

THE OLD AND ABBEY PARISH CHURCH, ARBROATH

CHILDREN AND FAMILY WORKER (Full-time, part-time or job share)

The Role:

We are seeking an enthusiastic and gifted Christian with an outgoing, friendly personality to help develop our ministry to children and their families. This post will offer opportunities to share the Christian faith in relevant and contemporary ways, working with a team of enthusiastic volunteers who share your vision of nurturing children's faith. You will be encouraged to use your gifts and ideas to invigorate existing and initiate new programmes. You will have a desire for outreach and to seek ways to attract those not currently involved into church life.

The hours to be worked are negotiable and flexible, but will involve some evenings and weekends.

For more information see: www.old-and-abbey-church.org.uk

Responsible to:

The Kirk Session of the Old and Abbey Parish Church, Arbroath.

Responsibilities and Tasks:

Primary: To help evaluate current programmes and initiate new ministries as appropriate
To embed yourself into and get to understand the life of our congregation and parish.
To build relationships with children and their families
To reach out to families with little or no contact with the church, inviting them to be involved in programmes/activities
To encourage and equip volunteers to help work with children
To attend and be involved in Sunday worship or other worship services when children present
To identify children's gifts and encourage them to use them in mission, ministry and worship
To strengthen relationships with children and their families who have points of contact with the church e.g. Playgroup.
To meet with line manager

Secondary: To visit children and their families at times of need
To develop church's link with local primary schools
To promote General Assembly, Presbytery or other children's events
To occasionally attend Kirk Session to share how job is going
To be willing to undertake further training, as agreed

Person Qualities and Gifts:

Necessary outgoing, friendly, personable
good communicator and listener
ability to motivate and encourage others to use their gifts
comfortable working individually or in a team
initiative and confidence to use it
sense of humour and fun!
confidence in faith conversations
willingness to work flexible hours
sensitive to different types of people, diverse family patterns and
expressions of faith

Desirable knowledge of IT and/or multi-media
familiarity with Church of Scotland
initiative to ask questions and find answers

Terms and Conditions:

The post is offered on a full-time, part-time or job share basis. The hours worked will be agreed with the successful candidate.

The starting salary for this post will be £18,000 - £21,000 pro rata, depending on qualifications/experience. Expenses will be paid for agreed travel costs, telephone and training. The post has funding for an initial 5-year term.

The successful applicant will be required to join the PVG Scheme as implemented by the Scottish Government.

Applications Process:

Applicants are requested to send a covering letter and C.V., including the names and contact details of two referees, to:

Ian Townsend
Old and Abbey Parish Church, West Abbey Street,
Arbroath DD11 2BU
It_townsend@hotmail.com. 07971 168214

Applications should also include a short description of the applicant's relevant experience, qualities and gifts and also what has attracted the applicant to the post.

Closing date for applications is: 30 November 2011

Interviews will be conducted in Arbroath at mutually convenient times.
Starting date will be by mutual agreement.

For further information or for an informal conversation please contact:
The Rev. Dr. Valerie Allen: vl2allen@aol.com. 01241 872196 or Ian Townsend.

Additional Information:

The following is intended to be of help to candidates by providing some background as to the rationale behind the creation of this new post.

For some time the Kirk Session was aware that we were not attracting many young families and children into our midst. It was also noticeable that of those families we were attracting, few were showing an ongoing commitment and very few of their children were attending Sunday School.

The Kirk Session created an internal Taskforce to consider whether the Old and Abbey is a truly “child friendly church”. The Taskforce reflected on scripture, which reminds us that Jesus placed children at the centre of his ministry, not the periphery. Children are a vital part of the body of Christ, the body being incomplete without them. The Taskforce’s conclusion was that the Old and Abbey is doing many things well but there are areas in which we can improve upon.

The Taskforce recommended that we look at our attitudes, practices and environment/buildings.

It was also decided to prioritise the following:

- i) Embark on a programme of education that involves the commitment of the *entire* congregation in embracing a child friendly church.
- ii) Focus on improving how we nurture the Christian faith of the children we have (and, hopefully, as a result of this be better able to attract new children and their families);
- iii) Seek to reach out to those not involved in church life – either lapsed members or people who have had no connection with the church.

The Kirk Session adopted the following Vision and Mission Statements, in relation to Children’s Ministry

Vision Statement for Children’s Ministry:

Our vision is to provide a safe and welcoming environment that is attractive to children and their families, within which their faith in Jesus Christ is nurtured. We promise to value children as uniquely created in God’s image and to encourage them to participate fully in the ministry of this church.

Mission Statement for Children's Ministry:

We intend to:

- Nurture children's faith through age-appropriate worship, education and mission
- Identify and affirm children's gifts and encourage them to use them in the church's ministry
- Enable all church members to understand how children's faith is best nurtured and the environment that needs to be created in order for this to happen
- Share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ with as wide a circle of children as possible.

After careful deliberation it was decided to create the new post of Children and Family Worker to assist in achieving these goals.

The attached list of responsibilities and tasks attempts to highlight some areas that we consider important. We do not suggest that all of these aspects be tackled at once! These are areas we have identified as possibilities. We are flexible in our approach and want to work with the person appointed, encouraging her/his to use her/his gifts, skills or interests in developing this new position.

The person appointed will be line-managed on a day-to-day basis by the Minister. Meeting with a management group and/or a mentor from outside the congregation are also possibilities to support the Worker. The church employs a part-time Church Administrator who will be available to assist with general administrative duties. We have basic I.T. equipment, which is available for use.