

Family Worker: Holy Trinity with St John's Penge

Background

Holy Trinity with St John's Penge are looking to employ a Family Worker to creatively develop our work with families with children of all ages and backgrounds in our church and community.

Two and a half years ago, the two existing churches, Holy Trinity SE20 and St John the Evangelist Penge, merged to become one church. Both legacy churches have a long history and a deep sense of calling to work with children, young people and families, and the merger has brought new energy and life into this work.

We seek a Family Worker to encourage, inspire, extend, and nurture our existing teams of committed and enthusiastic volunteers, to help us integrate the work that is going on in different pockets of church life, and to lead us in implementing our Mission Priority to grow as an Intergenerational community of faith.

Our Vision

Jesus said, *"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"*.
(John 10:10)

We are people of all ages from different backgrounds and experiences being drawn together as a community of faith, united by the deep and life-giving love and compassion shown to us through God's son, Jesus Christ.

Having received God's gift of life, we seek to share that life by offering kindness, care and loving service to those who come to our church, to our local community of Penge, and to the wider world.

As a church, we long for people to find a spiritual home where each person is loved and valued for who they are, and where we can grow together and flourish in the varied gifts which Jesus has given us.

We are a people of faith, learning together, guided by the Holy Spirit, to discover more of the fullness of life and power of Jesus, and to join in God's work in the world.

At Holy Trinity with St John's, we:

- **worship** the God who created us, saved us, and offers us life in all its fullness.
- **welcome** all with the love that we have received from Jesus.
- **witness** to our experience of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives, in words and acts of loving service.

Our Priorities

We seek to live out our vision to be a community of worship, welcome and witness through three core mission priorities:

- to grow (in depth of relationships as well as in number) as an outward-looking, intergenerational community of faith.

- to empower and enable all to flourish, use, and develop their gifting in a variety of ministries and leadership.
- to build on the tradition of both legacy churches in serving the local community; to grow as a church for our community which reflects that community.

Existing Strengths upon which you will be able to build

As our Family Worker, you will not be starting from a blank canvas. Holy Trinity with St John's has flourishing activities for and relationships with families both on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. You will be working with strong teams of enthusiastic and committed volunteers – with over twenty adults involved in Sunday morning children's and youth work during an average month, a team of eight to ten at our toddler group, Little Fish, and a wider group of more than forty people who are willing to give support at special events such as Messy Church.



We regularly welcome more than 20 children and young people, from babies to Year 13, at our **Sunday morning** services. Separate groups for 3-7 year olds, 7-11 year olds and young people at secondary school run every Sunday except the 3rd in the month. Once a month, after the service, we host children and young people from aged 7 and upwards, and, increasingly, their families, for Pizza and Games, a relaxed space with time to enjoy being together.

Our **Intergenerational service**, Connect, on the 3rd Sunday specifically aims to engage and draw families with children into the heart of our worship as church. This is an hour-long, café-style, informal service with an emphasis on learning together through talking and doing. In recent months, we have built a tabernacle, created a graffiti wall with things we could tell others about Jesus and written our own, unique, Penge version of the Magnificat!



Our **toddler groups**, Little Fish (Mondays and Wednesdays during term time) and Big Fish (Saturday, once a month), regularly welcome up to 60 families to a session for free play, a Bible story, refreshments, and song time. A team of researchers from Christchurch Canterbury recently spent several weeks with us as part of their research into spirituality in young children and declared this group to be “gold standard”.



Messy Church, which we run seasonally, regularly attracts over 100 people, many of them not regular church families. We recently welcomed 150 people for pancakes and desert-themed activities on Shrove Tuesday and 170 for Messy Easter, and are looking forward to Messy Pentecost in May.



We have strong and positive relationships with our local **primary schools**, especially but not exclusively, our church school. St John's Primary invite us in for a weekly assembly and come to us for their end of term services, and each class visits at least once during the year for RE. We take seasonal assemblies at other primary schools in the parish, and welcome children for visits especially around Christmas and Easter.

Areas of Potential Growth

- Supporting parents to nurture faith in their children *e.g.* Parenting for Faith.
- Building on the work being done in schools and engaging with families “at the school gate”.
- Supporting and building relationships with the increasing number of families attending Living Well, a foodbank and community café hosted by our church, and helping to integrate them into the wider life of the church.
- Collaborating with neighbouring churches and encouraging families to grow spiritually through attendance at larger events either locally or nationally *e.g.* New Wine / Spring Harvest.
- Using the gifts and experience you bring to open up creative opportunities for further engagement

Could this be you?

We asked our families to tell us what sort of person they wanted to be our Family Worker. This is what they said.

I will be someone who...

- can get alongside parents as well as children.
- cares about and engages with the community.
- will do what I promise I will do
- helps engage whole families in church.
- helps families to follow Jesus in church and at home.
- is a good communicator.
- is a great role model for children.
- is a team player who realises that I can't do everything alone.
- is hopeful, happy, approachable, enthusiastic, loving, kind and fun.
- likes working with and can enthuse different types of families, different people, and different ages.
- listens to children and young people.
- loves Jesus and loves kids.
- is a giant.



JOB TITLE: Family Worker

Terms of Employment

Salary: £28K-£32K per annum

Hours: 35 hours per week on average, excluding lunch hours. Flexible working, including weekends and some evenings

Contract: Full-time, subject to a three-month probationary period

Responsible to: The Vicar and PCC

The Role

We are looking to employ a Family Worker with a heart for families with children of all ages, such that their lives may be transformed by the Good News of Jesus. This person will be able to:

- nurture families in faith and support them towards a growing relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, relationship-building, sharing the gospel and engagement with different groups and activities.
- play a full part in spiritual leadership within the church, including Sunday and midweek worship and the Worship & Preaching and ministry team
- be an advocate for Intergenerational Ministry and help us keep focused on our Mission priority to grow as an intergenerational community of faith.
- listen to the voices of children, young people and families and be a voice for their needs within the leadership of the church
- play a leading role in supporting, encouraging, and developing work with children and young people on Sunday mornings.
- build on our existing relationships with families through Little and Big Fish (toddler groups) and local schools.
- encourage our congregation to creatively develop further ways to engage with families with children of all ages in our church and community.
- take a leading role in Intergenerational Worship (Connect) and Messy Church.
- lead and inspire, support, and develop our enthusiastic and committed teams of volunteers, offering the vision, drive, encouragement, and hands-on involvement necessary to ensure that existing and new ministries are sustainable beyond the terms of the contract
- identify, train, and develop volunteer leaders and team members, including children and young people.
- support families by developing a knowledge of diocesan / local / online resources and signposting them as required.

Essential Qualities

We are looking for someone who is:

- spiritually mature and able to resource themselves spiritually
- willing to learn, to grow as a disciple and to seek out relevant expertise
- a person of integrity, compassion, practical and pastoral wisdom
- able to engage with all ages of children, including those with additional needs, and with their parents
- a good listener and an effective communicator
- a collaborative leader who can form, inspire and motivate individuals and teams

- a role model who can share faith by their being as well as by their doing
- fully aware of and up to date with Church of England and statutory requirements for safeguarding
- committed to and capable of building a safe and inclusive culture
- administratively competent
- able and willing to engage and work collaboratively with churches in the Deanery and with the wider Diocese

We are looking for someone who has:

- a passion for Jesus and a vision for what an intergenerational church can be like
- relevant experience of leadership within a church setting
- experience of working with families and children
- a flexible and pro-active approach

Desirable Qualities

- experience in working with children with diverse needs, including SEND
- experience in working with youth
- ability to communicate in a variety of ways, including appropriate use of social media

Other

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.

This role is subject to an enhanced DBS check and to the right to live and work in the UK.

We are unable to provide accommodation or transport.

To apply, submit your CV and application form explaining why you are the right person for this job to: office@htsj-penge.church. If you would like to have a more detailed conversation about the role and / or to arrange an informal visit, please contact the Vicar, Rev. Jessica Smith at vicar@htsj-penge.church.

The deadline for applications is Wednesday 15th May 2024

The selection procedure for the post will follow a process of shortlisting, taking up references, informal conversations and formal interviews.

We expect this to include participation in our Connect service on Sunday 16th June, with the opportunity to engage informally with families and those who work with them during and after the service, and formal interviews during the following week.

The final appointment will be subject to us completing the Church of England Safer Recruitment process.