 **Growing Faith Families Worker**

**Job Description – St John the Divine Willenhall Coventry**

**Introduction**

Following the successful pilot by Coventry Diocese, there is a desire to roll out the significant ministry and missional role of Growing Faith Families Worker in Willenhall parish in Coventry East Deanery. Many parents in Willenhall comprise the Church of England nationwide ‘missing generation’ of 20s-30s which the church desires to see flourish in the Christian faith. Willenhall parish has many ‘warm contacts’ with young parents, particularly single parents living in deprived conditions, with their children and young people, and provides an ideal context within which this role can provide the dedicated time and professional input that are essential to attracting families, children and young people to Christ and ensure the success of *Growing Faith*.

Essentially, the role is for the Growing Faith Families Worker within the parish of Willenhall Coventry to enable and facilitate the growth of faith in young parents, their children and young people, utilising the excellent relationships the church has in our parish through services, outreach events, groups, local schools and community organisations. This role will also include some practical missional working with families with issues around parenting and other difficulties.

This role has a strong pioneering thread running through it, by which we mean being the first to lead ministry into new places for and with others. Pioneers are people able to see a new future, and have the skills and gifts needed to make that a reality. The role will require the holder to utilise learning and experience that the Church of England has gained on how to pioneer well. They will be required to identify opportunities for mission and to join in where there are signs that the Kingdom of God is growing.

**Details**

*Start date* – Flexible

*Contract* – This is a fixed term appointment for an initial 3 years. It will have a probationary period of six months.

*Hours* – 25 hours per week including attendance at Sunday morning service, weekly daytime and evening activities, meetings and training.

*Employer* – The Parochial Parish Council of St John the Divine Willenhall Coventry.

*Salary + Pension* – We can offer an annual salary of £24,000 gross per annum (based on a 37 Hour week) pro rata (£12,700 – 16,000) per annum subject to experience, plus pension.

*Annual Leave* – Five weeks (120 Hours including a maximum of 5 Sundays).

**Specifics**

* To identify, develop, implement and reflect on projects and initiatives that enable young parents, children and young people to have a life-enhancing encounter with the Christian faith and the person of Jesus Christ. Please see the Addendum showing details of ministry projects that the Growing Faith Families Worker could be involved with in this context at St John the Divine Willenhall Coventry.
* Be able to create a culture that recognises and welcomes the capacity of young parents, children and young people to transform the Church and the world.
* Provide practical missional support working with families in relation to parenting and other difficulties.
* Provide support and development for all those working with families, children and young people.
* Be part of an effective and accessible online space where Growing Faith resources and learning can be developed and shared with parishes across Coventry.

**General**

* Ensure that all relevant regulations for working with young children are understood, adhered to and complied with.
* Develop and manage budgets and expenditure.
* Assist with identification and applications to grants to support the *Growing Faith* project.
* Be aware of some of the issues around mental health in young parents and young people.

**Skills and knowledge**

* You will have a proven ability to lead and organise others, coupled with the ability to work constructively as a member of a team.
* You will have the demonstrated ability to communicate the Christian gospel effectively to families, children and young people and to equip them to grow in their faith
* Have a good track record of working within a church context on a variety of community activities.
* You will be a creative person who identifies opportunities and inspires others to try new things.
* You will have excellent interpersonal and social skills and be able to relate well to a wide range of people, both from within and outside the church.

 **Personal qualities**

* You will be a mature Christian with a firm faith, sympathetic and able to work within the church tradition of St John the Divine Willenhall Coventry (Liberal Catholic).
* You will be committed to growing in your faith and will be able to organise your time to include space for both personal prayer and bible study.
* You need to be willing to be a committed member of St John the Divine Willenhall and play a full part in their life.
* You will be professional, friendly and approachable, including when under pressure.
* You will be culturally sensitive and able to work with people from different backgrounds.
* You will be discreet and trustworthy, able to sensitively manage private or confidential information.

 **Qualifications**

* A standard of education commensurate to this role.
* Ideally a theological qualification or training qualification to work with parents, children/young people or equivalent experience.
* Full driving licence.

The post holder will have a vibrant and active Christian faith and a secure understanding of the Christian faith and ability to engage with families, children and young people in faith issues. It is therefore an Occupational Requirement (Schedule 9 part 1 of the Equality Act 2010) of this post to have a committed Christian faith and be actively involved in worshiping in a church community.

This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check.

**Addendum**

**Details of ministry projects**

The Growing Faith Families Worker here could be instrumental in enabling us to:

1. re-start our Sunday morning Sunday School (here called ‘Connect’) for children and young people, which previously ran weekly during our 10am Worship, and stopped during Covid 19 Lockdown. With previous helpers still shielding post-Covid it is difficult to recommence but very much needed and desired by parents for their children to have a group dedicated for them.
2. assist with developing our Sunday evening Youth Group (here called ‘The Followers’) working alongside the YMCA who assist us under funding obtained from the Diocesan Mission Fund.
3. be a significant part of our staff team and work in developing relationships with parents who previously (pre-Covid) attended our Monday morning Stay & Play, and look at how to reintroduce this in a Covid-safe way.
4. help with our Tuesday morning small group for families which grew out of our morning Alpha course, and help continue discipling those who attend as a support group while we are in Tier 2.
5. assist us in re-starting our pre-Covid Thursday morning WOW! (Women of Willenhall) group which is a support group for isolated, lonely, women who lack self-confidence, some of whom are recovering from domestic violence situations.
6. assist us in providing practical support for families in their situations regarding parenting and other difficulties.
7. recommence the Friday ‘Brunch Club’ for parents and pre-schoolers which our previous Family Link Worker used to run as a drop-in outreach.
8. help us with developing All Age monthly services for families in church and also streamed on-line on Zoom for any who are shielding.
9. Help continue our work with both of our local Primary Schools at Stretton Academy (CofE) and Willenhall Community School (non-church) in supporting vulnerable families with parenting, family problems and helping to grow faith amongst the children at school.
10. Help with our assemblies/Collective Worship and the Friday lunchtime ‘Divine Club’ group for children we ran (pre-Covid) at school.
11. Help with our outreach events for families children and young people that we run regularly including:
12. Messy Church (crafts, all age service and food) on the last Friday of the month after school
13. Sweaty Church (sports, all age service and food) on the 2nd Sunday of the month
14. Summer Brunch Club feeding and activities programme in summer holidays
15. Outdoor live nativity with animal feeding programme in Christmas holidays
16. Pancake and Pancake races event on Shrove Tuesday
17. Other Covid-related events such as our Outdoors Messy Church feeding programmes for families.