

# Children and Families Worker

~ Reaching the Next Generation ~

*Discover more about our vision for children and families ministry and how you can turn our vision into reality!*

## Why do we need one?

September 2018 may seem a distant memory but it was then that we held our Parish Vision Day. During our time together we reflected on where we want to be as a parish, and identified some practical steps we need to take as a church family to get there together. The following are all statements made by the various groups:

- Grow the congregation, particularly young families
- Establish a church-backed mums/tots group
- Dedicated children and youth worker – paid
- Set up a new play group (mums/tots) with one person having responsibility
- Development of youth activities; i.e. youth pastor
- Provision for teens – social and worship
- Develop worship styles including family all age, praise and play, children's church...not just on a Sunday!

The need to recruit someone to work specifically with children was highlighted again and again. We also recognised that over the past years our efforts to reach and engage with young families and children has been under-resourced. There has been a heart felt desire to invite families to join us, but we have struggled to provide something suitable.

In *What Makes Churches Grow?* Bob Jackson highlights the importance of churches being intentional about engaging with children and families. He points out a number of specific things that can help churches grow when it comes to children and families. The

main one is to **improve the Sunday groups** by improving the range and quality of what is offered. Another thing he encourages churches to do is to **offer all-age worship** since some parents find coping with the children for an hour in a church service, however good, too stressful and they stay away, however a good well-presented format can attract families.

Two other things he mentioned were: **provide good leadership**; and, **employ paid staff**. Leadership is foundational to the growth of the church. Children's ministry and All Age worship are particularly dependant on the quality of leadership. If we want to improve the quality of what we can offer then we need to invest.

Our desire is to reach out to the numerous young families in our parish and recruiting a designated worker recognises that to do families ministry well requires a specialist skill-set and time which we do not currently possess.

In the Diocese of Lichfield churches which invested in employing families and children's ministers grew and were the heart of the diocesan turnaround in *both* child and adult attendance.

## Some statistics!

In a sobering study published for General Synod back in February it was noted that 38% of parish churches similar to ours have no 0-16's and 68% of them have 5 or fewer 0-16's.

When we look at those churches with 25 or more under 16s it is notable that 56% employ a youth, children or families worker compared to 4.5% of churches who have fewer than 25 under 16's.

76% of Christians said that they came to faith under the age of 18! When asked at what age they came to faith, the results showed:

- 40% before the age of 5
- 16% between 5 & 10
- 20% between 11 & 18

## Our vision

We are passionate about seeing children know Jesus for themselves and the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives as they grow in faith as disciples.

Our vision is to see children and families...



...welcomed into our church family,



...grow as they encounter Jesus for themselves,



...share their faith and deepen their relationship with God



...serve others as they become equipped to live out their faith, playing their part in God's kingdom.

This vision is for babies, toddlers, young and older children alike!

## What will they do?

We're looking to recruit a part-time Children and Families Outreach Worker who will focus primarily on those aged 0-11, which make up 12% of our parish population.

Whilst they will be involved with Sunday worship and leading our Sunday morning children's ministry, a significant part of their role is going to be creating fresh new opportunities for engaging with children and their parents who live in our parish but who do not come to church on a Sunday. This will include leading our annual children's parties, such as the Pumpkin Party, but also developing new ministry initiatives that take place both mid-week and weekend.

Some examples of this would be a midweek toddler group, pram service, praise and play, Messy Church, *Who Let the Dads Out?* and so on.

The purpose of the role is to increase our ministry capacity and move us forwards in accomplishing our parish vision, investing in the future as we reach the next generation.

## An example: Pre-School Praise



A few years ago, St Mary's, Prestwich launched *Pre-School Praise*, a short time of prayer and praise – planned with toddlers in mind – followed by refreshments for parents and toddlers. It runs weekly on Thursday mornings during school term from 10.00am – 11.00am and regularly attracts between 70-80 people. Parents and carers find a warm welcome at the church and gather to sing songs, say prayers, hear Bible stories, enjoy playing together and eat amazing cakes!

## Your thoughts...

### Hilary Hamblett writes...

*"Four generations of my family have attended St John's, three of which have attended Sunday School here in its various forms over the years. With competing demands in today's modern busy world, it is important to me, as a grandmother, that, as we face the future, the church needs skilled workers to continue the good work done by its predecessors. To this end it would be wonderful to have the support of a Children and Families Worker to continue to inspire young people in the Christian faith."*

### Jean & Phil Makins write...

*"We would like to introduce ourselves as Jean and Phil Makins and as parishioners and grandparents of two little boys, who were baptised at St John's we are most eager to welcome a Children's & Family Outreach Worker. It was because our grandchildren were*

*baptized here that we started to attend and we are now regular members and participate in the many excellent activities that are arranged throughout the year. From our own experience one possibility for the Children's Outreach Worker would be to start with the many families of children that have been baptized here. We see this position as very much planning for the future at St John's."*

## How will we pay for one?

To employ a Children & Families Outreach Worker we need to increase our regular giving by £10,000.

This may sound like a lot of money but it's equivalent to...

...**10** people giving **£20** per week

*or*

...**20** people giving **£10** per week

*or*

...**40** people giving **£5** per week

*or*

...**80** people giving **£2.50** per week

*Please also Gift Aid your giving if you're able since this allows us to claim 25p for every £1 you give at no extra cost to you!*

## Gift Day 2020

On **3<sup>rd</sup> May** we are holding a special gift day when we're inviting you to complete the form over the page and return it, putting it in the collection plate or handing it to Adele, our treasurer.

Over the next weeks please prayerfully consider how you will support financially our children and family ministry.



## *Children & Families Outreach Worker*

# Gift Day

## Pledge Card

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### -----Review of Giving-----

I will increase my giving by...

- |                                       |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> £20 weekly   | <input type="checkbox"/> £100 monthly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> £10 weekly   | <input type="checkbox"/> £50 monthly  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> £5 weekly    | <input type="checkbox"/> £25 monthly  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> £2.50 weekly | <input type="checkbox"/> £10 monthly  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____  |                                       |

### -----Gift Day-----

I can give a one-off gift of £  towards the cost of employing a Children and Families Outreach Worker.