

Overview of Church

St Michael's is the parish church at the centre of Bishops Stortford. With a strong choral tradition and close links with St Michael's Primary School, the church has a reputation as a welcoming and loving community of worshippers.

For a fuller description of the church, please see our context and ethos statement at appendix 1

Mission Statement for this role:

To lead and coordinate efforts to foster, with God's help, a more vibrant all-age church where families and their children are welcomed, nurtured and encouraged to know Jesus, participate in church community life and grow in their Christian journey.

There will be two elements in this important role:

To build relationships with families, young people and children and, as the Spirit leads, develop activities appropriate to their needs.

To bring together and enhance the wide variety of existing aspects of our Families' Mission by working in collaboration with existing leaders, ministers and others in the congregation, and in doing so enable the church to more faithfully and coherently minister to the needs of families, young people and children in accordance with God's plan for us.

Personal Profile

FAITH

Essential: A person with a strong, committed, lively, developed Christian faith, who wishes to go ever deeper into God. A desire to make new disciples by sharing faith in Jesus. Needs to be aware of and fully support the mission of the Church of England, and be willing to become a worshipping member of St Michael's Church.

Desirable: To be, or be willing to explore becoming, a confirmed communicant member of St Michael's Church.

These constitute Occupational Requirements under Equality Act 2010 (Schedule 9, part 1).

EXPERIENCE:

Essential: A track record of creative engagement in Christian nurture of children, and/or young people in a church and/or other appropriate setting, and of being involved with pastoral care.

Desirable: A track record of leading and establishing activities in Christian Families Ministry. Experience of mentoring/counselling others involved in ministry.

TRAINING/QUALIFICATIONS

Essential: No specific training requirements are required for an application for this post.

Desirable: Suitable training in youth/children's/general ministry and/or teaching/theology

CHARACTER/PERSONALITY:

Essential: Can demonstrate strong emotional and spiritual intelligence when dealing with others. To be outgoing and a good communicator. To have a real love of working with children and young people, but also able to relate well to all ages; possessing an empathy and understanding of the realities of contemporary family life. Resilient, reflective, self-motivated and collaborative in approach.

SKILLS:

Essential: Organised, observant, able to formulate and articulate a holistic understanding of people and situations. Able to engage with all ages, particularly children, young people and their parents and to teach and communicate the Christian faith. Able to manage a varied and fragmentary timetable and be able to react quickly to opportunities as they arise. Good leadership skills.

Job Description

RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING

To build relationships with and between: existing children's and youth ministry leaders, children and young people within, on the fringe and currently without St Michael's church, and their families. And to reach out to the wider St Michael's community, including the PCC itself, as an advocate for families within it. To publicise, coordinate and communicate relevant church activities both within and outside the church.

NURTURE/TRAINING OF OTHERS TO LEAD

Create opportunities for developing the ministries of existing leaders. Identifying, encouraging and equipping new leaders for these ministries. Encouraging and equipping young people in their own ministry/leadership.

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY WITH CHURCH FAMILIES AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

To work with young families to explore how the church can best engage with them on their spiritual journey with God. To develop and implement new opportunities and directions for Families' Ministry and fellowship, and empower and encourage others in developing new activities or approaches.

Opportunity to liaise with the Diocese and/or Deanery to develop initiatives where appropriate, perhaps exploring funding options for new activities.

Appropriate direct involvement in Junior Church, Crèche, Bridge Church, Discussion Group, Choir, Baptism/Communion/Confirmation Preparation.

SCHOOLS' MINISTRY

Appropriate involvement at St Michael's School in School assemblies/classroom/church visits, and to develop other appropriate school based activities, e.g. after school clubs.

To play their part in strengthening the relationship between staff, parents, governors and pupils and the church.

Other schools: To build on current opportunities e.g. visiting schools, encouraging children to join activities at St Michael's such as Junior Choir and trips to the church for services. To deepen engagement with schools in the wider community.

WELCOME/EVANGELISM/OUTREACH TO NEWCOMERS

To be visible and active in greeting newcomers (in concert with other church members) and introducing them to worship and church fellowship and activities. To participate as appropriate in existing welcome gatherings and nurture courses.

SAFEGUARDING

To have a strong commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. This post is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced DBS check and satisfactory references.