

St Peter’s Church, Broadwater, Stevenage SG2 8AN

[www.stpeterstevenage.co.uk](http://www.stpeterstevenage.co.uk)

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**Position: Children (0-11) and families worker**

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| Hours | Part time: 16 hours a week. Flexible working  |
| Salary | £24,000 – 26,000 pro rata (£10,666 - £11,555 actual) |
| Holiday | 20 days pro rata plus bank holidays |
| Contract | This is a 5 year contract with 6 month probation period |
| Start | Flexible start between Easter and September |

**About St Peter’s**

We are a community church for all ages in the Broadwater neighbourhood of Stevenage. On Sunday mornings we have an informal style of worship lead by a band, and activities for children and youth. We have around 50-60 adults and 15 children on any Sunday. This was higher before covid, but we also have people who join us on-line. Mid-week we have a thriving toddler group, a tea and chat drop in for the more mature and a short communion service. Home groups meet weekly in people’s houses. Before the pandemic we also had Messy Church and ran several one-off events for all ages.

Our vision is:

To be a welcoming community that loves people of all ages, looks after them and helps them become more mature followers of Christ

​To be “A Furnace” where people meet with Jesus, where lives are transformed by his presence, where miracles happen and where people are sent out by the Holy Spirit on fire for God.

To be a serving church at the heart of the community.

The church is in the middle of the Broadwater neighbourhood of Stevenage. About one third of the houses are council houses, and we have relatively high levels of child poverty, with 30% of families being single parent families. We have good links with 2 community primary schools in the parish, and a good reputation for children’s work within the community.

**The Role of the children and families worker**

Like many churches, we have seen a decline in the number of families and children attending church on Sunday mornings, and children’s church is significantly smaller than it was 10 years ago. We are also aware of the changes in society and family life that mean Sunday morning is not ideal and we therefore need to find different ways to engage with our families.

We have run successful outreach activities for children for many years. We are now in the process of re-imaging our families work to bridge the gap between having a connection with the church and going on a journey of faith and becoming Christian. The families worker will have a key part in the discernment and outworking of this vision, along with the vicar and volunteers.

The Children and families worker would have the following roles:

1. **To Lead Stepping Stones.**

To lead this thriving toddler group with a good team of volunteer. To develop the group further, particular in the area of building relationships with the parents and carers who come.

1. **To discern, initiate and run new programmes and activities.**

To take people from toddlers and other outreach activities on a journey of faith. This will involve identifying the right activities/courses/socials etc and then running them. These will build deeper relationships, give opportunities to talk about faith and create a pathway to faith that leads to Alpha (or similar) and joining the church.

1. **To be involved with Messy Church/Café.**

To work with the vicar and other leaders in the re-launch of Messy Church in a new café style. This would be once a month after school.

1. **To be part of Sunday morning.**

To join St Peter’s and be part of the worshipping congregation on Sunday mornings. This would include being part of the children’s church leadership team, leading about once a month. There would be occasional involvement in an all-age services.

These specific roles may change over time as the vision develops, and as we are led by the Holy Spirit to see what Jesus is doing and join in with him.

**Person specifications**

Have a Christian faith, a relationship with Jesus and be open to the work of the Holy Spirit

Some experience of working with children and families is desirable

Good interpersonal skills, relate well to adults and children

Good team work skills and able to lead, encourage and inspire a team

Able to initiate new things, has ideas, and can listen to other people’s ideas

Flexibility - able to adapt and change as things progress, and work flexible hours

Familiar with social media and computers

Will become a member of St Peter’s church

There is a genuine occupational requirement that the job holder is a practising Christian

(as permitted under schedule 9, part 1 of the equality act 2010)

Appointment is subject to satisfactory references and an enhanced DBS check

To apply for the post, please send us your CV (with 2 referees) and a covering letter which includes why you are applying for the job and highlights any relevant experience.

Closing date is Thurs 31st March

Send to: stpeterstevenage@gmail.com

Interviews are planned for the week beginning Mon 4th April, but we can be flexible

If you would like an informal conversation or have any questions, then please call Revd Kate Sharples on 07505 459157