

Volunteering in Children's and Youth Ministry @ St Botolph's

Thank you so much for volunteering to be part of the **Children's and Youth Ministry Team** at St Botolph's. We are so grateful that you are willing to serve in this way. This is such an important and vital area of ministry in our church. We hope that as you serve you will find it rewarding and pray that you will grow in your own faith.

Our Aim:

To be Good News for Children and Young people in Barton Seagrave (and beyond).

Although there are many individual areas of ministry and individual teams within the **Children's and Youth Ministry**, we are one team and have the same common goals which are in line with St Botolph's Church Vision Statement, to be 'Good News for Barton Seagrave'.

This document outlines our vision and goals for the **Children's and Youth Ministry** and also explains the expectations for all leaders. We think this ministry is REALLY vital and we want to serve the Children and Young People as best as we can.

Please could you read this document and sign the attached form to say you agree with what is outlined below.

Vision

²⁸ He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. ²⁹ To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me (Col 1:28-29).

These verses from Paul's Letter to the Colossians summarise our vision for the Children's and Youth Ministry at St Botolph's. The Following statements outline what we hope to achieve and recognise (as Paul does in the verses above) that none of this is possible in our own strength but only through the work of Christ in us.

- To help children and young people to:
 - come to know and love Jesus as Saviour & Lord
 - grow to maturity in their faith
 - become active, serving members of the church

- To equip children and young people to:
 - be lifelong followers of Jesus
 - effectively share their faith with their friends and family

- live 'in the world' but not be 'of the world'
- In all these things to work in partnership with parents and carers – recognising that the primary responsibility for spiritual growth of the children and young people lies with their parents.
- For the time children and young people spend in their ministry groups to be the highlight of their week.

Values and Qualities, we think are important for those serving in St Bots Children's and Youth ministry...

FAITHFUL. God's first call on us is to be faithful to Him.

No matter what our gifts, skills, experience or Christian maturity, whether we think we can do the role we have been called to with children and young people, or not, God calls us first of all to be faithful:

- Praying for the young people
- Seeking to teach them the Good News of Jesus from the Bible to the best of our ability.
- Making the time we have with the young people the best it can be
- In our own walk with Jesus

AVAILABLE. Committing regularly to attend the sessions agreed.

Children and young people value consistent relationships highly. It takes time to build these relationships and their trust. Not turning up for a session without notice or explanation can leave them feeling let down. It can leave us with safeguarding issues with regards to ratios of young people to leaders. It can also make it difficult for the person planning the session if they are expecting and planning for a certain number of leaders.

TEACHABLE. Make every effort to attend training

No matter how much experience we have in any given area there is always more we can learn. In order to better serve the young people we have in our care we need to be constantly working on how we can improve:

- Our teaching and explaining of the Bible
- Our relationships with the young people and their parents
- Our safeguarding of the young people and leaders

- **Teamwork**

Teamwork is vitally important to children's and youth ministry and requires effort and humility, especially as we all lead busy lives.

It works at a number of levels in our relationships with other leaders:

- Across the whole of the **Children's and Youth Ministry**
- Within the specific area of Ministry e.g. 'Make & Play'
- Within the small team e.g. 'Finders'

- Within the teaching teams e.g. who you are teamed up with to run a session
- With parents and carers

We need to treat other leaders and parents with grace and respect so that we honour God through these relationships.

- **Godliness**

When working with children and young people, what it means to live as a Christian is *caught* just as much as it is *taught*. It is important therefore, as with any area of ministry, that we have an eye to our own godliness (this doesn't mean that we are perfect nor that we give the impression we are!). However, it is reflected in our own regular personal prayer, Bible reading, church attendance and relationships with others in our church family and teams.

- **Prayer**

Prayer should be at the centre of all we do in the **Children's and Youth Ministry** at St Bots. It should bind it all together and be a regular part of everything we do. None of the above is possible without a commitment to regular prayer.

One of the most valuable and important things you can do as a volunteer in the children's and youth ministry is to pray for the young people.

Safeguarding

St Botolph's takes the safety of everyone within the church very seriously and expects that everyone will work within the Church safeguarding policy. In particular, the Church expects anyone who becomes aware of a safeguarding risk or of actual abuse, to immediately raise this with your Parish Safeguarding Officer or the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) or Assistant DSA.

Those who work with children, young people and/or adults who are vulnerable should have a commitment to:

- Treat individuals with respect
- Recognise and respect their abilities and potential for development
- Working in ways that meet and develop the personal, spiritual, social and pastoral needs
- Promote their rights to make their own decisions and choices, unless it is unsafe
- Ensure their welfare and safety
- Confidentiality, never passing on personal information, except to the person you are responsible to, unless there are safeguarding issues of concern which **must always** be reported to the person named above or to the Police or Social Services in an emergency.

As a volunteer:

- Prioritise the oversight of children, young people and vulnerable adults

- Read the parish's safeguarding policy and know how to respond to, report and record any concerns you may have about a child, young person or vulnerable adult
- Read and implement any other PCC policies or guidelines relevant to your work with children, young people and vulnerable adults
- To represent the needs and views of the child, young person or vulnerable adult to the PCC
- Maintain a link with parents and carers
- Undertake any other work that has been agreed and is seen to be appropriate
- Undertake diocesan safeguarding training every three years

Safeguarding documentation check list

(Instructions, documents & links to these are all available at www.stbots.church)

- Complete the Church Of England Confidential Declaration Form
- Complete DBS online application
- Read St Botolph's Safeguarding Policy
- Read & complete the St Botolph's Volunteer Agreement form (*Please return p.5-6 & retain p.1-4 for your own records*)
- Complete Peterborough Diocese C0 & C1 safeguarding training modules (available online)

Please return completed forms to Martin Adamson c/o St Botolph's Church Office

Thank you for your commitment to the contents of this document. It will help us to work together as a team as we disciple our children and young people and help to ensure their safety.

We pray that you would find being involved in this ministry a great blessing.

Children's and Youth Ministry Volunteer agreement form

Name

Name of role

Email

Phone No (preferably mobile)

Working practice declaration

- Whenever possible I agree to give sufficient notice if I am unable to attend a session, I am due to be at.
- I will endeavour to attend training when it is offered
- I commit to praying for the children/young people I am serving
- I will try (with God's help) to model godly living (not perfection) to the children/young people I am serving

Safeguarding Declaration

- I will always endeavour to treat children, young people and vulnerable adults with respect. I will work within St Botolph's Safeguarding Guidelines. I will complete training in children's or young people's work and safeguarding children when offered. I will discuss any concerns about children or adults with the Parish Safeguarding Officer or the Rector.
- I confirm that I have read & understood St Botolph's Church Safeguarding Policy. If at any time I do not feel able to comply with the Diocesan and Parish Policy on Safeguarding Children I will withdraw from children's or youth work in the parish.
- I confirm that I have completed the safeguarding related paperwork listed above.

Signed

Date

