



# **Children's Worker**

**St Andrew's, Westlands**

**Newcastle-under-Lyme**

## **Welcome**

We are looking for someone to continue and develop our ministry and outreach to Children. This is an established post working with an Evangelical CofE church - to take up the continuing challenge of finding ways of passing on the Christian faith both to those whose parents are part of the congregation and to others in the community too.

## **We are looking for...**

- Someone with an enthusiasm to lead, enable and develop our ministries to children, offering bible teaching and social activities to help build a life-long faith in Christ and to encourage personal growth.
- We are open to candidates at a variety of stages in their lives and/or experience of ministry. That means we'd very much consider
  - A person who has done some Christian Children's ministry as a volunteer and is beginning to explore whether this kind of role might be for them.
  - We would also be very interested in a candidate with significant maturity and experience in this area of ministry, who would be able to take on responsibility for strategy, co-ordination, and equipping of volunteers.
  - Or anyone in between...

Whatever level of experience you bring, the job description (and positioning within our salary range) would be tailored to fit.

- We expect the candidate's strengths and passions to impact significantly on how the role is carried out, utilising any particular gifts, talents e.g. music, drama, art or crafts, sport, media skills etc.
- We are blessed with a number of committed and gifted volunteer leaders and helpers, who have been willing to step up to taking the lead over the last year or so, but would love for someone to bring extra gifts, ideas and time to our ministry with children.

## **Core elements of role**

- a) Sunday Mornings.  
Most weeks of the month we offer a Sunday Club for children, which we see as a priority ministry. The post-holder will take the main lead with the 3-10's group most weeks. We'd also envisage them contributing to our all-age worship service each month.
- b) Messy Church.  
For many years our monthly messy church on Saturday afternoons has provided St Andrew's broadest contact with families from the local community. We will also continue to encourage any with a desire to go deeper to explore other aspects of our ministry. We envisage the post-holder either taking over as the co-ordinator or being part of the leadership team for this ministry.
- c) Annual summer Holiday Club week
- d) School Assemblies. Ministry openings in several schools include two where St Andrew's leads weekly collective worship for KS1/KS2 - there are currently 3 other church members to share the responsibility for this

**Further possibilities, depending on skills and experience, could include:**

- a) Taking on responsibly for co-ordination, support, recruitment and further training of our children's ministry volunteers
- b) Re-starting a KS2 after school club to follow on from the KS1 club in Langdale school that church members run.
- c) Joining the team who run our weekly after school Xcite group for 9-13's.
- d) Ministry to parents
- e) New initiatives for outreach and evangelism
- f) We are also open to the agreed job description encompassing other areas of church life that the post holder is interested in (e.g. little sparklers' parent and toddler group, preaching, adult pastoral ministry, women's pastoral ministry, or anything else suggested by [our website](#))

**Management & Support**

The post is supported by a committee who currently meet 3 times a year. The plan will be to meet with the vicar for a weekly line management meeting to discuss ministry. We will also negotiate a pattern for prayer, bible study and reflection together on most weeks (or more often if desired).

Previous workers have also valued periodically meeting with an experienced church member to provide confidential pastoral support, independent of line management. In addition, there are the options of linking with the diocesan network of children and youth workers, which meets 2-3 times a year, with informal support available in between gatherings; and/or networking with [growingyoungdisciples.co.uk](http://growingyoungdisciples.co.uk)

**Person specification**

1. Is a Christian who is committed to a biblical faith, regular in church worship and personal prayer, and is in good standing with the local church and wider community (essential)
2. Has a passion to share the Christian faith with children and their families.
3. Has some experience of Christian children's ministry, whether voluntary or paid.
4. Is able to build a rapport with children.
5. Is capable of working alongside our existing children's work teams.
6. Flexibility with working hours - a regular working week will include 3 out of 4 Sunday mornings, as well as monthly Saturdays and occasional evenings.
7. Is extremely reliable.[office@westlands.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@westlands.staffs.sch.uk)
8. Is self-motivated and can work independently. Office space will be available in St Andrew's, although some element of working from home will also be considered.
9. Is capable of independent transport in the South Newcastle locality.
10. Good standard of written English (email, writing letters etc.) and fluency in spoken English (public-speaking, presentations).
11. Basic ICT Capabilities i.e. proficiency with email, the internet and producing documents; willingness to use social media for publicity.
12. Flexibility and willingness to learn, to try out new ideas and types of ministry, and to participate in appropriate continuing ministerial/professional development.
13. A commitment to work within the safeguarding principles and practice of the Church of England and St Andrew's. Our policy is [here](#)
14. Has an existing right to work in the UK

The post-holder will be expected to become part of our worshipping community, getting to know members of our congregation. We will endeavour to develop a working pattern which enables him/her to



Welcoming the whole community



Discovering God's love



Following Jesus' teaching

both give and receive ministry

### **What we offer**

The post available is full time 35 hours per week. We would also consider a part-time appointee who was able to offer 20 or more hours per week; or would prefer a term-time only contract.

Salary negotiable within the range: £26,500-33,500; a non-taxable relocation package of up to £3,000 is also available if required.

The post-holder will be auto enrolled into a pension scheme which is funded at 4% by the post holder and 4% by the church, although it is possible to opt out of this.

Following a 6-month probation period, this will be a permanent appointment, with six weeks paid leave annually in addition to bank holidays. Recruitment is subject to an enhanced DBS check, with barred list check.

Where candidates without qualifications and with less extensive relevant experience are being considered, appropriate training will be discussed; The Growing Younger Disciples conference and academy programme could be one option for this.

We'd like someone to start as soon as possible, but would be happy to wait for the right candidate. We will make an appointment as soon as we find a good candidate, so please apply as soon as possible. Previous applicants need not apply.

### **Further Questions and Application Process**

We'd very much welcome an informal conversation on the phone with anyone who thinks that they might be interested in the post.

Please contact Andrew Dawswell, vicar of St Andrew's on 01782 619594 (If you're struggling to catch him, do email [ja.dawswell@googlemail.com](mailto:ja.dawswell@googlemail.com) leaving your phone number)

Some additional information about the Westlands area and St Andrew's is also available [here](#)

An application form can be downloaded [here](#) and should be emailed to [ja.dawswell@googlemail.com](mailto:ja.dawswell@googlemail.com).