



**Richmond
Team Ministry**

JUNIOR CHURCH LEADER

Overview

An exciting opportunity has arisen for an experienced children's worker to join a dedicated lay and clergy team, on a part-time basis, to lead and develop the Junior Church ministry for children aged 4 to 11 in the Richmond Team Ministry (RTM), in Richmond, Surrey.

We seek someone who:

- has a natural gift with children and is able to create an environment in which children can thrive in their Christian lives, building strong foundations for spiritual growth;
- has a vision for providing opportunities for children to worship, as much as to be taught;
- uses an imaginative approach, enabling a sense of awe and wonder;
- is creative about ways of incorporating children into the liturgical life of the church;
- can work collaboratively, committed to working as part of a wider ministry team to support families, grow congregations and nurture faith;
- will encourage volunteers from a variety of backgrounds to realise and utilise their gifts for children's ministry;
- shares a vision for an inter-generational, inclusive Church.

Context

The Richmond Team Ministry is a Church of England parish working across three churches, each with their own Team Vicar, worshipping in the liberal catholic tradition, each church expressing their own personality and liturgical style. We are a member of the Inclusive Church network. Sunday congregations at the main Sunday morning service (with Junior Church running alongside) average from around 30 - 90 people, with currently about 20 children under the age of 11 across the three churches.

Our Vision Statement

We celebrate and share God's love for all people by ...

- offering a place to belong;
- exploring faith honestly and with an open mind;
- living out Christ's care and compassion for everyone.

Junior Church life in RTM

Junior Church takes place each week in all three churches, with the help of a volunteer team led, supported and resourced by the Junior Church Leader.

Our vision of Junior Church is that it encompasses as much as an adult service – in other words, not just teaching, but also worship, spiritual growth and fellowship.

Two of the churches (St Mary Magdalene and St Matthias) hold their main Sunday morning service at 9:30am. The Junior Church Leader runs Junior Church (with volunteer co-leader help) in one of those

churches on alternate Sundays, alongside their 9:30am service. (Junior Church may still take place, but run entirely by volunteers, in the other of those two churches.) The Leader then goes on to the third church, St John the Divine, to lead Junior Church (again, with volunteer co-leader help) alongside its 11am service.

The Junior Church Leader manages and encourages the volunteer team and puts together weekly session ideas and plans for the benefit of volunteers who may be running Junior Church on their own, at St Mary Magdalene or St Matthias, on the relevant Sunday.

Any of the three churches may decide to replace Junior Church with an all-age service from time to time, in which case the Junior Church Leader would be asked to help lead that service and facilitate participation in the worship by the children.

Children aged 4 up to about 11 are invited to join Junior Church.

Many people in Richmond are time-poor and that applies particularly to families. However, there is an openness to exploring faith, and Junior Church provides a safe and supportive environment in which to do this.

Key duties of the role:

- Develop the ministry of Junior Church across the three churches including preparing and delivering sessions to share with volunteer leaders;
- Encourage children and young people to be involved in Sunday morning worship with the wider congregation;
- Develop and resource a team of volunteers to be leaders of Junior Church;
- Work with the clergy team to represent the needs of children;
- Assist in leading Sunday morning worship when required, as agreed with the relevant members of the clergy team;
- Engage with parents and carers, maintaining regular contact via email and social media;

Person Specification

Essential Criteria

- Must be able to communicate their Christian faith to children of all ages.
- Must be a practising Christian, sympathetic to the liberal, catholic, and inclusive traditions of the Church of England as demonstrated throughout the Richmond Team Ministry.
- Must demonstrate competence in church-based children's work
i.e., an ability to:
 - work directly with children
 - think strategically
 - work with and encourage volunteer leaders
- Must favour an experiential slant to learning, using music, drama, art and craft as a means to explore faith and inspire a sense of awe and wonder in children;
- Must be a team player, committed to working in partnership across the parish of three churches, respecting the tradition of each church;
- Must have good communication, IT and interpersonal skills;
- Must be able to demonstrate the ability to be self-motivated and to work independently and take the initiative, as well as being able to contribute in a group;
- Must be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of health and safety procedures in relation to work with children and young people;

- Must have a clear and robust approach to safeguarding children and young people and follow the Diocesan safeguarding guidance and ensure this is shared with all volunteers working with children.
- Must be committed to personal development.

What we can offer:

- Pay: Hourly rate of £16.50-£18.00, depending on experience
- A supportive and friendly working environment, with access to the Parish Office facilities and extensive children's resources.
- Opportunities to attend relevant courses and seminars for professional development
- Regular support meetings with one of the Team vicars, as your line manager
- Part-time working hours: A base working schedule of 8 hours a week, including up to 4 hours on Sunday mornings from 9am until 1pm
- Annual Leave: 6 Sundays per year, to include August and usually Easter and Christmas Days.

This role has a genuine occupational requirement that you must be a practising Christian.

If desired, we are open to discussion about expanding the role over a period of time.

Appointment is subject to enhanced DBS and references.

The role is subject to a three-month probationary period.

Full terms and conditions of service are set out in the contract.

* *The Employment Equality (Religion and Belief) Regulations 2003, Section 7.2 applies here.*