

**Job Description: Families Worker
Fishponds Baptist Church, Bristol**

Introduction

Fishponds Baptist church is a lively church comprising approximately 170 members. Our vision is 'Meeting God', 'Sharing Life' and 'Making Christ Known'. We are engaged in a variety of ministries as we seek transformation in our local community and across the city so that all people might know the truth, life and hope of Christ.

The Families Worker will work in a team with the Senior Minister, Youth Worker, Pastoral Care Coordinator, Children's Coordinator (also being advertised) and Office Manager. In addition, there is a voluntary worship coordinator. At present we are seeking to expand our staff team as we seek to replace our Associate Minister who was called to another church in the summer of 2015.

The main purpose of the post

The post holder is expected to work very closely with the parents and carers of children who attend our church activities, many of whom have no other contact with church. This will involve working with our three toddler groups. These groups are all thriving with approximately 100 children registered at our 2 mid-week toddler groups and 50 children attending our monthly 'Dads and Toddlers' (on a Saturday morning). The role will also involve leadership and oversight of our monthly Messy Church which meets on a Sunday afternoon. Around 60 adults and children attend Messy Church. The Families Worker will consider how this expression of church can further develop. As the Families Worker operates in these areas it is hoped that these parents and carers will be effectively supported and also presented with different opportunities for exploring the Christian faith.

The role will also involve participating in welcome visits to families who visit our Sunday services and making new relational bridges into our surrounding community. The post holder will focus primarily on the 'making Christ known' part of our church vision.

The responsibilities of the post

These include:

- Support all parents and carers who attend our three toddler groups. Seek to provide opportunities for all who attend to grow in their understanding and experience of the Christian faith.
- One-on-one visiting of parents and carers who attend our groups, as well as families who are new to the church.
- Function as part of the toddler leadership team (the support of the team members will be the responsibility of the Children's Coordinator)
- Oversight, leadership and further development of Messy Church. This includes support for the team of volunteers.
- Explore the possibility of starting day time church, Alpha or a home group that parents who are around in the daytime could attend.
- Delivery of courses such as parenting skills and Alpha.
- Develop a sense of mission across all church families
- Liaison with the Sticky Fish Nursery (which meets in our building) and input into the occasional Sticky Fish church services.
- Planning and oversight of an annual families' weekend away.
- Ensure appropriate interface with the Children's Coordinator.
- An occasional Sunday platform (e.g. updates and prayer) so as to maintain a presence before the whole church.
- Being accountable as an active and supportive member of the staff team.

Person Specification

Essential Attributes

- To be a mature Christian, passionate about following Jesus and enthusiastic about introducing others to him.
- To be in sympathy with the values and ethos of the church, including being prepared to become a Church Member and be regular in Sunday worship.
- To show excellent evidence of strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- To be a competent organiser, including the ability to assess priorities, make decisions and to work within time and budgetary constraints.

Senior Minister: Rev Dr Richard Pollard - richard@fbcbristol.org.uk

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Charity Number 1131411

- To be a good team player, both as a member of a team and as a team leader for volunteers.
- To be able to work on their own initiative and collaboratively, with the ability both to initiate new work and prepare for its sustainability.

Desirable attributes

- To have a portfolio of relevant experience.
- To have experience of public speaking.
- To possess a qualification in a relevant discipline.
- To hold a full driving licence.

Other information

This is a part-time post, up to 16 hours per week with days worked to be negotiated. The nature of the post will require some weekend and evening work.

The appointment is to the staff team and as with all team members ultimate accountability is to the whole Church Meeting through the deacons.

Line management responsibility for the post-holder rests with the Senior Minister or an agreed alternate.

Appointment to the role is dependent on a recent and satisfactory enhanced DBS to work with children and vulnerable adults.

The salary of £8880 for this part-time role is based pro rata on the recommended standard stipend of the Baptist Union.

Applications containing a CV and paragraph of writing explaining why you consider yourself suitable for this role should be sent to Rev Dr Richard Pollard by Friday 15th July