



CHURCH *of the* GOOD SHEPHERD

Sandhills, Leighton Buzzard



FAMILIES OUTREACH WORKER ROLE PROFILE

DIOCESE OF ST. ALBANS
CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
LEIGHTON BUZZARD

WELCOME

Thank you for expressing interest in the role of Families Outreach Worker to the new housing estates. We hope this job profile will enable you to understand the role and discern if it is right for you to apply.



THE CONTEXT: CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The role will be based at the Church of the Good Shepherd (CGS), part of the Ouzel Valley team of churches in Leighton Buzzard. CGS is a missional Christian community that meets in a community centre on one of the new housing estates and has been a Christian witness in these estates for ten years. The average Sunday attendance at CGS is 25 adults and 8 youth. During that time the population of Leighton Buzzard has grown significantly (from 37,469 in 2011 to 42,400 in 2021¹, with the true figure likely to be higher, since some parts of the new estates fall within other parishes). CGS's vision is to be a vibrant Christian presence in these new housing estate developments.

At CGS we seek to celebrate life with each other and to journey alongside one another in those more challenging moments as well. Our Sunday services are informal, inclusive, and friendly. An important part of our mission is engaging with the local community through our Sunday Pop Up Café and our Wednesday Morning Community Café. We have recently added a Music, Movement and Rhyme session for pre-school children and their parents/carers which has had a promising start. During school holidays provide a drop-in for children and families with activities, crafts and refreshments – all free of charge. We are constantly looking to grow our ministry with families.



CGS's vision is to

- be at the heart of the local community and enable, create and build the wider community.
- be a welcoming, informal, family friendly space where people know they will be accepted and valued.
- encourage each other to lead a God centred life, celebrating our spiritual journey together and equipping each other for everyday life.
- share life and all that it throws at us, together for support, friendship and laughter.

¹ Office For National Statistics, figures accessed 27 November 2023

THE VISION FOR THE ROLE

We hope that the right person for this role will be excited by the missional vision that CGS has for the new housing estates. We believe that this person will flourish personally and in their ministry within the role and that it will allow them to be creative and entrepreneurial in reaching out to children and families.

CGS has been concentrating its missional focus on three new housing estates - Sandhills, Roman Gate and Billington Park - where a significant number of young families now live, and we are looking to reach out to Clipstone, the most recent housing development. As the new housing has grown, it has expanded into other parishes within the Ouzel Valley Team. This has led us to discern the vision for a Families Outreach Worker. The role will be based at the Church of the Good Shepherd (CGS).

The central purpose of the role is to initiate and develop sustainable missional outreach to families on these new housing estates. A longer-term outcome of the project would be to help to develop hubs within the estates for the new communities to meet and experience a vibrant and attractive Christian presence.

Funding, including some from the Church Commissioners, has been secured for the first three years of the project and ongoing fundraising is being carried out to sustain the project beyond this time frame. The post will initially be part-time, with the potential to go full-time later in the project. The Families' Outreach Worker will be employed by the CGS PCC, who will oversee and support the project and the Outreach Worker, with their work being managed by the Team Vicar of CGS.



Our existing connection with families has shown a need for greater support and social opportunities, to combat isolation and loneliness. At present, we are running activities out of Astral Park Community Centre. The longer-term aim is for children and families on the new estates to be able to access activities and support where they live. As these estates cover an ever-increasing area around the edge of the town, one solution could be to use a double-decker bus as a mobile base for outreach, youth and schools-based work. Initial research has been carried out and the post-holder would have the opportunity to contribute to the development of these ideas.

Meeting families at our Wednesday Café has highlighted the financial struggles they are facing due to the cost-of-living crisis. This has led us to investigate a potential partnership with Christian Against Poverty (CAP) using their resources to assist those living on a low income.

These resources are:

CAP money coaching.

First port of call for anyone seeking some financial advice and advocacy help

CAP Life Skills Course

CAP Life Skills is a 8 Session Course that gives people the confidence and decision making skills they need to survive life on a low income. The course can offer your local community practical money saving techniques and how to make money go further.

These resources have the potential to enable the Families Outreach Worker to be offer well-structured and respected resources to help families on the estates on low income.

Once the successful candidate is in place, we will explore the suitability of this potential partnership with CAP with them.

WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOU

Building on Missional Foundations

CGS already has ongoing missional initiatives that will give the right person a solid foundation to build on. These include a pop-up café that runs alongside our Sunday morning gatherings at Astral Park Sports and Community Centre, providing a contact point with the children and families participating in junior football league matches on the sports fields next to the Community Centre.

CGS also runs a Wednesday morning Community Café known as Time2Connect, in partnership with the local NHS clinic, and this is building connections with the local community. Our midweek drop-in is becoming well-established and is particularly popular during the school holidays. At our most recent holiday drop-in, between 50-80 adults and children were in attendance.

In addition, we have links with many of the local schools which could provide useful networking for the project.

Professional and Personal Support

As a missional church we are very aware of how demanding pioneering outreach work can be. To enable the successful applicant to thrive professionally, personally, and spiritually, you can expect the following support from CGS:

- Line management support from Revd Steve Marsh. Vicar of CGS
- Support from the wider PCC and existing pioneer enablers
- A budget for training
- Spiritual / faith support
- Prayer support
- Links into supportive networks such as the Mission and Ministry team within the St Albans Diocese and the Pioneer Hub at the Church Mission Society.

In the last 2 years, three members of CGS completed the Church Mission Society Pioneer Enablers training. This means that there is a central and supportive community of Pioneers within CGS.

CGS is a very welcoming, pastoral and adaptable community. This means the right person would receive the support, nurture and encouragement of the whole CGS community.

WHAT WE ARE SEEKING

We are seeking someone who is excited by the vision of this project and discerns that their giftings, passion and character can be a central contribution to making this vision a reality.

We discern that that right person will possess the following attributes and qualities.

Ministry and Giftings

- A committed Christian faith with a heart for mission and social action.
- An ability to work with families and young people from all backgrounds within the missional context of the new housing estates.
- A passion for working with families and young, to promote their personal and spiritual wellbeing.
- A clear pioneering and missional gift, being able to work with people across a diverse range of beliefs or none and seeking to collaborate with other churches and community organisations in town.

Project Delivery and Management

- Be self-motivated and able to work collaboratively as part of a team.
- Excellent interpersonal and pastoral skills.
- Understand the importance of safeguarding and safe practice principles when working with children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- Ability to communicate effectively with stakeholders and local community partners.
- Ability to manage varied and conflicting priorities.
- An entrepreneurial self-starter who can initiate and manage their own workload.
- Excellent time and project delivery skills to set and meet project deadlines.
- Motivational leadership skills especially with volunteers.
- Excellent organisational and administrative skills including research, information gathering, and collating and developing resources.
- Ability to use social media to promote the work of the project.

We are praying for someone who will seek the opportunities within the project and make the most of the creative freedom that starting a project from scratch offers.

TIME SCALE FOR THE PROJECT

Please find below a preliminary time scale for the project.

Year 1

- a) Build on initial work with children and families at CGS Sunday and mid-week gatherings.
- b) Launch initiatives that aim to meet the practical, emotional and spiritual needs of families and children within the new housing estates.
- c) Build and lead volunteer teams for initiatives with children and families.
- d) Be an advocate for communities and individuals within the new housing estates.
- e) Build relationships with other community champions within the new housing estates.
- f) Assess the suitability of a partnership with Christians Against Poverty.

Year 2

- a) Plan and deliver community activities and events.
- b) Manage the budget for the activities set out above.
- c) Evaluate missional initiatives carried out and report to the CGS PCC.
- d) Conduct research and trials to ascertain further needs within the new housing estates, including the suitability of a bus to act as a mobile hub and / or creation of other bases for children's and youth work.

Year 3

- a) Based on assessment of community needs within new housing estates, take action to create hubs on new housing estates.

THE JOB SPECIFICATION

Position **Families Outreach Worker**

Line Manager Rev Steve Marsh: Pioneer Minister for Church of the Good Shepherd, Sandhills with pastoral responsibility for Saint Michael and All Angels, Billington.

Role Status: Part time, initial 3-year contract
Hours up to 22.5 - working hours to be negotiated.

Salary £27,500 pro rata

Hours 22.5 hours a week: evening and weekend working will be a requirement of the role.

Holiday 25 days. Time in lieu will be given if there is a requirement to work on a bank holiday

SUPPORT FROM THE CHURCH

In addition to the professional and spiritual support listed earlier, the CGS PCC will support the project and the person appointed to the role by providing the following:

- a) Finance, account keeping, budgeting.
- b) Annual accounts & report to Charity Commission
- c) Fundraising
- d) Health & safety
- e) Legal compliance
- f) Insurance
- g) PAYE
- h) Safeguarding
- i) Policies & risk management
- j) Assistance in representing the project at public and private meetings.

THE NEXT STEP

Thank you for taking the time to read this job profile. If you have any questions about the role or would appreciate a conversation about it, please contact CGS Churchwarden Katharine Reedy via the contact details below.

Mrs Katharine Reedy
Tel : 01525 384124
Email : info@goodshepherdsandhills.org.uk

Rev Steve Marsh is currently on sabbatical until 3rd June. He will be available for a conversation about the role from 4th June onwards. Please contact him via the info@goodshepherdsandhills.org.uk email address.

Closing date: Monday 10th June 2024 23:59

Interview date: Tuesday 25th June 2024

