St Denys Application Pack – Children, Families and Youth Worker

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for taking the time to explore this exciting opportunity to work with us at St Denys Church, Southampton. This pack provides more background and detail about the role so you can prayerfully consider whether we might be a suitable fit for you and a place where you can thrive in your faith and gifting.

The role is part-time (0.6 FTE) with a salary of £16,598 (£27,664) and 15 days' holiday. This role could be fulfilled on a term-time basis, with increased term-time hours so that annual hours worked remain 0.6 FTE. However, we would expect some out-of-term work on an exceptional basis (e.g. Christmas morning, or if running a holiday club) to be discussed during the interview.

If, after carefully reviewing this pack, you feel excited about this role and can fulfil the person specifications, then please complete the application form, available here: https://stdenys.church/jobs, and return it to me via email at paul@stdenys.church.

If you have any further questions, please contact me to discuss it further.

Many blessings,

Revd. Paul Lambert
Curate (St Denys Church, Southampton)
email: paul@stdenys.church

About St Denys

St Denys Church is a place and a people expressing the love of God and enriching our local community in creative, vibrant and collaborative ways. As a people, we are an inter-generational Christ-centred community, supporting one another in our struggles, and encouraging one another to love, follow, serve, care and thrive. We are passionate about mission within our local community and on a wider global scale too, reflecting God's heart for justice, the poor, and the marginalised.

For more information, take a look at our website: https://www.stdenys.church/

Current Children and Families' work

This role offers an exciting opportunity to build and shape a new children's and families ministry, building on the relationships and activities we already have.

We currently have:

Sunday Service: We average about 10 children at our weekly 10 am service. Currently, we run a group called Mustard Seeds two weeks a month, with an average of 7 children attending. A great team of 5 experienced volunteers runs Mustard Seeds.

Drumbeats: This is our mid-week babies and toddlers group, with an average attendance of 30 children with their carers

Messy Church: We run a Messy church approximately twice a year, which has an average attendance of about 25 children and 30 adults.

School links: We currently have good links with the local school.

The church family at St Denys holds a wide range of theological perspectives, but all share the core values of loving, following, serving, caring and thriving.

These values are the basis of three action statements that provide a framework and purpose to all that we do, and that have been embedded into church life over the last two years:

i. Growing as friends and followers of Jesus (based on the values of 'following' and 'serving')
ii. Caring well for ourselves, others, creation and resources (based on the value of 'caring')
iii. Enriching Communities, Near and Far (based on the value of 'thriving')

The value of 'loving' underpins all three actions

Job Role

Job details:

Line manager: Revd Paul (Curate) or Sera (Vicar) in their absence. Regular line management meetings (at least every other week) will be held.

Location: Office space will be provided at St Deny Church Centre, although some home working is available as appropriate.

Time: The role is 0.6 FTE (24 hours a week) and offered on a permanent contract, with flexible hours, although some core hours will be required (such as Sunday mornings and times for staff and line management meetings). The role will include 16.8 days off (28 FTE including bank holidays), as agreed with your line manager. Bank holidays will be given off in lieu if worked (eg Good Friday or Christmas morning).

Salary: £16,598 (£27,664 FTE), paid monthly in equal instalments, with pension contributions. This will be reviewed annually by the PCC.

Church: The Children and Families Team Leader is expected to become a member of the church congregation.

Training: The church will provide and fund training opportunities, in agreement with the PCC and line manager. The successful applicant is expected to undertake some training annually.

The role will be offered with a 6-month probationary period.

Areas of responsibility:

WELCOMING & VALUING

Develop connections with children, young people and families within the mission fields of our local community

1. Seek opportunities for new, meaningful interactions with local children, families and young people, through existing church activities, connections through the local school, informal conversations, and new initiatives.
2. Listen to the needs of our diverse community and help the church consider how we can respond to them in ways that utilise their strengths and passions.

EXPLORING & DISCOVERING

Support children and families to explore God's story and respond

1. Develop meaningful and appropriate ways for the church family to tell, teach and explore the good news with children, young people and families
2. Explore the creation of a new worshipping community.

GROWING & DEEPENING

Helping children and young people grow as friends and followers of Jesus, and supporting a team of volunteers to support them in their discipleship

1. Take oversight of the existing Sunday morning children's ministry, including both the established Mustard Seeds group and the ways children engage in intergenerational services like Messy Church.
2. Oversee, grow and strengthen the team of volunteers who are at the heart of our ministry to children, young people and families. This includes ensuring the team is excited about children hearing and being in a relationship with God, and equipped to support this. Also, that safeguarding policies are known and put into practice, and risk assessments are carried out.
3. Developing and leading activities for children on Sunday mornings and during the week
4. Support children and young people in their journeys of faith (including baptism and confirmation).

Personal Specification

We are looking for someone who:

- Knows Christ and is committed to their own faith journey within the Christian tradition. There is a Genuine Occupational Requirement for the postholder to be a practising Christian in accordance with Schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010.
- Is passionate about children and young people finding, growing and sharing their own faith.
- Is able to relate to and connect with children and young people, both within the church and our local area.
- Is creative, knowledgeable and experienced in helping children and their families know and love God.
- Is excited by the values and missional approach of St Denys church.
- Able to sustain and grow strong teams.
- Organised, reliable, able to work well in teams.
- Able to maintain a sustainable work pattern.
- Is competent using technology and able to use (and learn) software such as Canva, MS Office, ChurchDesk, Social Media, etc.
- Knows, and is willing to explore, their strengths and weaknesses.
- Able to work independently, and will ask for help when they need it.
- Understands the importance of Safeguarding.
- Is comfortable working with parents, children and volunteers who hold a range of different theological perspectives.

It would be desirable, but not essential to have:

- experience in youth or children's work, within a Christian or secular context.

- some theological training
- team leadership

Closing Date & Timeline

Application closing: 8:00 am on Monday 2nd November 2026.

Estimated Interviews: 16th – 20th November 2026.

Expected start date (subject to any notice periods): 4th January 2027.