Youth and Children’s Pastor

GK Church, Kent

A church aiming to enable our young people to be disciples of Jesus Christ, then go on to be disciple-makers themselves.

Do you have a gift for leading young people to follow Jesus? Can you enable them to grow and deepen in their faith as disciples? Are you good at encouraging and helping other church members to get involved in ministry with young people? If you sense that God might be calling you in this direction, we’d love to hear from you.

About us

We are a rural church that has seen growth in families and young people over the past ten years. Our most recent youth and children’s pastor is now an ordinand, and we are seeking the person whom God is calling to lead us in this area.

The opportunity

We have wonderful young people in our church family, and relationships with our wider community though baptisms, Café Toddlers (weekly group for around 30 babies and toddlers, and their parents/carers), the C of E primary school, and Blend (weekly after-school café with currently around 10-20 youngsters in years 7 to 10). We have committed and skilled volunteers and a strong reputation for our contribution to community life through our mental health and community outreach ministries.

Our Sunday church numbers look good compared to the national picture. At present we have five Sunday groups for around 30 children and teens, usually with more teens than primary school age. However, attendance is not necessarily consistent and we are conscious that there are many more children and young people in our community whom we would love to welcome into God’s family.
Our website highlights our vision, at www.gkchurch.org.uk/our-vision. Your role will be to help make this a lived-out vision with our young people, noticing where God is moving and planning and adjusting accordingly.

In leading this area of ministry you will report to the Vicar and be part of a supportive leadership team. Your focus will initially include training, equipping and supporting new and existing youth and children’s leaders within our Sunday and weekday ministries. Over time, your role will be to help discern God’s leading in new areas.

We are looking for:

- someone who loves God with heart, mind, soul and strength. A disciple of Christ excited to work with other disciples, who can encourage young people to become disciples of Jesus Christ, with a lasting faith that deepens and grows, strengthened by a knowledge of God’s word.

- evidence that you are secure in Christ – that you nurture this relationship and make your own discipleship journey a priority. With a love of the Bible as the revealed and authoritative word of God, an openness to the Holy Spirit, and an ability to share this in teaching and by example.

- a team player, confident to offer your gifts into the mix, aware of the beauty of interdependence within the Body of Christ, able to learn with others and create healthy, strong teams.

- someone with experience of working with both secondary and primary school ages.

- strong communication and pastoral skills – with a range of volunteers, young people, parents, the wider community and in a range of circumstances. Someone able to help the church to support parents in the discipleship of their children, and encourage young people of secondary school age to explore and grow in their faith.

- expertise in the area of Safeguarding.

**Salary:** £25-£28k per annum plus GK Church will pay the equivalent of 10% annual salary into the C of E Church Worker’s Pension Scheme.

**Location:** St Mary’s, Goudhurst with Christ Church, Kilndown is known as GK Church. Based on the Kent/Sussex border we are part of the Church of England and sit within Canterbury Diocese. The church’s address, where you will be based, is St Mary's Church Office, Back Lane, Goudhurst TN17 1AN.
**Hours:** Full Time (37.5 hours a week). Part-time applicants will be considered. Sundays are considered a working day and there will also be some regular evening requirements.

**Holiday:** 25 days per year plus bank holidays. The post holder would be expected to work at Christmas and Easter.

**Occupational Requirement:** There is a genuine occupational requirement that the post holder is a committed Christian and will need to be, or become, a member of GK Church.

**Safeguarding:** GK Church is committed to safeguarding and to promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS and all relevant pre-employment checks.

**Partnership:** St Mary's Goudhurst PCC is part of the Diocese of Canterbury and has formally adopted the Paraklesis Charter for Churches (paraklesis.org.uk). This appointment is in partnership with, and comes with the support of, the Diocese of Canterbury as part of the ‘Changed Lives, Changing Lives’ vision and strategy.

For an informal discussion about the role and your potential application, please contact the Vicar, Rachel Robertson (mobile: 07546 038877; email: rachel.robertson@gkchurch.org).

To apply please send your CV with a covering letter, outlining why you are applying and what you would bring to the post, to the Church Administrator, Becky Addis (email: becky.addis@gkchurch.org).

The closing date for applications is 22nd January 2024

[www.gkchurch.org.uk](http://www.gkchurch.org.uk)