

Changing Market Towns Children's and Families' Missioner

Do you love working with children and their families, long to see them come to faith and grow in character, and get excited about pioneering new things? Are you ready to give yourself both to resourcing and refreshing existing children's activity and building new activity and connection as part of the mission of ancient parish churches reaching out in new ways? This job may be for you.

St Neots is a growing, thriving, and attractive Cambridgeshire market town with a historic heart that is rooted in the story of faith. In March 2020, two historic churches came together as the Parish of St Neots with Eynesbury - a single parish east of the Great Ouse (west of the river is the parish of Eaton Socon in the Diocese of St Albans), with two church primary schools, five (now six) other primary schools (all but two under the same academy trust), as well as a school for children with special needs and both the town's secondary schools.

Within the Changing Market Towns (CMT) project, we are looking for a colleague to join the St Neots town team, reaching out particularly into longer-established areas of the town (some of which include pockets of substantial deprivation), complementing the Fresh Expression work that has been happening in recent years in the new developments at Loves Farm and now also Wintringham Park.

You will be joining a team that includes a Team Rector who arrived in 2020, experienced and new assistant clergy, accredited lay ministers, a newly appointed CMT Youth Pioneer, and a CMT Operations Manager, all playing their part alongside other town churches in bringing Christian faith to new generations. Further details on the Diocesan context and the aims of the CMT team can be found at: <https://www.elydiocese.org/church-in-action/changing-market-towns/>

Summary

Job Title: Children's and Families' Missioner

Salary: £27,000 for a full-time position of 35 hours (including some evening and weekend work), with membership of the (non-contributory) Church Workers' Pension Fund

Responsible to: The Revd Paul Hutchinson, Team Rector, as line manager

Employer and location: The Parochial Church Council of St Neots with Eynesbury, with a working base at the Parish Office, Church Street, St Neots.

Initial three year contract (Fixed Term), subject to six months successful probation.

Job Description

1. Work under the line management of the Team Rector, in partnership with the CMT Youth Pioneer and others, paid and voluntary, as part of the overall mission of the parish and of CMT, helping to lead change and increase the focus on mission among children and families, and developing a renewed and integrated vision for work among children and families in the parish.
2. Engage widely and confidently with the community to develop and lead new family orientated events to reach out and minister to new adults and children, engaging and helping to train others to join in mission and service, helping enquirers and new believers on the journey to faith, and growing children and their families as disciples of Christ.
3. Develop and lead, when the time is right, fresh expressions of church for children and their families and after-school and/or holiday clubs, so that engagement with children and families happens throughout the year; while gathering, enabling, and equipping new leaders and volunteers who will ensure the sustainability of such work beyond the duration of the CMT project.
4. Support, develop, and (where appropriate) lead existing family orientated activities such as St Neots Children's Church & St Neots Play Church to increase effectiveness and maximise the impact they have; exploring also links that remain in St Neots Choir and from other recent activities at both parish churches.
5. Build on existing relationships with the two Church Schools (Eynesbury and St Mary's) and re-establish relationships with other primary schools between river and railway – assisting with and/or helping to develop patterns for Collective Worship and RE as much as circumstances permit.
6. Identify and develop opportunities for parent/carer support groups, whether in connection with schools or otherwise.
7. Demonstrate God's love by enhancing the general well-being of children and their families within the parish, while building contacts and relationships with others engaged in similar outreach.
8. Take part in regular parish team meetings - and be committed to praying and listening, joining in God's mission and the creative work of the Holy Spirit.
9. Work with the Parish Safeguarding Officer and the Operations Manager (as Safeguarding Administrator) to ensure that all Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment requirements for children's and families' ministry are complied with; maintaining attendance records and risk assessments, where required.
10. Participate in the ongoing CMT training and development programme (including occasional residentials when these are possible) as part of a learning community with Diocesan officers and other co-workers.

There is an occupational requirement for the person to be a practising Christian. It is expected that the person will be willing to share wholeheartedly in the life and worship of an Anglican parish of a central-to-catholic range of traditions.

It is not expected that the person will be present at worship every Sunday, but it is likely that such attendance will be necessary on the majority of Sundays.

Person Specification

The core skills of understanding fresh expressions of church, evangelism, culture change and training are required for this as for all CMT positions, as are good interpersonal skills and the ability to work flexibly and comfortably with paid and volunteer colleagues. In addition, this post has the following requirements:

1. Experience of several of the following, with an evident capacity to engage quickly with the remainder: working with schools (including collective worship); working with children & families; leading All-Age / family-centred worship; working within fresh expressions of church or similar outreach initiatives; running, motivating, and inspiring teams of volunteers; accompanying people from initial contact / support groups into becoming disciples of Christ.
2. A demonstrable love of Christ, with a desire to serve the mission of the Church that is enthusiastic about enabling spiritual and numerical growth.
3. A capacity to think creatively and strategically, and to develop a sustainable vision for children's and families' ministry.
4. An understanding of children's spirituality and of strategies to develop that among those coming new to faith.
5. An ability to embrace change and to support its implementation across an organisation.
6. Sound written and oral communication skills, including contemporary social media and electronic communication skills; and the ability to communicate effectively with different audiences.
7. Good organisation skills and clear self-motivation, with an ability to prioritise tasks and to work to tight timescales.
8. A thorough understanding of the requirements of good safeguarding and safer recruitment, and of how to handle confidential and sensitive information.
9. A driving licence and own transport (insured for work purposes) - essential both for efficient networking within the parish and for occasional travel to Ely and elsewhere in the Diocese.

Application Process

Please complete the application form in full. A CV will not be accepted as a substitute. Completed applications should be returned by email to markettowns@elydiocese.org and by the closing date published on the Diocese of Ely website.

Please use the application form to demonstrate – with relevant examples – how your skills and experience meet the requirements of the role for which you are applying. The selection panel will use this as the basis for deciding whether to invite an applicant for interview.