**FOREST HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES’ WORKER**

**Our Church**

Forest Hill Community Church is a local Christian Faith community based in Forest Hill and Sydenham (South East London) where people from all walks of life can enter into a relationship with God, follow the teaching of Jesus, and together make a difference in the world. We have a congregation of around 200, including children. We are a wonderful variety of people from different backgrounds, aged between 0-94. The staff team currently consists of a Lead Pastor, Associate Pastor and Administrator; we also have many volunteers within the church community who serve in a variety of ways.

**Our Activities**

Some of our activities as a congregation and in the community include:

• Sunday services (including children’s church and youth groups), housegroups and discipleship groups

• Youth group open to the local community

• The Alpha course

• Supporting overseas workers around the world

• Lewisham Foodbank, Meeting Point (club for the elderly), Switch It! (football outreach and mentoring)

Three local buildings are important for our purposes. We hold our main weekly service in Sydenham High School. We own the Here for Good Centre on Sydenham Road (the local high street), which is used for church and community projects and also provides office space for the church as well as iNet (an overseas missions agency we are part of). We also lease the Hope Centre in Forest Hill which is the warehouse for Lewisham Foodbank.

**Our Values**

**Everyone Welcome**

Each person is an image-bearer of God and is loved, invited and sought by Jesus. As a church we aim to model that love, invitation, and welcome.

**Everyone Growing**

Discipleship is allowing Jesus to transform our lives to be more in his image. All we do as a church should facilitate that discipleship adventure.

**Everyone Involved**

We all bring something vital to the life of the church. Every follower of Jesus is equipped by the Holy Spirit with spiritual gifts to serve.

**Everyone Going**

As a church and as individuals, Jesus is inviting us to be a part of his mission in the world, wherever that might lead.

**We are:**

**Charismatic** – emphasis on a relationship with the person of the Holy Spirit and open to spiritual gifts. Aiming to hear from God regularly, and being receptive to the prophetic.

**Evangelical -** Bible-believing. Encouraging everyone to regularly study the Bible, hearing and obeying God’s word to us.

**Evangelistic** - committed to making the Gospel known. Seeing people come to know Jesus personally, and bringing in more of God’s Kingdom locally and globally.

We are a free church, and are part of Transform Network, a local group of churches. We are a member of the Pioneer network of churches. As a member of the Evangelical Alliance, we affirm its Basis of Faith.

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES’ WORKER**

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

1..    To co-ordinate and develop the existing programme of activities for the children in the church.

2..    To ensure all children in the church are receiving good pastoral care.

3. In line with Forest Hill Community Church’s wider vision, to inspire fresh impetus in the children and families work going forward.

4.    To develop links with children and families in the community and build positive relationships between the church and our community.

5.    To encourage children to take an active part in church life, to develop their gifts and talents, and to enable their views and concerns to be heard.

**ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1.    To co-ordinate the children’s activities within the church, including holiday clubs and other seasonal activities.

2.    To oversee the recruitment, training, encouraging and supporting of voluntary leaders and teenage helpers, both practically and prayerfully. This will include building up the team through time spent together and identifying any training needs.

3.    To build relationships with parents of children in the church and to support them in their discipling of their children.

4. To confidently build relationships with families and children outside of the church with a view to forging inclusive relationships between non-church and church-going children.

5.    To foster and develop links with local primary schools.

6.    To keep up-to-date all necessary administration and records, and to meet all statutory and legal requirements.

7.    To maintain and develop his or her own spiritual life, faith and discipleship.

**Person Specification**

**Essential Qualities**

It is **essential**that the candidate be:

1. Able to speak with sincerity about matters of Christian faith in an informed, effective and non-judgmental way.
2. In agreement with the Evangelical Alliance Statement of Faith and the Nicene and Apostles’ Creed
3. Able to show genuine desire and enthusiasm for leading children into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and for their ongoing discipleship.
4. Able to communicate effectively with a wide spectrum of people (i.e. adults, young people and children) in person and writing.
5. Able to motivate self and others and to manage use of time.
6. Able to manage administration effectively.
7. Able to initiate and develop quality projects and adapt to changing priorities and circumstances.
8. Able to demonstrate working successfully in a range of social and cultural contexts.

**Essential skills, knowledge and experience**

1. Be an active member of a Christian church with a personal living faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Have first-hand experience of leading or co-ordinating activities for children (at least two years’ experience).
3. Have experience of leading and nurturing a team.
4. Working knowledge and commitment to safeguarding and promoting the safety and welfare of children.
5. Skills in working directly with children.
6. IT literacy (Word, Powerpoint, Notes, Zoom).
7. Good people and communication skills, appropriate for connecting with children, interacting with the church family and reaching the community.

**Desirable skills, knowledge and experience**

1. Experience of working in a similar role in a local church context.
2. A nationally recognised qualification in children’s work.
3. Safeguarding training.
4. Ability to produce creative online content

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

You will need to become a member of Forest Hill Community Church

Hours: 24 hours per week (including Sunday services and some evening and Saturday commitments from time to time).

Salary: £15,000 - £16,800 (£25,000-£28,000 FTE)

Contract: Permanent (after six month probation)

Pension: There is pension provision

Holidays: 25 days per annum plus Bank Holidays (pro-rata)

Reporting to: Lead or Associate Pastor

**How to apply**

Please complete the application form and email to Dragana Ivanovic: [dragana@foresthill.cc](mailto:dragana@foresthill.cc)

If you have any specific questions please email Dragana.

Closing date: 5pm 2nd July 2021