



Children, Youth and Families Worker, Caversham Baptist Church

£32,000 Full Time Equivalent (pro-rated for part-time hours), 3-5 days per week (flexible)

We are seeking a person with a passion for engaging and building relationships with children and young people in their journey of faith. This role will take responsibility for leading and developing our church's work with children and youth and their families as we seek to live out our vision for "Showing the heart of Jesus in the heart of Caversham." We are already blessed with good number of children and youth in our ministries and are excited by the opportunity to grow and develop our work in this area. We have created this role to help us disciple the children already in contact with our church and reach out to more. We long to see children and young people come to saving faith in the Lord Jesus, so if you share this passion, we look forward to hearing from you.

About Caversham Baptist Church

We are a family church in the heart of Caversham, a northern suburb of Reading with a population of about 32,000 people. The church building is situated alongside one of the major junctions in the centre of Caversham and every day it is passed by thousands of people. Its location gives the fellowship superb opportunities for reaching out to its community. Our 19th century building benefited from a significant refurbishment carried out in 2021/2 which has made the building more welcoming and accessible and gives us excellent facilities for our work.

The church has around 60 members plus many more who attend our Sunday worship services and other activities. Our church family is multi-cultural in that quite a large proportion originate from other countries, particularly Hong Kong and Southern Africa. The Sunday morning congregation averages 70-80 people. We have a particular passion for prayer and have strong home groups.

We are blessed to have up to 20 primary age children and a youth group of around 12 who join us regularly on a Sunday morning. They join our service at the start and then leave for their own groups, returning at the end to tell us what they have been doing.

Each Monday morning in term time, we run a group for pre-school children and their parents and carers called Little Lambs which is very well attended by non-church families.

The church is one of 11 churches in membership of Churches Together in Caversham (CTiC) and several of our members and youth are involved in organising CTiC's annual week-long Summer Holiday Club which attracts 150 children. The event is held in a local primary school and is run by volunteers from across the CTiC churches.

The church has a leadership team of 6 and an enthusiastic group of volunteers who run the children and youth work.

Job Description

3-5 days per week (22.5-37.5 hours) flexible, but to include Sunday morning, Monday morning and Friday evening.

Responsibilities

- Work with the leadership team and church membership to develop and implement a vision for children, families and youth work.
- Deliver, with the assistance of others, the youth and children's programme on Sunday mornings
- Take a leading role in the planning and delivery of occasional All Age Services (about 3 per year).
- Assist with the running of a weekly toddler group (currently Monday mornings during school term-time)
- Manage the team for Sunday morning youth and children's work including administration of a rota and setting the programme.
- Attend a monthly leadership team meeting (currently Tuesday evenings)
- Take on a significant role at the Churches Together in Caversham Holiday Club (last week in July, weekdays)
- Organise, lead and deliver with the assistance of others, a Friday night youth club, or similar.
- Organise and run a youth weekend away once per year.
- Undertake pastoral work with families and youth.
- Explore how the church can support families in the wider community.
- Liaise and collaborate with workers at other churches in Caversham to
 - build good working relationships, sharing information and resources accordingly.
 - plan and deliver occasional joint events
 - build a stronger Christian youth community across Caversham
- Maintain own safeguarding training up to level 3
- Oversee the DBS checking procedure to ensure all volunteers for children's work are suitably checked.

Person Specification

Essential

- Practicing Christian.
- A passion for discipleship of children and youth.
- Experience in youth ministry.
- Proactive and organised.
- A good listener.
- Self-motivated and able to work independently.
- Able to motivate and engage others to assist in ministry.
- Experience of safeguarding procedures and practices.

Desirable

- Evangelism gift and experience in evangelistic ministry.
- Qualification in first aid.
- Youth worker qualification.

What we are offering

Salary: £32,000 Full Time Equivalent (pro-rated for part-time hours)

Type of contract: Permanent, **full time or** part-time 3-4 days per week (22.5-37.5 hours) flexible, but to include Sunday morning, Monday morning and Friday evening.

Pension: You can choose to join with the Staff Section or Basic Section of the Baptist Pension Scheme.

- The staff section features 8% employee contributions, 6% employer contributions Life Assurance of 8 times salary and Income Protection benefit of 50% of salary.
- The basic section features 5% employee contributions, 4% employer contributions and Life Assurance of 3 times salary.

Training: The church wishes to support the successful applicant in their own personal development and will discuss how to support your specific training needs. This could include the specific Youth Worker courses offered by Bristol Baptist College.

- Certificate in Theology, Ministry and Mission (children, youth and families):
<https://www.bristol-baptist.ac.uk/children-youth-ministry/children-family-course/>
- MA in Theology, Ministry and Mission (children, youth and families).
<https://www.bristol-baptist.ac.uk/theological-studies/taught-ma/>

Wider Support: As members of Southern Counties Baptist Association we have access to their specific support offering for Children Youth and Families Workers (https://www.scba.org.uk/Groups/348651/Children_Youth_and.aspx).

Recruitment Timetable

Closing date for applications: Monday 11 November 2024 at 10am. To apply, please send a CV and covering letter of no more than 2 pages to cyfapplications@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk.

Shortlisting: by Monday 18 November 2024.

1st round interview dates: Friday 22 or Saturday 23 November 2024.

We anticipate a further stage later in November to give the final candidates having the opportunity to meet the current children and youth leaders and some of the young people.

Start date: By negotiation with the preferred candidate, but our hope is to have someone in place for the beginning of 2025.

If you have any questions, please email cyfapplications@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk.