

Barclay Viewforth Church Children and Families Development Worker

Details and context:

Barclay Viewforth is a mission-focussed congregation on the south-west edge of central Edinburgh. Our aim is to *Make God's love known through Jesus Christ*: sharing that love with our local community and beyond, and growing as disciples and in our faith through mission and ministry.

Our congregation has a broad range of ages with, in the past few years, a growing number of families with young children. We now have around 50 pre-school and primary age children regularly or occasionally attending, most at the younger age, and a smaller number of teenagers.

We have been exploring a *Sticky Faith* approach, getting children involved in the life of the church and building links between the different age groups. And we have also considered the *Growing Younger* and Church of Scotland *Rooted* materials.

We are looking for someone to work with us in developing and strengthening the work with Children and Families from this base.

Role summary:

Objective 1:

Nurture and develop spiritual growth in our children and young people, making it sustainable as they grow older

- To develop creative approaches to engaging and retaining children and teenagers who are part of BVC
- To engage and build good relationships with this group, acting as a good role model
- To provide support, encouragement for and walk with our young people
- To create paths for faith and discipleship for young people and encourage them in their relationship with God.

Objective 2:

Nurture and develop volunteers, in the context of Ministries in BVC which are built upon a discipleship approach

- Work with the existing team of volunteers, including encouragement, training and nurturing of this group and their role, and of new volunteers
- Build positive relationships with parents, team members and the church congregation; providing regular communication as required.

Objective 3

Nurture and develop a sustainable child-centred focus in BVC, engaging the wider church family across generations

- Liaise with other ministry groups within the church to ensure integration of the children and young people into the life of the church.
- To support the spiritual formation, expressions of worship and discipleship of young people within the church family.
- Complete the responsibilities of a staff team member such as attending weekly staff meetings, and actively contributing to decision making on Children's and Youth issues at Session etc,
- To take an active part in the life of BVC
- Follow the church's safe guarding policy.

The ideal candidate will have the following:

- A sincere Christian faith with a heart for young people
- Experience in working with, and skills in spiritual development of, children and young people

- A passion and ability to disciple and nurture children and young people, team members and others
- Good communication skills to engage young people and build relationships with the wider church family
- An ability to work with and to contribute to the Ministry Team and leaders working with children and young people
- An awareness of emerging needs and ability to help shape the vision for the future of this ministry

We consider this is a post where there is a genuine occupational requirement to have a religious faith.

Key Terms and Conditions

- The salary scale will be £26,008 pro rata per annum.
- Normal hours of work will be 20 hours per week. The nature of the work calls for a degree of flexibility, thus hours of work, which are as agreed with the Parish Minister, may vary from day to day.
- There are 5 weeks pro rata annual paid leave in each full holiday year which runs from 1 January to 31 December. Entitlement is based on full months worked. There are also 9 pro rata statutory holidays.
- The post is based at Barclay Viewforth Church.
- The applicant will be expected to participate regularly in worship and the life of the church.

Informal enquiries can be made to Rev Sam Torrens on 0131 229 6810.