

**Children and
Worker
Application**



**Families
Pack**



The Christmas Journey



Holiday Club



Good Friday walk of witness

School visit

Baptism

About Us

We already have several children in our Young Church (during the Sunday morning service) but also some teens for which we have no provision. There is a 'family welcoming team' to support parents with toddlers attending church.

Working in partnership with other churches in the town and surrounding area we provide a Christmas Journey for local schools and well attended faith-based holiday club in the summer. We have good links with the local schools, scouts and guides having visits to church and running Christingle and carol services.

Vision

Our vision is to see a growing number of children being strengthened in their faith and growing up to love and trust the Lord Jesus. For them to enjoy coming to church and find it a place where faith is nourished and they feel like a full part of the church family.

We want to better support the families who are part of the church and to reach out to those who aren't, particularly to make the most of the *many* opportunities we have already throughout different parts of church life.

The Children and Families Worker will take a lead but work together with the whole church to help us to achieve this. We expect them to spend time with and support parents as well as the children, and we expect them to help to train and equip other members of the church family as we work together to provide the right environment to see children grow and flourish in the faith.

There is space for an individual's gifting and passion to direct exactly which of the many opportunities available will have a focus. Working closely with the vicar this might include things like starting a new afternoon service, taking regular assemblies in schools, running mid-week groups and much more.

Video - We have produced a video about our project which can be seen by following this link. <https://youtu.be/V5uEM3TaYmQ>

Parish Profile

Our Church



St Mary Magdalene Church - Prudhoe

We are one parish, with one church and a parish hall. The church is in the centre of the town.

In terms of tradition, we have an informal style and a bible focus. We see ourselves as Prudhoe *Parish Church* in the fullest sense – in mission, by welcoming all, and in worship, by including people who consider themselves as Low Church, as Evangelical, as Catholic and as belonging to other traditions. We have a service on a Sunday at 10.00 am. It is streamed online via Facebook and Zoom. Average attendance is about 50 adults with members of Young Church and our teenagers. Within the church there is an area set aside for babies, toddlers and their parents.

There is a Holy Communion service each week on a Thursday. Communion is also offered in the town's care homes.

Our incumbent is Revd Dan Freyhan who was ordained a priest in July 2015 and has led the parish since November 2017. We have one curate in training and a Reader.

Dan says:

I'm delighted that the Lord has given us the gift of a ministry team, who share the preaching and leading and planning. Each of us have different gifts and passions, and we talk and pray together about every part of church life. We're looking for someone to join that team: You would have a shared pastoral responsibility with the ministry team with the obvious focus on children and families. You would also bear responsibility for organising, planning and teaching within the life of the church with

your own particular focus. We trust that the right person will find this exciting and a privilege and be glad to work within a team!

The Town



Prudhoe Castle

Prudhoe has a population of 14,000. We are a suburban town in a beautiful semi-rural setting. The town is growing but relatively compact. It is about 2 miles across east to west. The housing is a mix of owner-occupier, privately let and social housing. There are areas of social deprivation.

Historically a mining town, Prudhoe grew with the closures of many local mining pits, as people moved in from surrounding areas. Now it is a popular place to buy in the Tyne Valley because of the excellent transport links and easy commute to Newcastle, Gateshead and further afield. House prices and rent levels are relatively low compared to other parts of the country

Prudhoe has two nurseries, three first schools, a middle school and a large high school to which people travel from the surrounding areas. There is also a very good Catholic primary school which doesn't fit in the 3-tier system.

In the centre of town is the Spetchells Centre (a community hub) which houses the library as well as the town council offices and several other community and business groups. Prudhoe Front Street is home to many independent businesses as well as several restaurants, cafes, takeaways, charity shops and hair salons. Low Prudhoe near the river has a substantial industrial estate as well as a new retail park which is still growing.

There are plenty of GP surgeries and healthcare provision as well as Ferndene, a specialist in-patient care unit for young people; Waterworld - a large swimming pool

with a gym and fitness suite also on site; a few local pubs and working men's clubs; two care homes and a large block of assisted living flats.

The Surrounding Area and Diocese

The parish is situated in the county of Northumberland which is renowned for its natural beauty along its coastline and the uplands including the Cheviot Hills. We are also no more than ninety minutes away from the Lake District and Scottish Borders.

We are about ten miles from the thriving city of Newcastle upon Tyne. Theatre lovers will enjoy the Theatre Royal which offers a full programme of entertainment throughout the year, including modern and traditional plays plus musicals. The Glass House in Gateshead, a feat of modern architecture, hosts classical concerts, folk music and other cultural events. There is also the independent Tyneside Cinema which screens a diverse programme of films. This is not to forget the fact that the city and Metro Centre in Gateshead provide a great shopping experience.

Post secondary education is provided by our two universities, Newcastle and Northumbria with their state-of-the-art facilities. There are also two further education colleges in Newcastle and Gateshead.

The town has good links to the urban conurbation by road and rail with its own station. Newcastle Central station is on the East Coast main line, and we also have an international airport nearby. Our roads are quieter meaning that journey times to the coast and countryside are much quicker than other parts of the country.



Hadrian's Wall

Framed by the Rivers Tyne and Tweed the Diocese of Newcastle is the Church of England's most northerly diocese. This Diocese in the 'land of the Northern Saints' was formed in 1882 and comprises 169 parishes across 2,110 square miles. The diocese covers the local authorities of Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside and Northumberland plus small parts of County Durham and Cumbria.

The 12 deaneries within two archdeaconries serve a population of 800,000 people across a variety of communities ranging from sparse rural to inner city areas. Our diocese is steeped in Christian heritage with the Island of Lindisfarne.

Children and Families Worker

Job Description

Purpose

Reaching out to children and families in the church and wider community with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Discipling and nurturing them and leading a team of volunteers in the ministry to children and families.

Accountability

The Children and Families Worker will be accountable to the vicar and ultimately the Parochial Church Council as employer.

Key Responsibilities

- Develop new creative ways to engage with children and families while building authentic relationships to enable them to experience faith for themselves.
- Identify opportunities to engage with the church through appropriate pathways such as visits to the church or schools for services, lessons and celebrations.
- Nurture existing relationships with schools and develop ties with groups where there has previously been a minimal input such as the local high school.
- Offer out of school activities during the week including a new Sunday afternoon service for families such as 'Messy Church'.
- Participate in the holiday club and Christmas Journey which are already in place with opportunities to develop and lead other activities such as Easter and Harvest Journeys.
- Support Christian parents to teach and nurture their children in Christian discipleship.
- Bring children and families to Baptism and confirmation
- Work with the existing congregation to build and strengthen the volunteer base and lead the teams to engage with children and families.
- Arrange appropriate training events for the volunteers in partnership with the Diocesan Children and Youth Team as appropriate.
- Foster and maintain excellent working relationships with the ministry team, school staff, volunteers and others in the community involved in the provision of services for children and families.

- Share pastoral responsibilities with the vicar for the whole church family.
- Accept invitations to PCC meetings to brief members on progress in the ministry.
- Ensure that safeguarding policies and procedures are put into practice plus ensure that volunteers are appropriately trained and have the appropriate DBS checks
- Identify opportunities for personal development by attending training courses as appropriate and go on Retreat once a year.

Key Relationships

Key relationships include

- The vicar and the parish mentoring/development team
- The curate, Reader, church wardens, safeguarding officer and PCC members.
- Existing church volunteers
- The church family
- School leaders, teachers and uniformed organisations in Prudhoe
- Community leaders
- The Diocesan Children and Youth Team

Probationary Period

The post is subject to a six-month probationary period.

Children and Families Worker

Person Specification

Key Criteria	Essential	Desirable	Method of Assessment
Qualifications			
Theological training or development		D	Q
Educated to A level or equivalent (e.g. BTEC/T level) and with GCSE Maths and English Language (grade C or above)	E		Q
Level 3 or above qualification relevant to children or youth work.		D	Q
Knowledge and Skills			
Working knowledge of safeguarding practices and procedures	E		I
Good IT skills including Word and Powerpoint	E		Q & I
Knowledge of childhood development and special needs	E		
Experience			
Proven experience of working with children and families and of nurturing their discipleship and growth in faith plus working with children with SEND	E		I
Previous experience of supporting and resourcing teams of volunteers	E		I
Previous experience of working in or alongside schools		D	I
Leading or developing worship groups		D	I
Personal			
A Christian and active member of a church	E		I
Willing to join St Mary Magdalene, become a committed member and attend worship on a regular basis	E		
Capable of working independently and managing own workload (with supervision and support)	E		I
Good organisation, communication and time management skills	E		I
Ability to work with a wide range of people and awareness of different needs	E		I
Commitment to personal and professional development	E		I
General			
Ability to work flexible hours	E		I
Willingness and commitment to work some evenings and weekends	E		I
Driving Licence and access to a car		D	Q

Method of assessment – (A) application form, (I) interview, (Q) qualifications

Occupational Requirement

An Occupational Requirement exists under the Equality Act 2010 for the post-holder to be a practising Christian.

Disclosure and Barring Service

The post holder will have access to vulnerable people in the course of their normal duties and as such this post is subject to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (Exceptions) Order 1975 (Amendment)(England and Wales) Order 2020 and so it will be necessary for a submission for disclosure to be made to the Disclosure and Barring Service to check any previous criminal convictions.

Salary

- Starting salary of £27,000 per annum with annual reviews
- 37.5 hours per week with time off in lieu if required

Annual Leave

- 20 days paid leave a year plus bank holidays making a total of 28 days
- Leave must be taken within the calendar year unless there are exceptional circumstances and in agreement with the line manager

Sickness Absence

- Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) for the first 12 months, then 30 days full pay maximum per annum thereafter

Maternity Leave

- As per the statutory provisions

Paternity Leave

- Two weeks leave at 90% of salary

Pension

- NEST pension with employer contribution of 7% and minimum employee contribution of at least 1% to make up the statutory obligation of 8% in total

Mileage

- Paid at the HMRC rate per mile currently at 55p per mile.

Training Budget

- A personal development and training budget of £1000 per annum

Work Location

- The work location will be a blend of home, office and venues within the parish. A mobile phone, laptop and broadband will be supplied.

Appendix: Some Photos from Church Life



During a Service



Christingle



Christmas Journey



World Day Of Prayer



Remembrance Sunday



Easter Morning Sunrise Service



The Church Building from outside



The Parish Hall



Coffee Morning



Coffee after Church



West Wylam (part of Prudhoe!)



The Town Fair