



Families Chaplain

ADVERT

Are you a committed Christian who loves seeing people of all ages grow in faith and confidence? Do you have a soft spot for profound theological questions and interesting observations from 5 year olds? Do you struggle to sit through church if it isn't interactive? Do you value the opportunity to pray and worship through sound and silence, craft and cake? Are you a people-oriented person who is able to connect with folk of all ages and find common ground?

If so, you might be just who we're looking for to join our team at *The Beacon Project: SR5*. In partnership with the Parish of North Wearside, we hope *The Beacon Project: SR5* will result in a series of locally authentic and evolving, sustainable church activities and practices for all ages, that will increase our value to, and relationships with, our community in North Wearside, Sunderland.

The Family Chaplain's key purpose is to facilitate and nurture the discipleship of children and families in the Parish of North Wearside building on established provision and developing it further. You will create, develop and lead, a contextually appropriate program of activity and events, to engage children and families in following Jesus and growing a personal faith. You will develop relationships and seek to involve and engage families more fully in the life of the church whilst developing appropriate expressions of worship for, and with, them. You will also work closely with grandparents and the wider family unit, with a specific focus on developing our parish support for the isolated and bereaved. As part of your role you will be involved in recruiting and training a team of local volunteers to support the delivery of the Beacon Project activities.

This is a role that is inwardly focused on the church community but with a missional mind-set.

Hours: 16 hours, assumed over 4 days

Salary: £9.50/hour

Work base: Office space at Holy Trinity, Southwick

Length of contract: three years initially, with a view to extend depending on funding

Whilst there is some flexibility available, we expect the post to be worked over four days a week, including Sundays and occasional evenings.

Context: The Parish of North Wearside and The Beacon Project: SR5

North Wearside Parish has been granted funding to aid in the development of the Church within the community and to increase our missional impact and focus, this is *The Beacon Project: SR5*. Through *The Beacon Project*, by 2025 the Parish of North Wearside hopes to be an evolving authentic expression of Church, visible and valued in the community; accessible to all, led by locally grown and nurtured leaders.

The Parish of North Wearside is a Church of England Parish located in Sunderland. We have two Church buildings - Holy Trinity Southwick and St. Cuthbert's Redhouse - and a community project at St. Bede's on Town End Farm. We are a growing parish with a love of our community and a desire to see those in it thrive. We are an urban parish with a population around 36,500, across a number of estates. We are ranked 391 on the Church of England deprivation statistics. Holy Trinity is a grade II listed building and St. Cuthbert's dates from the 1950s and has two halls attached for community and church use. Both buildings have toilets and kitchens but we have recently launched an ambitious building project for Holy Trinity to further upgrade its facilities.

In North Wearside Parish we have been growing an extensive program of outreach both for community events and more faith focused work. We run a number of growing mid-week groups for children and young people, from babies to high school. We also host a community meal during the winter months that is open to anyone. We are seeking to grow in visibility and develop our relationships with the community around us further. We are also looking to grow work that has been done by Unlock workers on the Town End Farm area of the parish at St. Bede's Community centre.

The Beacon Project will run alongside and be well integrated with the Parish of North Wearside, with an initial base at Holy Trinity, but we do not plan or intend to be limited to that building. We are keen to develop ways of being present, accessible and visible as church within the community, across the parish; including St. Cuthbert's, Redhouse and St. Bede's community centre, Town End Farm.

We will be a focal point for the community, valued for feeding people spiritually, physically and sacramentally, with significant emphasis on assisting, developing and equipping local leaders. Our work is part of the *Missio Dei* – the understanding that God is already present and active in this place, we are simply striving to take part in that mission and realise God's plans for the people in SR5. As such we intend that the project will lead to the mutual growth of the staff, local leaders, volunteers and community alike. We want to be a people and place where knowledge of God is made known, discovered and celebrated, across all ages and backgrounds; where God is seen as much in the learning and innocence of a young child to the decades of wisdom of a life veteran, from the highly educated to the illiterate; where blended families and individuals form community, both transient and rooted. We will be engaged in the needs and concerns of our community and ensure that we build and develop relationships with other organisations in the area to have an integrated approach; enabling organic growth of faith, skills and leadership, with our key themes/points of focus being social isolation, poverty, & young people and families.

We expect the role of Families Chaplain to develop according to your gifts and as opportunities arise, but this will be discussed and reviewed with your line manager.

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate skills, knowledge and experience in the following areas:

Job Specification

Missional Task & Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● To take a lead in the development of regular groups and one-off activities and events to draw children and families into a real engagement and relationship with Jesus● To build, encourage and train a team of volunteers to work within those activities/groups.● To develop Sunday activities and resources for families. Contribute to the leadership and worshipping life of the church community.● Getting to know local families, community groups & developing good relationships facilitating the development of a strategy for active engagement with unchurched children and families.● To assist the Youth and Children’s worker with school work, when appropriate.● Identifying areas of specific & general need & developing a strategy to enable us to contribute to the transformation of society by impacting family life.● Helping develop and deliver Holiday Hunger provision in partnership with others local organisations
Administrative/ Team Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● To work alongside clergy and the team to deliver The Beacon Project vision.● To work closely and collaboratively with the Parish Team; attend appropriate meetings, and invest in relationship building to ensure a cohesive and joined-up approach● Promote and maintain the safeguarding of children, families and vulnerable adults.● To collect data, track progress, and monitor attainment of KPIs in collaboration with the Beacon Team.● Report to the Parish Church Council (PCC) as required.
Spiritual & Pastoral	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Work with the staff team to offer appropriate pastoral care to children & their families.● There is an expectation that every member of staff will spend some time at designated places (including St. Bede’s and St. Cuthbert’s) on a rota in an open office/chaplaincy role.● You will be required to lead prayer and accessible worship activities as part of your role.
Additional Important Information <i>Please note: There is a genuine occupational requirement that the role holder is a committed Christian in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● It is important for the growth and development of the project that the postholder is well integrated into the team. For this reason, there will be an expectation that the post holder will spend time (forming part of the working hours) at leadership team meetings, prayer meetings and building relationships with other key members of the Parish team.

Person Specification

Education & Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Extensive experience working with children, families and/or vulnerable adults.
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● A personal faith in Jesus Christ, open to the leading of the Holy Spirit and missionally focused.● Experience facilitating and helping to lead prayer and worship activities that communicate the Christian faith in an accessible, inclusive and creative way.● Involvement in leading activities with children and families● An enthusiastic and self-motivated leader who can also work as part of a team.● Experience of collaborative working.● Training and mentoring volunteer staff
Knowledge & Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Excellent communication skills, including ability to build rapport and resolve conflict with children, parents/carers, volunteers and staff.● Confident IT skills with knowledge of varied social media applications.● Good organisational and time management skills.● Ability to show initiative and be responsible.● Good leadership and interpersonal skills.● Ability to plan independently and collaboratively but also to communicate a plan quickly and efficiently to others so they can help deliver it.● Knowledge of, and commitment to, best practice in Safeguarding.● Experience of data collection and progress evaluation to inform strategy development.● Experience of presenting reports and updates as required for internal and external audiences
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● A willingness for flexibility as some evening and weekend work will be required● A willingness to undertake additional training as required
Desirable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● A relevant qualification in teaching or children's ministry● Given the size of our geographical parish, willingness to travel will be necessary and access to own transport may be helpful.● Willing to become a regular worshipping member of the Parish of North Wearside, to participate in and promote integration between the Beacon Project and the Parish

General

We understand the benefits of employing individuals from a range of backgrounds, with diverse cultures and talents and we aim to create a workforce that:

- values difference in others and respects the dignity and worth of each individual;
- reflects the diversity of the nation that the Church of England exists to serve;
- fosters a climate of creativity, tolerance and diversity that will help all staff to develop to their full potential.

There is a genuine requirement for the applicant to demonstrate a personal commitment to the Christian faith however we are additionally committed to being an equal opportunities employer and ensuring that all employees, job applicants, visitors and other persons with whom we deal are treated fairly and are not subjected to discrimination. We want to ensure that we not only observe the relevant legislation but also do whatever is necessary to provide genuine equality of opportunity. We expect all of our employees to be treated with, and to treat others, with respect. Our aim is to provide a working environment free from harassment, intimidation, or discrimination in any form which may affect the dignity of the individual.

We are a living wage employer.

Standards of Behaviour and Conduct

Employees are expected to act at all times with due consideration for others and in a manner befitting their position as employees of the Church and as professionals, whatever their job.

Health and Safety Responsibilities

The Parish of North Wearside takes Health and Safety at work and the safeguarding of vulnerable adults and children very seriously, we require all our employees to familiarise themselves with, and follow, our policies for these. All offers of employment are subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure.

Application and Interview process

Application will be through covering letter, CV and a completed template of the job specification demonstrating how you fulfil it. A blank template can be found on www.northwearsideparish.com. The covering letter should address how you respond to *The Beacon Project*: SR5's slogan of 'listening, learning and lighting the way'.

Applicants are asked to provide the name and contact details for three referees, one of whom should be able to comment on your faith commitment and spirituality, eg. a church leader or spiritual director. Another should be a recent work reference.

To make some informal enquiries about this role you are invited to contact the ordained lead of *The Beacon Project*, Rev'd Chantal Noppen on 07504 560249. If you are undecided about which specific role of those advertised is the best fit for you, but you feel called to apply, please contact us. We would welcome the opportunity to look at the team flexibly and explore the options available with you.

Deadline: 6pm on August 15th submitted electronically to beaconprojectsr5@gmail.com or by post to The Team Rectory, Rotherham rd., Redhouse, Sunderland, SR5 5QS.

Interviews are scheduled for the week beginning August 31st