

GKCHURCH

GOUDHURST & KILNDOWN

Youth and Children's Pastor

St Mary's Goudhurst with Christ Church, Kilndown - gkchurch.org.uk

Part-time or Full-time



Overview

We are looking for one full-time or two part-time people with a heart to help us continue the growth and development of our ministry alongside our young people, their families and their schools.

GK Church

St Mary's, Goudhurst with Christ Church, Kilndown, is known as GK Church. Based on the Kent/Sussex borders we are a church family who value unity, with a particular commitment to enabling our young people to grow and mature as Christ's disciples. We're in a season where we believe God is asking us to go deeper with Him, building stronger foundations.

Vision for our young people

We aspire that each young person would be like the trees in Jeremiah 17 'planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream.'

We want the GK church family to be a place where our children and teenagers are enabled to:

- grow deeper in their relationship with God
- extend their Bible knowledge and application
- explore and make use of spiritual gifts for the benefit of the whole Body of Christ
- have fun and build faithful long-lasting godly friendships
- feel secure as worshippers, expectant as people of prayer and equipped to actively take part in God's mission
- continue as disciples into adulthood and learning at every age to be disciple-makers themselves.

Background

Our previous Lay Minister working in this area left to be ordained in the summer of 2021. Together with a sizeable volunteer group, over the past few years we have:

- Built up six Sunday groups for the various age groups of children and teenagers
- Launched Blend, a weekly after-school club for secondary pupils
- Run two residential weekends for young people
- Led collective worship and other groups in local schools
- Run a Friday evening youth group
- Set up the Weald Family Hub (with a paid employee) working with other churches to provide subsidised professional mental health counselling and mentoring for children in local schools.

We have contact with over 100 young people spread across the age range of 0-18, with regular weekly participation of 45-50 of them pre lockdown. In non Covid times, church on Sunday would be buzzing with groups gathering, friendships and faith forming. During this last year, we have found it challenging to engage these numbers online, and now are focused on rebuilding and regathering.



About this role

This is a full time role which could be undertaken by one person, or two people on a part time basis.

We are looking for additional capacity in the leadership team to help us deepen and enrich as a church in this area. This person / these two people would advocate for all those aged 18 and under, encouraging committed followers of Jesus.

The post holder(s) will bring to the role an understanding of the interconnection between school, church and home in the spiritual development of young people.

The task of growing disciples is huge. We recognise that one full-time role (or two part-time) will not be able to personally undertake external mission (including schools work), internal growth and development (Sunday groups, youth work), catering for newborns to 18-year-olds, and supporting their families too. So this person / these two people need to keep building teams of others, including other leaders – encouraging a mindset that this is something we are all part of, can all contribute to.

In this next season of the life of GK Church we have in mind:

- a clear focus on 'Who is our God?' – recognising the character of God and being able to articulate that
- allowing God to dig and establish deep foundations in us as individuals, and as the Body of Christ

- sharing our life as church like a camp fire, emboldened to share our stories of faith with one another and enabling those on the edges to look in and move towards the centre as they feel ready
- being a church where one by one people will say "I am the Lord's"
- being a beacon, one of many in the area, to shine Christ's light in the world.



As we discern together whether you could be called to enabling this growth and development of work that has already been started, we will be looking for:

- a team player – someone who is confident to offer their gifts into the mix, aware that they are not meant to have all the gifts required so that there is interdependence with others in the Body of Christ, able to learn from others, good at creating strong teams amongst volunteers, working in a collegiate manner, and happy to work under the authority of a local church structure.
- authenticity – you may be zany and energetic, or thoughtful and introverted – or hate these sorts of descriptions – but you need to be authentic.

- communication – within the leadership team, the volunteers in Sunday teams, with our young people, our parents, our community contacts, you will need to be a good communicator. Where are we at? What's happening? Where are we going? How are we listening? With the bible as the source of your teaching, you will be adept at bringing to life this culture of communication among everyone involved.
- ability to lead young people – this could take various forms, for example regular Sunday groups or bespoke weekend away sessions; giving talks or sermons that speak clearly and powerfully to young people; enhancing collective worship in schools & school lunchtime sessions.
- someone who is gifted, or growing in gifting, as one or more of the following: an evangelist, a teacher, a mentor.
- ability to encourage, coach and enable other leaders of young people, with gentleness, encouragement and kindness, listening to them as much as offering guidance or advice.
- missional thinking – can you express clearly that there is a God, who loves us, is for us? Can you share that in a classroom, a Christmas service, with a bereaved child? Are you able to see where your preference in mission lies and encourage other expressions of mission to be nurtured as well?
- a learner – we are in this together. God allows us to join as we are and moves us on with Him. We need someone who is comfortable constantly learning, theologically reflecting, and who will enjoy doing so in a supportive environment.
- evidence that you are secure in Christ – that you nurture this relationship and make your own discipleship journey a priority in the rhythm of your life.

There are many more skills that we'd welcome: technical know-how, admin proficiency, safeguarding expertise, apologetics, and lots more that we've not thought of but God has.

If you are thinking of applying, we would want to hear from you:

- How your heart for ministry among children and young people has evolved and grown;
- Whether you are a doer or a facilitator or both;
- What age groups you most naturally connect with;
- Your experience in growing teams and encouraging others in ministry;
- How you can contribute to our vision and help us to enlarge it;
- Your level of expertise in the area of Safeguarding.

Terms and conditions

Salary: The salary for this position if full time will £25,000 per annum.

Working hours: The post holder will need to be able to work evenings and weekends on a regular basis.

Annual leave: 25 days a year plus Bank Holidays

Reporting to: the role will report to the Vicar, Revd Rachel Robertson.

Probationary period: 3 months

Notice period: 2 months

Due to the nature of the role, this post has a Genuine Occupational Requirement for applicants to be a practising Christian.

For an informal discussion about the role and your potential application, please contact the Vicar, Rachel Robertson on 07546 038877.

To apply please send your CV with a covering letter outlining why you are applying and what you would bring to the post to becky.addis@gkchurch.org

The closing date for applications is Friday 29th October 2021.

Interviews will be held in the week of 8th November 2021.

