

Children and Families Worker



The Children and Families Worker will have overall responsibility for Dockyard activities supporting 0-11 year olds and their families. The Dockyard is a pioneering initiative working on behalf of the deanery to support low-income communities in engaging with the church. Over three years, we have developed core activities, a growing team of staff and volunteers, and we now benefit from a building in the city centre where we meet on a Sunday and throughout the week. We value partnership and work alongside seven other projects in The Living Room, which are serving the city of Truro. The Children and Families Worker will join an existing team, working alongside Trinity Church - a group of four Anglican churches working together across Truro. This is an exciting role for someone willing to try new ways of reaching the least-reached communities in Cornwall, sharing life and faith with people who are facing tough times and in need of the hope of Jesus.

The new Children and Families Worker will be experienced in reaching people on the margins, skilled in sharing faith with the unchurched, and pastoral in how they care for others. This person will be a team player, enabling the gifts of volunteers to empower them to take risks, get uncomfortable, and go out to new communities to build relationships and share their faith. The Children and Families Worker will help establish new activities to engage 0-11 year old children and their parents, and develop a new outreach, evangelism, and discipleship strategy.

Background

The Dockyard is a project which began in 2023 with an aim to see *a generation transformed by Jesus, with hope and resilience for tough times*. We are funded by the Church of England's Lowest Income Community Fund and have a focus on families and young people who are from low-income communities. We are currently engaging close to 100 people per month through our weekly activities - the Sunday gathering called Meals with a Message, Family Cafe, Food Larder, school mentoring, and CreATE youth club. We also work with one of the Trinity Churches to host a bible study for people who are experiencing homelessness, called Jericho Road. We are keen to reach those typically unreached by the Anglican church in Cornwall, offering practical support, friendship, fun, and inviting people to meet Jesus.

There are opportunities to engage with parents throughout our weekly groups and holiday activities. We also offer mentoring to a local primary school and host an annual Family Fun Day.

The Dockyard was set up on the values and beliefs we find in the Bible, where we discover the pattern for church life.. As we seek to engage the least reached, we endeavour to offer radical hospitality, contribute what we can to the community, share life together, and break down barriers to access. We seek to serve Jesus wholeheartedly and sacrificially, empowered by the Spirit, sharing our gifts and skills, loving one another as brothers and sisters, and following the pattern of church we see in the Bible.

Main purpose of the post

- Overall responsibility for activities supporting 0-11 year olds and their families
- Enabling a team of volunteers to reach children and families not normally reached by traditional expressions of church
- Oversee the development of outreach, evangelism and discipleship initiatives
- To ensure that this work is done through, and in partnership with local churches and residents.

Key Tasks and Responsibilities

Leadership

The Children and Families Worker will oversee activities for 0-11 year old children and their parents. Activities should engage new families, help them grow in resilience to face tough times, whilst offering opportunities for evangelism and appropriate discipleship. Specific tasks include:

- Contribute to the overall strategy for outreach, evangelism and discipleship across Dockyard
- Grow and lead the children's team in identifying opportunities and developing activities for meeting new people. This could include:
 - Schools work
 - Family activities
 - Parenting groups
 - Events
- Development of evangelism and discipleship opportunities (ideally as part of the Dockyard church)
- Recruit and line manage project volunteers
- Inspire and equip the children's team with confidence and skills to engage and share faith with young people and their families
- Project lead for the Family Cafe, holiday activities, and oversight of children's activities on a Sunday

Pastoral Care and Discipleship

The Children and Families Worker will play an active part in supporting children and their families in practical support and pastoral care, whilst encouraging the team to do the same. They will also seek opportunities to share the gospel and develop people in their faith. This could look like:

- Mentoring children
- Meeting parents in a coffee shop or in their home to offer pastoral care
- Helping parents with practical needs, such as giving lifts to appointments, helping them move house or making referrals to external support
- Exploring faith informally through conversations, inviting them to church, or studying the Bible together 121

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- Joining the team that leads and teaches an all-age church on Sunday afternoon

Safety and Finance

The Children and Families Worker will manage their budget, equipment and resources. They will also have a good understanding of the safeguarding and health and safety policies, ensuring that activities have a full and trained team.

Person Specification

A. Skills and experience

- Proven experience in delivering children's and community work within a variety of settings, including work with those who have SEND
- Experience in sharing the Christian faith in formal or informal settings
- Experience and ability in teaching the Bible to children and parents
- Experience working with vulnerable or low-income people groups
- Experience of growing a team and leading them in organised projects
- Experience in coordinating the delivery of new activities and outreach opportunities, developing teams to continue the work and overseeing their continued expansion.
- Evidence of the ability to work in a position of trust and responsibility.
- Good communication skills with all ages.
- Good IT skills.

B. Christian character

- You have a commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and to building God's church to His glory through your role.
- You are a Christian, with a clear faith, in full sympathy with the ethos, values and vision for The Dockyard.
- You are a person of integrity with a godly character and a person of prayer who understands and applies the Bible to your own life before seeking to apply it to others.
- You currently play a full part as a member of a church, including Sunday worship and other areas of Christian activity.
- You will join our Dockyard church, being regular in Sunday afternoon worship.

C. Personal qualities

- A heart for evangelism and reaching people outside of the traditional church.
- A willingness to take risks and get uncomfortable
- Have good interpersonal skills and are at ease with adults, young people and children who are hard to reach.
- Be able to motivate yourself and others.
- Be a good team player, able to work with, support and encourage others.
- Be comfortable working alongside evangelical Anglicans.
- Be able to model the lifestyle of The Dockyard's beliefs, values and ethos in both public duties and private choices.
- You will require access to transport.

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What support will I get?

- Regular monthly supervisory meetings.
- Confidential six-monthly progress reviews.
- Access to appropriate training as part of your continuing professional development.
- Support from a dynamic and encouraging staff team.

Main Terms and Conditions

Job Title:	LICF Children and Families Worker
Responsible to:	Revd Erica Payne
Reports to:	The Dockyard Leadership Team, part of St. Kea Church
Location:	Your work base will be at The Living Room, 10 River Street, TR1 2SQ. Some work from home and attending meetings in other areas across the Deanery is expected.
Start date:	April 2026 (or a mutually agreed date thereafter)
Hours of work:	This is a part-time post of 15 hours per week.
Salary:	£26,000 pro rata
Pension:	An occupational pension is provided with this position and is currently provided by People's Pension.
Holidays:	The leave entitlement is 6 weeks
Safeguarding:	As this post involves working with those who may be considered vulnerable and will involve work with children and young people, a successful safer recruitment process (including a DBS check) will be required and the post holder will be required to undertake safeguarding training. An occupational requirement exists for the post holder to be a practising Christian in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.