

# Job Description



## Changing Market Towns Children and Families Missioner - with a particular responsibility for schools and families outreach

Job Title	Children and Families Missioner
Salary	£16,200 p.a. (£27k pro rata)
Hours	21 hours per week (60% of FT), to include some evening and weekend work Membership of The Church Workers Pension Fund (non-contributory)
Contract term	Initial 3 years (fixed-term)
Reports to	Incumbent of Ramsey (presently Rev'd Iain Osborne)
Based in	Ramsey, Hunts.
Employer	Parochial Church Council of St Thomas à Becket, Ramsey

### Summary

Help a lively parish church evolve, so it reaches out better to the families and children of our parish.

### Role description

#### *Objective*

The post is created as part of the Diocese of Ely Changing Market Towns (CMT) programme (for more information, see [Diocese of Ely | Changing Market Towns \(elydiocese.org\)](http://elydiocese.org)). A key part of the programme's vision is to see 800 new people involved in the life of churches across the small and medium sized towns of the Diocese, within the next five years, as well as helping these people grow as disciples of Christ. To help achieve this, we are praying for at least two fresh expressions of church to grow up alongside our inherited patterns of worship.

Within those larger goals, the specific objective for this post is to inspire, collaborate, model, train and pray-into-life new ways to minister to families and children, within the life of St Thomas à Becket church, Ramsey, so that the church as a whole grows larger, deeper, younger and more outward-looking.

It is envisaged that, over time, the church will increasingly be able to support surrounding village congregations as growth develops.

## *Responsibilities*

The successful candidate will do ministry themselves; but even more important will be to enable others.

- *Inspire*. Foster a growing ambition and confidence. Encourage those who work within our existing areas of strength (e.g., Toddler Time). Invite others into work with children and families, sharing vision and building confidence. Develop new ministries and raise the profile of children / families within congregational life.
- *Minister* to children and families through local schools, within our Sunday-morning congregations, through fresh expressions, holiday clubs and other new initiatives. Making new disciples is the key goal, not simply increasing Sunday morning attendance.
- *Collaborate*. Work as an integral member of a cohesive Ramsey church leadership group (ordained or lay, paid or volunteer). Work with others locally who have a heart for Christian mission and / or for young people - to include schools, community development partners (e.g., the Ramsey Neighbourhood Trust), other local churches. Play an active role in the CMT project, collaborating with diocesan officers and other co-workers.
- *Model and train*. Building others' skills and confidence is central to this role, so more people can do more. This will involve hands-on involvement, setting expectations of competence, teaching / mentoring, helping volunteers to find other appropriate learning resources. Hands-on work will be appropriate in some cases, particularly to launch new ventures, but the aim should always be to develop a capable local team.
- *Pray*. While the church is open to co-delivering children / family work with non-church community partners, the post-holder needs a clearly Christian spirituality and theology of ministry, which inspires their activities, and which they can communicate as appropriate.
- *Build*. As part of our wider goal to develop fresh expressions of church, contribute to St Thomas' main existing fresh expression, Wednesday Night Live. Continue to build that group's collaborative leadership capacity so it moves towards becoming self-sustaining.
- *Learn*. Participate in on-going training and development programme as part of a learning community with other development workers within the Changing Market Towns team. It is hoped that close relationships will especially grow with Huntingdon and Chatteris, the two closest towns within the Changing Market Towns project.
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of different initiatives and share key learning points with others.
- Ensure that Diocesan Safeguarding Procedures are followed in activities the post-holder is involved with (supported by the Parish Safeguarding Officer).

All CMT workers are expected to contribute to a culture where mission in word and action become part of the life of every parish. This includes

managing, supporting and recruiting volunteers, encouraging every member ministry, and helping engagement with training provided by the Diocese at all levels.

### *Background*

The Ramseys and Upwood include the town of Ramsey (pop. around 9,000) and villages of Ramsey St Mary's (1,700) and Upwood (1,200). The ministry team currently includes the Team Rector (Rev'd Iain Osborne, in post since mid-2020), one other CMT staff, an LLM, seven ALMs plus capable churchwardens and a Director of Music.

St Thomas à Becket church, Ramsey, had a pre-lockdown USA of around 90, including a few families. (So far, we're back to around 65.) The church has a strong and long-established toddlers' group which has remained active through the pandemic. A long-standing Sunday School lapsed with lockdown. The church is used to a mix of worship styles, including an informal family service at least one Sunday per month.

The benefice includes three primary schools, with whom we had strong links before Covid. As well as church visits and school services, clergy visited for school worship, also an ecumenical Open the Book group. Next to the church stands a secondary school (Abbey College) with considerable potential for developing connections, but limited church contact to date.

### **Person Specification**

Learning is an important part of this role. The parish will be happy to support the right candidate in undertaking further training (perhaps the Children and Families stream of Ely Diocese's Licensed Lay Ministry training - see <https://www.elydiocese.org/church-roles/llms/> for more information). Otherwise, the post-holder will belong to the learning community of CMT staff.

So we expect that there will be some 'growing into' the role. For this reason, while we are recruiting against the following criteria, none of the criteria are 'essential' (except being a baptised Christian, with a track record of church membership). We will assess applications in the round.

### *Skills*

- Good interpersonal skills and the ability to work effectively with a range of stakeholders, including volunteers;
- Ability to build skills by training or mentoring;
- Good spoken and written communications, and the ability to communicate effectively with different audiences;
- Confidence with common office IT systems, and social media;
- Ability to balance teamwork with entrepreneurial imagination;
- Knowledge of safeguarding and confidentiality requirements;
- Ability to handle confidential and sensitive information.

### *Experience*

- Track record of ministry to children and their families. Experience of working in or with schools would be an advantage;
- Leadership experience, preferably in recruiting, supporting and developing volunteers.

#### *Personal qualities*

- It is a requirement of the job that you be a baptised Christian, with a track-record of church membership (an advantage if this was in a CofE parish). It would be a big advantage if you were willing to belong to the church family of St Thomas à Becket, Ramsey;
- Confidence in communicating Christian faith to a range of people;
- Training in theology, Bible, mission / evangelism or youth-work would be an advantage;
- Self-awareness and ability to reflect;
- Personal warmth and ability to work well with a wide diversity of people;
- Means of travelling around our rural benefice.

#### **Application Process**

Please complete the application form in full. A Curriculum Vitae (CV) will not be accepted as a substitute.

Completed applications should be returned by email to [markettowns@elydiocese.org](mailto: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. This Job Description sets out the qualities and experience being sought, and the selection panel will use this as the basis for deciding whether to invite an applicant for interview.