



## Loddon Reach Benefice: Children and Family Minister

### Role Description

#### **Imagine a Church where...**

spaces are created in which young people and families are actively involved and growing spiritually; where children, young people and adults discover life with Jesus and the love of God for each and every person; where we can work together to be church families that support and nurture the faith of children, young people and their parents.

Imagine having the opportunity to be stretched and developed in your own faith while working with children and young people in churches which are open to growing and which seek to be God's transforming presence in their communities and beyond.

Loddon Reach is a group of four churches, Shinfield, Swallowfield, Spencers Wood and Beech Hill which are a part of the Church of England. We are based just south of the M4, in the Berkshire countryside, but just 5 miles from the centre of Reading.

OUR VISION is to be God's transforming presence for the communities in which we live and beyond. OUR CALLING: "To know Christ and make Him known through a caring, sustainable and growing Christian presence in our Community." We recognise that God has demonstrated His love for everyone by sending His Son, Jesus, and we are called to share God's love through the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through us.

#### ***Interested? Read on...***

**JOB PURPOSE:** To develop and grow the Children and Families ministry in the Benefice that has an emphasis on helping people inside and outside the church to encounter Jesus through the Holy Spirit and to become disciples.

**IN MORE DETAIL:** The job will partly be what you make it, but it will include:

- Developing and growing a children's ministry that enables young people to encounter Jesus.
- A Pioneering role: reaching out to children, young people and families who don't yet know Jesus by developing our links with schools and our other community outreach events.
- Ensuring that the children's ministry is in line with the vision of the Benefice.

- Helping children, young people and their families in their discipleship, faith and expectancy that God can use them in the 'church of today'.
- Developing and engaging with a team of volunteers to work with our young people.
- Building a strong sense of community amongst young people and families that is welcoming.
- Working with a Line Manager, the Team Rector, who has over 9 years' experience of supervising children and youth workers.
- Connecting with the area network of Children and Youth ministers for support, encouragement and mentoring

Although you will be the only full-time employed Children and Family Minister, you will be joining a well-resourced wider church team which includes: a Team Rector, a Team Vicar, a part-time Self-Supporting Minister, a retired Minister, a Licenced Lay Minister and an Administrator as well as volunteers in each of the churches.

**WE HAVE**, like many churches, various degrees of connection with children and families. The picture is variable across the benefice. Each of the churches has connection with children and families, but often with irregular attendance. The church in Shinfield currently has the most activities for children and families such as the weekly carer and toddler group, the monthly 10+ group, the twice per month Sunday Family Service and occasional special events related to the church year.

There are excellent relationships with local schools and great opportunities for building on the existing connections and contacts. There are exciting prospects for the future as each of the schools is seeking to develop the relationship between the school and church communities.

The village communities are growing through extensive house building and many new families are moving into the area with the population growing year on year. This provides great opportunities for making connections with families who are seeking to grow and develop their life in the local communities.

**If this challenge appeals to you, we would love to hear from you. The deadline for applications is Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025.**

# **Loddon Reach Benefice: Children and Family Minister**

## **Person Specification**

### ***THE RIGHT CANDIDATE WILL:***

- be a committed Christian with a good knowledge of the Bible, an awareness of maintaining their own spiritual growth and an enthusiasm to pass on their faith and love of Jesus by teaching and example. There is a Genuine Occupational Requirement (GOR) that the holder of this post is a practising Christian\*
- be able to work as part of a team, working alongside clergy and senior members of the congregations of all 4 churches to devise and plan ways of outreach
- Have a real love of working with children and proven experience of teaching and nurturing children and young people in the Christian Faith
- Have experience in setting up events suitable for families and children, showing imagination and creativity to help adults and children to become pilgrims along the road of faith with all members of our congregations
- have experience in recruiting, enthusing and developing volunteers to establish meaningful and lasting activities which will promote the work with children and families within the parishes
- An ability to listen and get alongside adults and children of all ages and backgrounds.
- A self-starter with a high degree of personal initiative who can own the vision for our children and families work and develop it, recruit and lead a volunteer team, and balance their workload with time to stop, reflect, pray and plan
- Be able to forge close contacts and work well with the wider church team, local organisations, schools, other church children and family Ministers
- Be willing to engage fully in the life of the benefice, be flexible and willing to respond to any perceived needs.

\* Genuine Occupational Requirement: Please note that the person appointed will be a practising Christian, lay or ordained, who is a communicant member in good standing with the Anglican Church or a church that is a member of the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland or a member of the Evangelical Alliance.

### ***THE RIGHT CANDIDATE MUST:***

- be a strong committed Christian of good character, who is prayerful and models the renewing work of the Holy Spirit
- have strong communication skills and an ability to think strategically
- be a good team player, able to build a strong network both within and outside the churches of the Benefice

- have experience of leading children and young people to faith and helping them to grow as disciples
- have experience of leading children and family work and planning exciting and creative teaching, programmes and events
- have an understanding and experience of the work of the Holy Spirit in and through children and young people
- have strong IT skills and experience of using Microsoft Word, Excel, Instagram and other social media platforms
- schedule and manage their workload well, and that of others to optimal capacity
- be able to provide clearly documented information to support all their work
- Current driving licence and own transport

### **NICE TO HAVE:**

- A recognised qualification in children or youth ministry
- Experience of working in a voluntary organization
- Understanding of the operation of the Church of England at a local level.

### **OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES**

The scope of the role will further require you to be able to

- safely recruit, train and equip volunteers
- work with the Benefice Safeguarding Lead and ensure that the Benefice children and family ministry implements and follows our safeguarding policies and procedures
- follow and implement all the Benefice and PCC policies including legal requirements such as Data Protection and ensure Risk Assessments are prepared
- manage a ministry budget accurately and efficiently
- work with wider ministries of the church to ensure effective co-ordination
- be willing to step outside their current work boundaries to attend, participate and help with church wide events.

The role is 40 hours a week and the appointee will be required to work on Sunday mornings and other hours outside of 'core' office hours.

The salary is £34,000.

Formal qualifications may not be necessary, but the candidate should have a good level of education and be able to communicate with individuals and larger groups.

The appointee should be willing to work flexible hours in agreement with their line manager and be able manage their own time schedule efficiently.

Safeguarding: understand and follow the Safeguarding standards of the Diocese and Benefice and complete the required training. This post is subject to enhanced disclosure from DBS.

GDPR: understand and follow GDPR requirements for local church life.

# **Loddon Reach Benefice: Children and Family Minister**

## **Job Terms and Conditions**

**JOB TITLE:** Children and Families Minister  
**DURATION:** 3 year contract with the potential to be extended  
**EMPLOYER:** The Benefice of Loddon Reach Joint Council  
**LINE MANAGER:** Team Rector of the Benefice of Loddon Reach  
**LOCATION:** The Benefice Office, Shinfield Church Hall, Church Lane, Shinfield  
RG2 9BY

### ***BENEFITS:***

5% stakeholder pension, 20 days holiday (Plus bank holidays). Holidays to be taken in school holidays and in agreement with your line manager to minimise disruption to the busy times in the life of the church and to include no more than 5 Sundays. You will be required to work Sundays and over the Easter weekend.

### ***NOTICE PERIOD AND PROBATION:***

- The probation period will be six months (including a two-week notice period within this time).
- The notice period is one month.

### ***ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:***

- The appointment will be subject to obtaining a successful Enhanced Disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service.
- There is a Genuine Occupational Requirement (GOR) that the post holder is a practising Christian.
- You must be eligible to work in the UK.

### ***BEING PART OF THE TEAM:***

- The CFM will be part of the Leadership Team and expected to lead the way in supporting the vision of the church.
- The CFM is to be a fully engaged church member involved in the worshipping life of the church.
- The CFM is expected to attend the weekly Ministry Team meeting and regularly meet with their line manager.

**If this exciting opportunity appeals to you, please find more information and download the application form at [www.loddonreach.org.uk](http://www.loddonreach.org.uk)**

**If you simply want to find out more about it, please do contact the Team Rector, Revd Nigel Beer at [rev.beer@loddonreach.org.uk](mailto:rev.beer@loddonreach.org.uk) or the Benefice Office 0118 988 5923**