

Southam & Bishop's Itchington Congregational Church

Children and Families Worker

Introduction

We are excited about this opportunity at Southam & Bishop's Itchington Congregational Church to employ a new Children and Families Worker. We are looking for someone with a passion for working with children and families, and teaching them about the love of Christ, enabling them to grow in discipleship and become more involved in the life of the Church. We want to build on our current ministry to the younger generations, through Children's Church, PaintPot and Jackpot, and develop this work further so that it will grow and flourish in the future. We are in the position, with the help of a generous grant from the Congregational Federation, to fund an initial three-year post.

Details

Start date – Flexible

Contract – This is a fixed term appointment for an initial 3 years. It will have a probationary period of 3 months.

Hours – 10 hours per week, including attendance at Sunday morning service where possible, weekly daytime and evening activities, meetings and training.

Employer – Southam & Bishop's Itchington Congregational Church.

Salary + Pension – We can offer an annual salary of £6,000 per annum based on a 10 Hour week subject to experience, plus pension.

Annual Leave – Five weeks holiday (50 Hours) plus public holidays.

Specifics

- **Children's Church:** This currently takes place on the first Sunday of the month. It involves a 45 minute session aimed at 3-11 year olds, and a separate group for 11-18 year olds. The hope is that the frequency of these sessions can increase from 12 a year to 30+. It is not the intention that the Children and Families Worker would be employed simply to run these sessions, but to help facilitate and equip these sessions.
- There are approx. 6 volunteers who help run the Children's Church activities. There have been anywhere from 4 children to 20 children present on any given Sunday.
- **PaintPot:** These sessions are aimed at pre-school children (0-5 year olds) and held fortnightly in term time from 10.15-11.15am on a Monday. They follow a familiar pattern of welcome, song time, story time, a craft activity, musical instruments and snack time. There are four volunteers that help with PaintPot.
- In 2023/24 we were invited by Galanos House (a Royal British Legion assisted living facility with a dedicated dementia unit) to lead 3 sessions with them (the children interacting with the residents) and a further session at Tithe Lodge (a sheltered accommodation unit in Southam) to do the same. Both were very popular with our parents and carers.
- We have an average of 20 parents and carers at our sessions, with up to 26 children attending, varying in age from 7 days olds to 4 years old. Most children stop coming when they move up to Nursery Class in the 3 Southam Primary Schools.
- Whilst we hope that the Children and Families Worker would take a keen interest in PaintPot, it is the angle of keeping connections with the children (and parents/families) when they leave PaintPot that we would like to focus on.
- **Jackpot:** Jackpot is a Christian Youth Group for 7-18 year olds. It is run on the 3rd Thursday of the month by 7/8 volunteers. There is a tuck shop, a craft activity, games (table-tennis/pool/table football and board games too), a monthly challenge, refreshments and a 5 minute reflection.
- The children get on extremely well together – with each other and with the volunteers.

- There is an ecumenical dimension to Jackpot as some of the children have connections with the Catholic Church of Our Lady & St Wulstan and others with Southam Community Church. In the past one of the leaders from the Community Church has attended Jackpot.

General

- Ensure that all relevant regulations for working with young children and young people are understood, adhered to and complied with.
- Prepare, communicate, implement and maintain a clear vision and strategy to develop our work with children and families.
- Lead and inspire teams of volunteers; providing or accessing appropriate training, and offering volunteers the vision, drive, encouragement and hands-on involvement necessary to achieve the best possible outcomes in the groups and activities.
- Ensure adequate time is given to effective administration and communication.

Skills and knowledge

- You will have a proven ability to lead and organise others, coupled with the ability to work constructively as a member of a team.
- You will have the demonstrated ability to communicate the Christian gospel effectively to families, children and young people and to equip them to grow in their faith
- Have a good track record of working within a church context on a variety of community activities.
- You will be a creative person who identifies opportunities and inspires others to try new things.
- You will have excellent interpersonal and social skills and be able to relate well to a wide range of people, both from within and outside the church.

Personal qualities

- You will be a mature Christian with a firm faith, sympathetic and able to work within the church traditions of Southam & Bishop's Itchington Congregational Church.
- You will be committed to growing in your faith and will be able to organise your time to include space for both personal prayer and bible study.
- You will be professional, friendly and approachable, including when under pressure.
- You will be culturally sensitive and able to work with people from different backgrounds.
- You will be discreet and trustworthy, able to sensitively manage private or confidential information.

Qualifications

- A standard of education commensurate to this role.
- Ideally a theological qualification or training qualification to work with parents, children/young people or equivalent experience.
- Full driving licence.

The post holder will have a vibrant and active Christian faith and a secure understanding of the Christian faith and ability to engage with families, children and young people in faith issues. It is therefore an Occupational Requirement (Schedule 9 part 1 of the Equality Act 2010) of this post to have a committed Christian faith and be actively involved in worshiping in a church community.

This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check.