

Deanery of Oldham East

Children and Young Families Missioner (CYFM) (half time)

This post will be linked to the post of Priest in Charge of Holy Trinity Shaw (half time)

Culture

The churches in the Deanery of Oldham East are blessed with a significant number of families attending church services in order to qualify for a much coveted place at one of the highly respected Church of England Secondary Schools in Oldham: Crompton House and the Blue Coats.

The post of Children and Young Families Missioner (CYFM) is being created with a view to making the most of the mission opportunities that this presents, initially in the areas of Shaw, Crompton and Thornham.

Churches find that most families, once they have gained a place at one of these schools, cease to come to church. This is a cause for sadness and concern, both to the churches and to the schools themselves.

There is huge potential here for someone with the requisite skills, gifts and experience to work with the churches to ensure an ongoing faith journey for the children and their parents, either in the churches they have been attending, or in some forms of Fresh Expression.

Rationale

Mission is best and most sustainably done through creating good relationships of trust. This is particularly so for children and young people.

It is envisaged that the CYFM will work with the clergy and parishes of Shaw, Crompton and Thornham to establish new opportunities for drawing people into the Christian faith that will appeal to children and families who come to church in order to gain a place at a secondary school and engage them with the gospel. This could be done through Fresh Expressions of church, youth groups and other models of mission.

She/he will also have a presence at Crompton House in order to continue to build on the relationships forged through the church connections. The Vicar of Holy Trinity is a governor at Crompton House which will further support their presence and work in the school.

Key objectives

- To draw people to the Christian faith
- To make disciples and nurture them in a developing relationship with Jesus Christ
- To establish new churches that will appeal to children and young families

Key tasks

- To build good relationships with children and young families looking for a place at Crompton House.
- To create new opportunities for making disciples and nurturing them in the faith
- To work with the clergy and lay ministers of the four parishes (East Crompton St James with St Saviour's, St Mary High Crompton, St James' Thornham and Holy Trinity Shaw) in gathering together a team to support the work
- To work with Crompton House School (initially) to provide ways of continuing the work in school through prayer, study and worship groups and building Christian community

Support and Direction: from the Area Dean and Archdeacon to ensure the key tasks are delivered and reviewed. In addition, a support group will be established. Details tbc

Key relationships

- a) At a local level – the clergy and lay leaders of the Shaw and Crompton churches
- b) At a Deanery level – encouraging and sharing good practice in schools at Chapter and Synod
- c) At a diocesan level – liaising with the Children and Young People's Officers in particular and the Board of Education more generally
- d) Area Dean, Archdeacon and support group for support and direction