**Castle Cary Methodist Church**

**Children, Young People and Families Worker**

Employed by: Castle Cary Methodist Church

Location: Castle Cary and surrounding area

Hours of work: 20 hours pw

Salary: £21,000 pro rata (actual salary £10,500)

Length of post: Permanent (Funding has been secured for an initial three years)

**Context**

Castle Cary Methodist Church (CCMC) is a medium sized church with around 50 members. CCMC works closely with other Methodist Churches in the local area. The church has a handful of families who play an active part in the church, and there is a small Sunday School. There is a team of volunteers who run an annual holiday club, and who support children and young people to attend young people focused events throughout the year (e.g. Spree camp, 3Generate). A toddler group has just reopened in the church following the pandemic and there is another toddler group at nearby Keinton Mandeville. There are primary schools in Castle Cary, Keinton Mandeville and Bruton, whilst there is a secondary school in neighbouring Ansford.

Within Castle Cary there are many opportunities to develop the work that the church does with children, young people and families. We aim to create opportunities for children and young people to grow and develop in healthy communities, whilst enabling parents to feel empowered and supported, and offering the opportunity for all to explore faith. The Children, Young People and Families Worker role will aim to support individual needs, advocate for children, young people and families where needed, and signpost people to other services such as health and education services or Cary Cares (Castle Cary’s foodbank). The postholder will be confident in initiating and leading activities whilst also supporting existing church activities for these groups. We hope that this new role will provide both capability and capacity for the church to support the local community.

**Accountability**

* Castle Cary Methodist Church will be the employer.
* A Children, Young People and Families steering group will act as management group.
* The Minister will provide day to day operational management
* A mentor will be appointed for pastoral supervision.

**Vision and aim of the role:**

* To further and develop work with children, young people and their families within Castle Cary and the surrounding area;
* To build relationships with parents to help foster healthy families, connected to the local community;
* To support and coordinate those volunteering with young people and children;
* To develop links and increase the Christian presence within local schools;
* To develop the existing partnerships with ecumenical partners;
* To identify and share best practice.

**What we are looking for:**We are looking for a person to be a part of our church family who will:

* Expand relationships with children, young people and families to include those who aren’t regular church attendees;
* Imaginatively develop new and existing regular or one off events such as holiday clubs, family film afternoons and seasonal activities, and developing links with ecumenical partner’s work with children and young people;
* Provide support and be a positive Christian presence in the local schools both in Castle Cary and the surrounding primary schools;
* Build on existing excellent links with uniformed organisations to and to offer faith-based elements of programmes;
* Support and encourage and develop the volunteer team;
* Identify and promote opportunities for children, young people and families to experience faith in different settings including trips and residentials.

**Key Relationships:**

The successful candidate will need to build effective relationships with the following:

* The Methodist Minister;
* Volunteers;
* The Methodist Circuit’s Pastoral and Community Worker;
* The Methodist Circuit’s Digital Mission Enabler;
* Local services (e.g. primary schools, health services, Cary Cares).

**Person specification.**The post holder will be:

* A person of faith, able to demonstrate and articulate Christian values to others.
* Experienced in working with children, young people and families.
* Someone who understands the needs of rural churches and communities.
* Empathetic and supportive in approach with a sensitive understanding of family issues and needs.
* Resourceful and imaginative in approach and delivery.
* Able to develop team work with volunteers, and to build relationships quickly with the rest of the Church.
* Resilient and able to see things through, even when difficult.
* Familiar with safeguarding and other relevant areas of best practice.
* Able to offer support to others.
* Competent at using IT

A full driving licence and access to a car is desirable in working in a rural location.

This post is subject to:

* An Occupational Requirement that the holder of this post is a Christian as this is a Christian ministry post (Equality Act 2010 part 1).
* Two satisfactory references.
* The satisfactory completion of an enhanced DBS check.