

# Children, Youth & Families Chaplain (CYFC) – 3-year contract

## Introduction

St Stephen's Church, Soundwell, is looking for a full-time CYFC to lead, nurture and develop the Jesus-following children, youth and families work within the community and Church.



St Stephen's Church, Soundwell is a suburban single Church Benefice in the Diocese of Bristol. We have 5 schools within our Parish, consisting of 2 primary, 1 infant, 1 junior and 1 special needs academy. Our Church and its hall provide the only community meeting place in the Parish. We are a friendly growing bunch of people, of all different ages, committed to a journey of connecting with God, with each other and with the community in which we belong. There are around 130 adults and 20 children and young people, not including the members of our 8 Mission Outreach Groups. Therefore, we meet together in a variety of ways and in different ways to get to know Jesus and to make Jesus known.

## Role Description

We are looking for a self-starting and proactive CYFC to lead and develop and grow the Jesus-Following children, youth and families work in the community of Soundwell. You will be a valued member of the Ministry Team and line-managed by the Incumbent. You will establish, grow, and nurture teams within each of the CYF activities you are responsible for, many of which are already being delivered by committed volunteer teams. You should provide occasional opportunities for cross-team fertilisation of ideas and progress and mutual encouragement. You will also be spending time operating as a CYFC in the community, particularly building relationships in and with our local schools. Your aim is to develop vibrant children's, youth and family faith across the community with St Stephen's Church at its focus and Jesus at its centre.

You will have a passion for working with children, youth and families and seeing them come to know Jesus and grow to know him more. You will be part of the Church team and be charged with growing teams to achieve these aims. Above all, we are looking for the person God is calling to us, and to partner with His work in developing you to inhabit your calling, gifting and ministry to a greater extent.

This post is for a nominally 37½ hour week, flexibly weighted towards term-time working. We could consider fewer hours, pro-rata, for the right person. There is likely to be some evening work and some Sunday commitments. Please note that due to the location of the activities, there will be significant on-site working, but preparation time can be based from home.

## **Job Specification**

### **Schools Chaplaincy**

Develop links within the schools of the Parish, with a view to;

- strengthen the links already there with school leadership to enable deep connection and approaches that are endorsed by the school
- be a supportive prayerful and pastoral presence in the life of the school community, being ready to listen and offer care to children, staff & families
- supporting the local schools in relation to their provision of spiritual development opportunities
- enhance connections and relationships with the children and their families
- making Jesus known through a variety of activities and encounters (this might begin with Collective Worship and RE, but lead to all sorts of other exciting things)
- building and encouraging teams to support and lead the above

### **Community CYF Activities**

- Oversight and responsibility for the existing Toddler Group, Youth Group and possibly the new group for neuro-diverse families, which has just begun
- Seeking and developing other children, youth and family opportunities, with a view to knowing Jesus and making Jesus known
- building and encouraging teams to support and lead the above

### **St Stephen's Youth Church** (currently 0 - 11yrs)

- Oversight and responsibility for Youth Church activities, currently based alongside the Sunday morning church service. As the children grow, being creative in the growth of Youth Church.
- enhancing and building on those activities at other times and in other places
- building and encouraging teams to support and lead the above

### **Networking**

Looking at other Jesus-following resources that might support your work, including engaging with training opportunities for you and members of the Soundwell community.

## **Person Specification**

### **Essential**

- Committed & enthusiastic follower of Jesus, confident to lead in a forward thinking, 'middle of the road' Parish Church.
- Able to evidence experience in working with young people and families in the context of Christian Ministry.
- Passionate about young people and developing their relationship with God through discipleship.
- A team leader who is able to develop others in leadership.

- Good presentational skills - able to teach and communicate with young people and families in a variety of settings and contexts.
- Highly motivated, able to work on their own initiative and be a good team player while serving the overall vision of St Stephen's Church, Soundwell - knowing Jesus and making Jesus known.
- Able to communicate effectively both in person, online, and through email and other messaging systems.
- Teachable and committed to learning and developing as a leader with Christ-like character.
- Good administration skills and IT literacy; sufficient for rotas, calendar, information sharing and presentations.
- As this is a new role – able to present evidence of being a self-starter.

### **Desirable**

- Able to harness Social Media and use it as an appropriate tool for communication and outreach.
- Creativity in producing promotional materials.
- A relevant qualification in youth work and/or theology.

### **Terms and Conditions**

- This role holds a Genuine Occupational Requirement for an active and committed Christian faith under the 2010 Equality Act, Part 1, Schedule 9.
- St Stephen's Church, Soundwell, is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. All post holder and volunteers are expected to share this commitment. This post is subject to acceptable pre-employment checks, including an enhanced DBS with barred list check.
- This post is for a nominally 37½ hour week, flexibly weighted towards term-time working. We could consider fewer hours, pro-rata, for the right person.
- Work must be conducted according to the policies of the PCC.
- Gross Annual Salary - £26 - 29,000 (FTE) depending on skills & experience.
- Employer Pension contributions begin from age 22.
- Annual leave entitlement: 25 days plus public holidays (pro rata).
- This is a 3-year post.
- The start date is Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 assuming a 1 month notice period.
- The role is subject to an initial 3-month probation period.
- Line Manager: Incumbent.
- Job offer is subject to satisfactory references (including current/most recent employer) and DBS clearance.

## **Application Process**

Informal enquires are welcome. Please contact Revd Lisa Wigmore on 0117 9574 297 or [lisawigmore66@gmail.com](mailto:lisawigmore66@gmail.com)

If you wish to apply for this role, please email a completed application form to [lisawigmore66@gmail.com](mailto:lisawigmore66@gmail.com), which can be found on our website <https://www.saintstephensoundwell.org> Closing date for applications is Friday 15th November 2024.

If shortlisted, you will receive an invitation to interview on either Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> or Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024, which will be in person in Soundwell.

### **Additional Information regarding the Post:-**

This Post is the result of the vision of the Parish of Soundwell. As part of this we are pleased to partner with the Diocese of Bristol Growing Faith Chaplaincy pilot. The Diocese discerned that the Soundwell culture, need and opportunity provides an exciting context for developing chaplaincy. As such this role is part funded by the Diocese. We are excited to partner with them as we learn together.

The diocese describes their thinking as follows:

“The Church is a mixed ecology with many parts. Chaplaincy provides an opportunity to meet and serve some of the 95% of children, young people (and their families) who are not in church. The aim of the Growing Faith Chaplaincy pilot is to explore different forms of Chaplaincy, that are tailored to individual contexts to avoid a one-size-fits-all approach. We are encouraging churches to customise chaplaincy for children, young people, and families, fostering context-specific opportunities to flourish. The ‘Growing Faith’ approach acknowledges that the potential for flourishing is found in the nexus of church, home and school, and we recognise that all three of these spheres sit within community. We are also encouraging pilot areas to think about discipleship pathways, so that those who choose to explore faith further have connections into church.”