

## St John's Church, Neville's Cross, Durham

### Children, Youth and Families Worker

<i>Location</i>	St John's Church, Neville's Cross, Durham, DH1 4DU
<i>Employing Body</i>	The Parochial Church Council of St John's, Neville's Cross.
<i>Responsible to</i>	The Rector of the United Benefice of St Margaret's Durham, St John's Neville's Cross and St Edmund's Bearpark.
<i>Hours of Work</i>	37.5 hours per week, with willingness to work flexible hours including evenings and weekends (negotiable).
<i>Annual Leave</i>	30 days, including statutory holidays.
<i>Support</i>	Office space and equipment/ resources; a supportive working environment.
<i>Salary</i>	£25,000 p.a., with pension option.
<i>Probation Period</i>	Six months.
<i>Length of Contract</i>	2 years fixed term, with expectation of extension, subject to funding.
<i>Start Date</i>	January 2024 (with possibility of beginning earlier).

### Job Summary

We are looking for someone with vision and enthusiasm who can work with us to enable, support and grow our existing Christian ministry with children, young people and families, in both the church and the wider community in our post-Covid world; and to explore new potential for outreach.

### Our History & Present Context



St Margaret's, Durham

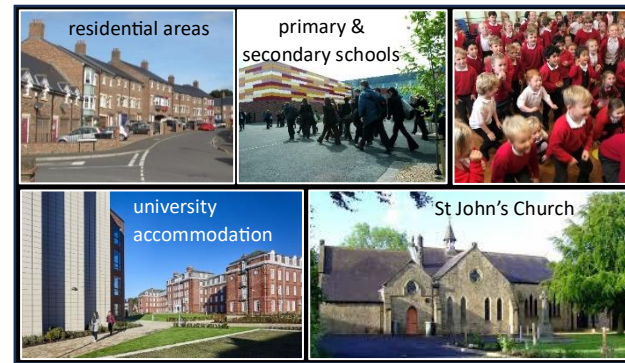


St Edmund's, Bearpark

St John's Church was built in the 1890s as a mission church in the parish of St Margaret's, to serve the developing residential area in Neville's Cross on the edge of Durham City. The church later became a separate parish.

St Edmund's has recently become part of the United Benefice and is in the former colliery village of Bearpark, also on the edge of the city.

The three churches have a range of traditions, and the benefice aims to have a broad and inclusive approach in its theology and styles of worship, and welcomes people from all church backgrounds and none.



Neville's Cross is an area with very low deprivation indices and a mixed community, including families, professionals, university academics, and students.

The 2021 Census showed that for Neville's Cross Ward almost two thirds of the

population is aged under 30 years and of that number half are aged under 20 years. The immediate area has two primary schools, a secondary school, a post-graduate university college, and a development of purpose-built student accommodation. There is another primary school in Bearpark which, conversely, is in the most disadvantaged 10% of parishes in the country.

The three churches have an existing range of activities for children and young people, but the area's demographic is encouraging us to explore and expand ways of sharing the gospel of Christ; and of engaging with and integrating children, young people and families more fully into the life of our church communities.



St John's currently employs a part time Music Missioner, who works in both Neville's Cross and Bearpark, whose remit includes overseeing aspects of musical worship in the life of St John's; and using music to build and nurture relationships in the wider community, expressing the good news of the kingdom of God.

The church is also currently engaging with the CMS Partnership for Missional Church project and has been focusing on discernment of our missional gifts and their potential.

( <https://churchmissionsociety.org/partnership-for-missional-church/> )

## Children, Youth and Families Worker: Principal Responsibilities

- To coordinate and develop existing activities, and encourage the church in nurturing faith and further developing our provision for children, young people and families in St John's, Neville's Cross, and in partnership across the benefice.
- To explore the potential for new ways of outreach in the community, developing opportunities for evangelism and discipleship alongside members of the church and the wider benefice. This may include introducing new shapes or patterns of worship.
- To work in partnership with the Music Missioner in developing opportunities, projects and initiatives that involve children, young people and families.
- To encourage a holistic approach to outreach that includes activities that may involve things that are educational, art or craft based, physical, musical, as well as those that are faith based.
- To maintain and develop existing links with the schools in the community.
- To maintain active links and involvement with the Diocese of Durham.
- To develop and maintain involvement with relevant networks, organisations, agencies, and wider initiatives.
- To pursue working ecumenically including our partnership with the LOL youth ministry (Living Out Love – <https://loldurham.org.uk/>).
- To maintain a creative working liaison with the Rector, clergy, lay ministers, church wardens, and other leaders in the benefice.
- To recruit and support volunteers and to ensure compliance with the requirements for Safeguarding and for Health and Safety.
- To ensure the maintenance of good administrative, evaluative and financial records related to all projects and activities undertaken.

*These Principal Responsibilities may be open to change, but any such changes in the job description will be done in consultation with you.*

## Person Specification: Experience, Qualifications and Education

### Essential

- Must have relevant experience of working with children/ young people/ families (employed or voluntary).
- Ability and experience in nurturing volunteers and enabling teamwork.

- Ability to relate to and understand the culture of children and young people.
- Good knowledge of safeguarding principles and procedures.

### Desirable

- Have a children and/ or youth work qualification, or training in another relevant field.
- Have experience in schools work and/ or community work.

## Person Specification: Skills

### Essential

- Good written and verbal communication skills, including presentation skills.
- Confident working skills with IT and social media.
- Confident at developing good relationships with a wide range of people.
- Ability to organise own workload and work on own initiative.
- Ability to teach, disciple, evangelise.
- Administrative skills and ability to keep good records.
- Leadership skills and experience.

### Desirable

- Able to operate strategically, and to evaluate work.
- Able to design programmes and activities for children and young people.

## Person Specification: Values

### Essential

- Must be a committed and practising Christian; a person of prayer, committed to growing in discipleship, with a heart for mission to children and young people.
- Happy to work within the ethos of the Church of England, and able to join us as a regular member of the worshipping community at St John's.

*Due to the nature of this role, we believe that this post is subject to an occupational requirement that the holder be a practising Christian under Part 1 of schedule 9 to the Equality Act 2010.*

*Please be aware that the post holder will need to undergo a DBS check, safeguarding training, and must have the right to work in the UK.*

## Further Information

Church Website: <https://www.sjnx.org/>

Church Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnschurchnevillescros>

Or contact us to speak further about the post:

Jane Homes (Rector's Secretary) on 07423 797290 or via parish office:  
0191 384 2433. Email [parish.smxg.sjnx@gmail.com](mailto:parish.smxg.sjnx@gmail.com)

## To Apply

Please fill out the application form included in this pack (guidance notes included).

Closing Date for Applications: **19<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Interview Date: **2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023**