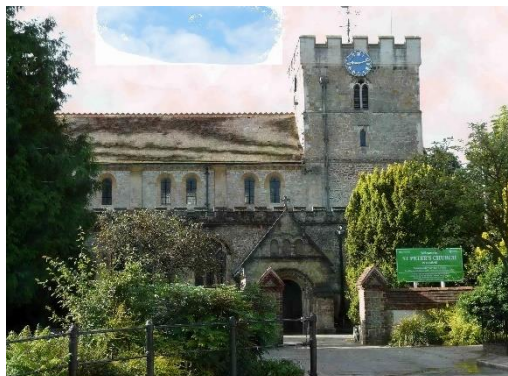


St Peter's Church, Petersfield

Full Time Children and Families Leader

St Peter's Church is looking to employ a children and families leader to work in the parish and across the deanery.

This is an exciting opportunity for someone who is passionate about ministry to children and families to transform and shape ministry across a wide area. The role has two elements: a practical basis- leading children's and families work in Petersfield, and a wider strategic role- championing and resourcing ministry to children and families across the deanery.



The post is a full time post with funding for 3 years. You will be responsible to the Vicar, Rev'd Canon Will Hughes, but with freedom and support to develop the role and to initiate new ideas, ventures and activities.

Context

Petersfield is a large market town of about 14,000. It is a vibrant community focussed around the town square, with many shops and activities, an infants, juniors and secondary school as well as 2 independent schools.

St Peter's church is at the heart of the town in terms of geography and community. Situated on the market square it is open to all, and welcomes all.

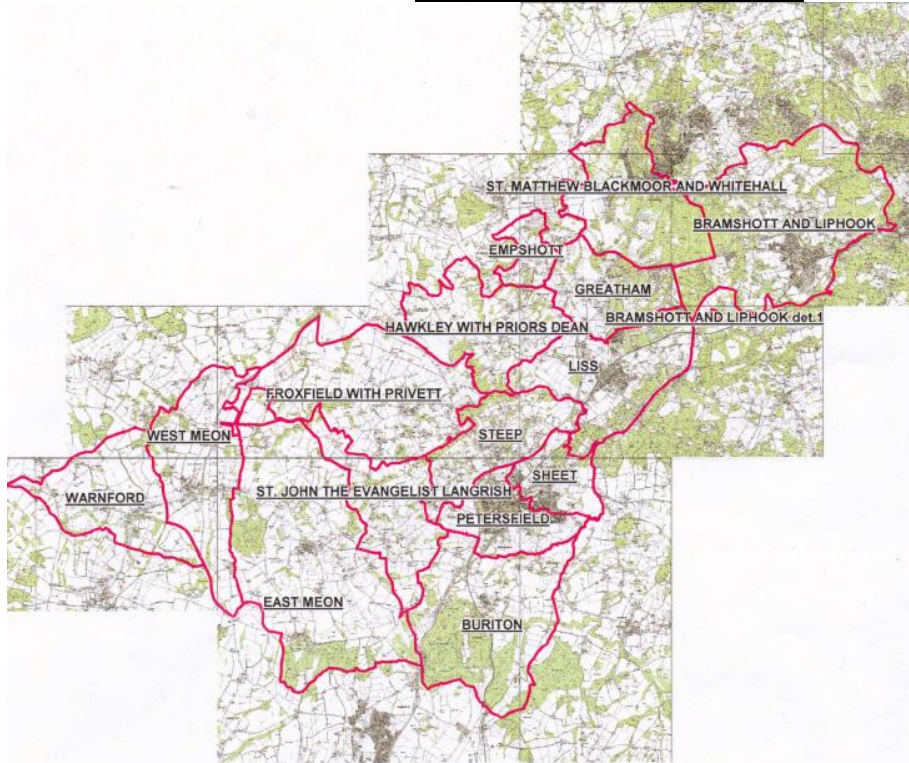
St Peter's is a thriving church in the broad Anglican tradition. It has a Sunday congregation of about 100. There is a monthly children's breakfast (after which they come into the last part of the service) and a monthly all age service in which children are fully involved. The church runs a weekly Parent and Toddler group called 'Play Together', which is popular and well attended, and we long for this to lead to more families becoming part of the church.

A weekly free café in church is a key place where the community comes together. There is an active programme of discipleship and spirituality for adults. Engagement with children and families is chiefly through schools ministry, including weekly assemblies in the infants' school almost next door to the church. We host regular visits and concerts, special services for school groups and other youth organisations.

Petersfield is the largest parish in Petersfield Deanery- a group of 15 parishes with 15 primary and 7 secondary schools. Some parishes have a paid children and families worker, some have a team of volunteers, and some have little engagement with families at all.

Each of the clergy in the deanery has a deanery-wide responsibility, and the Vicar of Liss is the champion for 'Growing Faith' - the Church of England vision for connecting faith and spirituality between homes, schools and churches. You can find out more at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/growing-faith-foundation>

Map of Petersfield Deanery



Role description

There are two elements to the post:

the first is to work with the Vicar and ministry team to transform the ministry to children and families in Petersfield. This will include:

- To lead the St Peter's 'Play Together' parent and toddler group, incorporating a singing session, and building relationships with parents and carers.
- To build bridges between the 'Play Together' group and the life of the church, enabling parents and children to explore their faith, encounter the family of the church, and be drawn deeper into the pilgrimage of faith and the life of the church.
- To build links with the local 'Homestart' team and primary schools to build links with families as children reach school age.
- To share with the ministry team in leading school assemblies and building relationships and opportunities with schools, especially our primary and infants' schools.
- To visit families at home before a baptism to talk through the service and explain what it means, and to maintain contact with families after baptism, inviting them to church events.

- To provide resources for children's activities in our Sunday worship, and to actively encourage parents to come to church, and to explore baptism for their children.
- To help the ministry team to make Sunday worship inclusive and enjoyable for children and families.
- To visit and build connections with the families who come to church, and encourage them in their faith.
- To lead, encourage and build our committed volunteer teams in the play group and Junior Church, and to develop these ministries.

the second is to work with the 'Growing Faith' champion (the vicar of Liss, Rev'd Claire Welham) to support the parishes of the deanery in developing their ministry to children and families. This will include:

- To work with the Deanery 'Growing Faith' champion to explore ways to build spirituality between church, school and home for children and families.
- To liaise with parishes and schools across the area, building relationships, and leading assemblies and collective worship in schools across the area.
- To help churches find ways to welcome children and families into their worship.
- To provide resources for churches and volunteers for school work and Sunday worship
- To bring together church volunteers who lead Sunday school/junior church activities, to encourage them and share experience and resources.
- To build volunteer capacity for children and family work across the deanery.

In both these areas there is an expectation with regard to Health and Safety, and to Safeguarding.

Health & Safety

To adhere to the Parish Health and Safety policy and procedure as well as any other related laws and to do all that is reasonable to promote care and safety in the fulfilment of the role and in daily working life.

Safeguarding

To understand, champion and implement a safeguarding culture across all areas of church life, and to adhere to the Parish and Diocesan Safeguarding policies and procedures as well as any other related laws and to do all that is reasonable to promote care and safety in the fulfilment of the role and in daily working life for all who may be vulnerable. This includes a responsibility to remain up to date with your own safeguarding training at the level appropriate to the role.

Person Specification

Experience

- A clear testimony of Christian faith and a vital, growing personal relationship with God
- Leading and planning teaching and worship that effectively engages children and families

- Creating, developing and growing new ministries and events that engage children and families

Knowledge and Personal Characteristics

- A desire to share the Gospel and lead people into a relationship with God and the Church
- A desire to grow disciples and see children and families discover and grow in faith, and to live out their faith in their daily lives
- Strong personal ethics and integrity
- Sensitivity, empathy and ability to listen to others
- Creative approach to work with the ability to inspire creativity in others
- Resilient, with a high level of determination & persistence

Skills

- Ability to communicate the Christian faith in a relevant and engaging way for children and families
- A team player
- Pro-active, self-motivated and able to work on own initiative
- Friendly and approachable and an ability to appropriately build relationships with children and their families
- Strong organisational & administration skills
- Proficient in Microsoft Office, email, internet and social media
- Ability to manage a simple budget
- Strong communication & interpersonal skills (written & verbal)

Other

- Willingness to work evenings and weekends as necessary
- It is expected that the Children and Families' Church Leader is part of and contributes the full life of St Peter's

Desirable

- A full clean driving licence
- A qualification, relating to children/youth working, or theology
- Experience of outreach work in a faith or other charity

There is an Occupational Requirement that the post-holder is a Christian. An enhanced DBS disclosure will be required. The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act does not apply in this instance.

Key relationships

The Vicar, who line manages every aspect of this post
 Parish office team, who provide admin support
 Volunteers including the Play Together and Junior Church teams
 Deanery 'Growing Faith' champion
 School head teachers and points of contact
 Community children's and families organisations
 Deanery clergy and children's workers/volunteers

For more information please see our website www.stpeterspetersfield.org and our facebook <https://www.facebook.com/StPetersChurchPetersfield/>

Pay and hours

This post is for 36 hours a week for a three year period. The pattern of working will be planned with the line manager and will include Monday mornings (Play Together) and Sunday mornings (Main parish service). There is a 3 month probationary period.

The salary is £28,080 per year for a 36 hour week. Holiday allowance is 25 days plus bank holidays. We are willing to explore part time working.

For a conversation about this post, please call Rev'd Will Hughes on 01730260464. To apply please use the application form at:

Applications must be submitted by 10pm on 15th July.

Interviews will be on 30th July.