



ST JOHNS LOCKS HEATH - CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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WHATS HERE NOW?

St John's is friendly, lively family church in Locks Heath, between Portsmouth and Southampton. Sunday attendance is just over 200 people over 3 morning services, two traditional and one growing informal family service. Our worship is focused on Jesus and the power of his Spirit at work in us.

In 2017 we launched a new Sunday service at 10.45am specifically to appeal to families. The service puts emphasis on informality, families and encountering the Spirit in sung worship. This service has grown rapidly, and around 60 adults and 20 children now attend each week.

In this service children meet in three groups by age - pre-school (Scramblers), primary (Explorers) and secondary school age (Encounters). Once a month we have a service for All Ages.

We also have:

- a Toddlers group every week (around 60 people)
- a Messy Church once a month (60-80 people)
- Connect, a teens group, with games and a half hour slot exploring a question of faith (5-10).

At our more formal 9.15am service, Godly Play (2-5 children) is held once a month and activities for children are made available at other services.

The Children & Families Team Leader will lead our team of willing and capable volunteers, to maintain the energy and direction of these groups.



WHERE ARE WE GOING?

At St John's we want to be known as a place of Life, Hope and Joy. We are reaching out with the love of Jesus to bring hope and change to our world.

A recent audit of our local community revealed that half of our neighbourhood is made up of "family homes". In order to connect better with these families we want to bring children and young people into the heart of church life and activity. The Children & Families Team Leader will join the church's Leadership Team, helping to shape the strategic direction of the whole church.

The Alpha Course is a key tool for mission and evangelism. We have found Alpha to be an excellent way not only for bringing people to faith, but to bring life, energy and purpose to our church, and to develop new leaders. We recently pioneered a daytime Alpha, popular with young mums, and have run Youth Alpha twice in the last 3 years, alongside our regular midweek evening Alpha (run 3 times a year).

Our audit identified a weakness with our branding and communications and website. This role will help us shape an upcoming reboot of this to help us better communicate with local families.

WHAT IS LOCKS HEATH LIKE?



Locks Heath is a great place to live! Our largely suburban neighbourhood merges with nearby towns and villages to form a larger conurbation. Sailing on the Hamble is a popular local sport, and there are plenty of places to walk or cycle along the Solent coast or in the Meon Valley. The South Downs and the New Forest are within easy reach. The town of Fareham is nearby, with larger shopping and leisure facilities available in Whiteley, Southampton and Portsmouth.