

Children & Families Pastor Maternity Cover Role Description



**VINE
CHURCH
WYNYARD**

Employed by:	Vine Church Wynyard Board of Trustees
Hours:	16 hours (<i>negotiable</i>)
Work Base:	Home
Salary:	£14 - £18 / hour <i>based on experience</i>
Proposed Start:	13th November 2024

Post Aim

The aim of the Children & Families Pastor Maternity Cover role is ensure that Vine Church's current activities relating to children and families continues while the Children & Families Pastor is on maternity leave, and to continue the work to shape and resource our church to reach out to children and young people in Wynyard and facilitate their growth as disciple making disciples of Jesus.

Background

Vine Church is a pioneering Anglican church plant in Wynyard, in the Diocese of Durham. Wynyard comprises of several rapidly growing areas of new housing, and is estimated to be home to around 20,000 people by the end of the decade, many of whom are young families.

Until Vine Church was established, there was no church of any denomination in Wynyard. Revd's Emily and Mark Hudghton (a wife and husband team) were invited to lead the church plant by the Diocese of Durham into the local school, Wynyard Church of England Primary School. These links with the school have been foundational in establishing the church. Further opportunities will arise as another primary school and (if plans go ahead as expected) a secondary school are also founded in Wynyard - part of the same Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) as Wynyard Primary School.

Vine Church currently has a thriving youth group, a youth bus outreach programme, toddler church on Sundays and ministry into Wynyard Primary School including leading lessons and worship.

Our Values

Children and young people are at the heart of our mission at Vine Church. According to research from *Talking Jesus*, 76% of practicing Christians say they came to faith *before they were 18 years old* and this is at the core of our missional strategy.¹ The opportunity we have to reach out to under 18s with the love of Jesus, especially through our connections with schools, is truly exciting, and we are looking for the right person to help us reimagine how we can do this.

We fully believe that children and young people can be disciple-making disciples, fully integrated in a multi-generational way with the wider church – not simply entertained on Sundays while the grown-

¹ <https://talkingjesus.org/mapping-practising-christians>

ups do 'real' church. We want to create an environment for children and young people that nurtures their faith and calling and equips their families to see themselves as on mission together.

Purpose of the Post

The purpose of the Children & Families Maternity Cover role is primarily:

- to ensure that Vine Church's current activities relating to children and families continues while the Children & Families Pastor is on maternity leave. Including:
- to facilitate the growth of the children and young people of the church and their families in discipleship and mission, as they become disciple-making disciples
- continue developing Vine Church's pastoral networks and systems to support children and young people and their families

Key Commitments

- **Wednesday Morning** - Collective Worship at Wynyard CoE Primary School (*term-time*)
- **Wednesday Evening** – Coordination and Leading of Vine Youth Group – a discipleship focussed youth group which approximately 14 young people attend and a once-a-month youth bus drop in collaboration with the Ten10 Project.
- **Sunday Afternoon** 1:30pm – 4:00pm support of the Children's / Youth provision for our 3:00pm Sunday Gatherings.

Main Responsibilities and Objectives

The person in the Children & Families Pastor Maternity Cover role will:

- support ministry to the children and young people of Wynyard and their families
- ensure the church provides a safe environment for all and respond appropriately and efficiently to any safeguarding issues that arise
- continue Vine Church's creative programme of groups, events and initiatives to reach out to children and young people, nurture their faith, equip them in mission and support families to follow Jesus together
- develop and grow the existing teams of volunteers and leaders to facilitate the children's, youth, and family's ministry
- deepen the links with Wynyard Church of England Primary School, and any other schools which are established in Wynyard in the future
- work with the Leadership Team to ensure targets are met
- assist the church in developing a culture that sees children's faith as equally important to adults and champion children & young people in the development of the church's strategy
- be an active part of the staff team
- collaborate and build links within the community
- develop the use of social media within the church for reaching children and young people
- disseminate learning and good news stories with the wider Diocese and beyond through the Diocesan Growth Team network and other appropriate channels

Person Profile

The post holder should be able to demonstrate the following:

Christian Character and Gifting

This post has an Occupational Requirement for the post holder to be a mature, baptised, Spirit-filled Christian who has:

- a sense of calling by God into this role
- the willingness to become a fully committed member of Vine Church, committed to its vision and values
- a willingness to work within the structures of the Church of England
- a commitment to their own Christian discipleship, allowing scripture, prayer and fellowship to shape them more into the likeness of Jesus
- a passion for mission and evangelism
- a heart to serve others
- the spiritual gifts of leadership and pastoring
- a love of children and young people, with a desire to see them grow as disciples of Christ

Personal Qualities

The person appointed should:

- be energetic, enthusiastic and be an innovative thinker, open to change and development and new ways of operating
- have a strategic mind, spotting opportunities and making the most of them through planning
- seek excellence in themselves and others
- be self-aware, honest and open
- have sufficient confidence in their call and gifting whilst also being committed to continual personal and professional development
- enjoy working with other Christians and collaborating as part of a team alongside people that have different gifts and backgrounds
- be committed to developing others, particularly those with leadership potential, including children and young people
- work well under pressure while guarding their personal life and time well
- embody a healthy sense of fun

Qualifications, Education and Experience

Essential:

- previous children's and/or youth ministry experience
- experience of missional activities
- knowledge of safeguarding principles and procedures (although training in this will be provided)

Desirable but not required:

- a youth ministry qualification
- experience of building and working with teams of volunteers
- previous schools experience
- previous experience of working with families
- previous experience of leading services and giving talks
- an understanding of the Church of England

Skills

The person appointed should:

- communicate well with children and young people, both inside and outside the church, able to lead 'from the front' when required
- have strong, written and verbal communication skills, including a confidence with IT
- be an innovative problem solver, who is able to use initiative to develop and improve systems and implement change where needed
- have good management, organisational and interpersonal skills and be able to lead others
- be comfortable networking with a wide range of people and organisations
- be able to maintain confidentiality where appropriate
- be able to plan, thinking strategically in the short, medium, and long term
- have an ability to work under pressure
- be able to mentor and develop leaders

People Links

The Children & Families Pastor will:

- be directly responsible to the Church Leaders, line managed by Revd Mark Hudghton
- play a full role as a member of the church's wider staff team, sharing in the team's activities and being an active member of the church
- co-ordinate the children's and young people's ministry teams

Additional Details

The role is a fixed term contract for the duration of the Children & Families Pastor's maternity leave, including a 6-month probationary period.

This post has a flexible working arrangement although it is expected that much of the role will take place outside of school hours.

An enhanced DBS check is required for this post.

The post includes 28 days of paid holiday per year, pro rata based on working hours and period of employment.

You must have permission to work in the UK to apply for this post.

The post holder must be an active communicant member of the Church of England, or a full member of a church belonging to Churches Together in Britain and Ireland or the Evangelical Alliance or similar. This post is exempt under paragraph 3 of Schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010. The Diocese of Durham supports and promotes the aims of the Church of England.

Please note: this is an outline role description and may be developed or altered as the post develops.