4. To serve as an advocate at St Christopher's for children and young people and their families, and for Messy Church and its congregation.

5. To participate in St Christopher's Ministry Team, to attend the weekly Team meeting, to preach occasionally, to assist in the planning and delivery of major services and social events.

6. To represent St Christopher's and share in the spiritual and pastoral care of people (and particularly children and young people) who live within the parish, and those attending projects at Pembroke House, including children and young people with challenging behaviour and additional needs.

7. To undertake any other duties as may be required from time to time.

Supervision and Support

a) One hour's Line Management and Supervision will normally be provided weekly by the Vicar.

b) Training requirements may be discussed.

c) Out of pocket expenses will be met in full by the church and should be submitted to the Vicar. A float of £250 will be provided.



Days of work

Your normal days of work will be Wednesday to Sunday, although some flexibility will be required.

Hours of work

You will work 7 hours a day Wednesday to Saturday, 5 hours on Sundays except on Messy Church Sundays, and fit in an additional 2 hours per week. Some flexibility will be required. Total 35 hours per week.

Annual leave entitlement

You will be entitled to 25 days Annual Leave. Annual Leave should not be taken over Christmas or Holy Week/Easter without the agreement of the Vicar. Days in lieu may be taken for Statutory Public Holidays. Application for special leave must be in consultation with the Vicar.

Annual Retreat

It is expected that you will take a retreat. This should not be considered as leave. You will be entitled to 3 days' annual retreat.

Pension

A Pension will be available for this role.

Accommodation

A room is available to you in Pembroke House's 6-bedroom Residency, which is adjacent to the church and community centre, at the cost of £100 per week plus bills (which normally total £50/month).

Safeguarding

This post requires an Enhanced DBS certificate.

Probationary period

There will be a three-month probationary period.

Salary

You will be paid £25,000 per annum.

Person Specification

Essential

1. A practising Christian committed to mission.
2. Some experience of ministering to children and/or young people and/or families, working on your own initiative.
3. Experience of or demonstrable ability to work with children and young people with challenging behaviour and additional needs.
4. Experience of or demonstrable potential to lead and manage a team, including volunteers.
5. Ability to communicate effectively with a wide variety of people; excellent organisational and time-management skills; ability to identify priorities (and adjust them at short notice) and make sound decisions.
6. Ability to deal with conflict constructively.
7. Willingness to work flexible hours, including evenings and weekends and to be able to travel locally as required.
8. A clear understanding of implementing best practice in safeguarding and health and safety for young people.
9. Computer literate, including Excel, Word and email.
10. Experience of community-based ministry.
11. Able to problem solve and deliver under pressure

Desirable

1. At least three years proven experience of work with children and / or youth and a youth work qualification (JNC).
2. A member of the Anglican Church.
3. Experience of Messy Church.
4. Musical skills.
5. Able to relate effectively and sensitively to people of all ages.
6. Experience of managing a budget.

For an informal discussion of this role please contact the Vicar, Rev David Evans, on 020 7740 6382.

To apply, please send a CV and a letter saying what you would bring to the job and how you meet the person specification to david.evans@pembrokehouse.org.uk

Deadline for applications: 8 am on Monday 31 July

Initial interviews: Thursday 3 August

Subsequent interviews: on a Sunday, by arrangement

