

CHURCH PROFILE – Who are we and where are we going?

Title: Children and Families Minister

Location: St Michael & All Angels' Church, Farnsfield.



**St Michael & All Angels'
Church, Farnsfield**

PRAYING | SOWING | SERVING | GROWING

CHURCH CONTEXT

Farnsfield is a large and vibrant village community of around 3,500 people. It is well situated between Mansfield, Nottingham and Newark and has become a very popular place to live, with a mixture of new builds and established dwellings, and a great high street which has a variety of independent shops and eateries.

There are a high proportion of families and younger people in the village, due in part to the excellent C of E school with which we are attached. There is also a great community feel and lots of potential for the church to develop and strengthen links and play an increasingly active role in the life of the village.



St Michael's Church (part of a cluster of 4 parish churches) has been at the heart of the village for many years and has always sought to engage with the children and families in its community. In a process with the diocese in 2018/19 Farnsfield was identified as a place which has real potential to see growth, especially as the church seeks to deepen the partnership with the local C of E school. Through that process we discerned that God was leading us to start two new worshipping communities, one running midweek after school (at the school) and another Sunday worshipping community, which is still to be defined but which will focus upon '*engaging with those not currently connected with church*'.

Our After-School Church 'Connect' launched in October 2019 and has had a fantastic impact so far, attracting over 50 children and 30+ parents/adults each week and bearing witness to the great openness there is within the Farnsfield community to explore and engage with faith.



Our *vision for children* in Farnsfield is that they would have a great time together whenever they meet, that they would come to *know God personally* and not just *know about God*, and build a genuine connection with him which they can continue to develop into adulthood. As they grow up in faith our hope is that they would learn to pray for others confidently, to share faith with their friends, to develop a strong understanding of the Scriptures and of their own spiritual giftings, and to take an active role within the life of the church. We'd love to see parents to grow in their faith too and feel equipped to disciple their children at home and share the life of faith freely as a family.

It has been encouraging to see how engagement from a number of parents is already growing through their participation in our recent Alpha and Bible Courses.

Both *Connect* and our new Sunday Worshipping Community form an essential part of our recently developed mission statement as a church of **"10-in-10: 10% of the people in Farnsfield living as devoted followers of Jesus within 10 years."** This is a vision which, as we each commit ourselves to our new values of **praying | sowing | serving | growing**, seeks the transformation of Farnsfield *as a whole*. Any successful candidate, whilst having a particular focus upon the development of our ministry amongst children and families, would be expected to work alongside the vicar and leadership team as we seek to follow God's lead and work towards this wider mission.



STAFF TEAM AND SUPPORT

A bit about Chris and Trine

Trine and I are fairly new to Farnsfield having only arrived in August 2019. Having lived in cities for most of our adult lives we're pretty new to 'village living' but have found Farnsfield to be a wonderful place to live and work with a great blend of beautiful countryside, fantastic local amenities, and a great community feel.

Both with a strong charismatic and evangelical background we felt a real call to come here to begin the exciting new work which God had opened up and to build upon what had gone before, with a particular desire to help enable more families and young people in the village to engage and grow in faith. We have two young children ourselves, Gracie (6) and Joshua (4) who from September will both be attending St Michael's Primary School.

This is my first 'incumbency' position, having served my curacy in Nottingham. Before training to be a vicar I was a worship pastor at a church in North London, as well as a free-lance actor/musician (Trine and I met at drama school).

One verse that kept coming for us (and was said to us a number of times in our first weeks here) was that '*the harvest was plentiful but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers in to the harvest field*' (Matt 9:37-38). Though we've only been here a few months we have certainly found this to ring true – there is a real openness to faith here and so many opportunities for mission and ministry which could be explored. A major part of our focus now in this next phase is to identify and equip those (from both near and far) who, like us, feel called to be a part of the exciting kingdom work here in Farnsfield.

Wider Support Structure

At St Michael's we are blessed to have two experienced Licenced Lay ministers, a great Steering Group which is overseeing the strategic decisions and direction we are taking, and a very supportive PCC and Church Wardens. We are also working very closely with our Diocesan Mission and Discipleship Team who are well placed and

equipped to offer us support and guidance as we seek to implement and realise our vision.

Having never been in a position to employ someone before this is a big yet very exciting step for St Michael's. Though this is a new venture we have secured excellent support in setting ourselves up for employment and are committed to being an excellent employer. As well as being Line Managed by the vicar, it is hoped that the successful applicant will also be linked to someone on the PCC who will be able to offer support and a listening ear, and there are a variety of other support & development opportunities available through the Diocese (such as Spiritual Direction / Mentoring) which we would encourage any successful applicant to explore.

As stated in the Role Summary we have funds secured for this post for the first three years, however the PCC are determined to do all they can to ensure this post is sustainable beyond.



The Present situation

Obviously, things over the last few months have been unusual and none of us could have predicted what was coming. Like many churches we have found this to be an interesting time with increased engagement online through our livestreamed services and many new people (or those who had drifted off for one reason or another) connecting in with church again. We are keen to build on this and are currently in the process of discerning what steps to take when we return to services in the church building to ensure that this engagement can continue and that those who are new or 'seeking' can be welcomed in. All this is of course at the forefront of our minds too as we begin to shape up plans for our New Sunday Worshipping community.

We hope this profile has given you more of an insight into who we are, what we're about, and where we are going as a church. If you have any more questions or would like to hear more about the role, the setup, or the location then do get in touch with me and I'd be very happy to tell you more.

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