Job Description – Part Time Children, Youth & Families Training Facilitator (Isle of Wight)

Job Profile	
Job title	Children, Youth & Families (CYF) Training Facilitator
Team	Ministry & Discipleship (Revitalise)
Reports to	Diocesan Children, Youth & Families Officer
Travel required	Regular within the Diocese Based on the Isle of Wight (location to be discussed)
Work pattern / hours	Part time 17.5 hours per week (hours negotiable) Worked flexibly Mon – Fri Weekend and evening work as required and for which TOIL will be given
DBS check required (Yes / No)	Yes
Special conditions of employment	This role is time-limited for 2 years in the first instance.
Date written / updated	November 2026
Start Date	Q1 2027

Role context

The Diocese of Portsmouth has been awarded £5.3m by the Church of England's Strategic Mission and Ministry (SMMI) Board to support delivery of its £8.75m rejuvenate strategy (Rejuvenate).

Our diocesan-level vision and strategy provide a framework for the life and ministry of parishes, chaplaincies and deaneries of the diocese. It speaks of a diocese longing to be "a rejuvenating community of Jesus-centred, Kingdom-seeking disciples". As a diocese, we have been inspired by a vision of Christ's Body, the Church. A prayerful community which seeks God's Kingdom in and for the world. A community where older people are treasured as the Church of *today* (rather than yesterday) and younger people find their place and voice as the Church of *today* (rather than of tomorrow).

Over the past 3 ½ years, we have seen the extraordinary growth of Anna Chaplaincy within our diocese. By God's grace, we trust this vital ministry will go from strength to strength in the years ahead. Rejuvenate, and the investment that has now been awarded to support it, applies our collective focus and energy to the challenge of connecting with younger generations *that they might discover Jesus Christ and the Kingdom for themselves*.

As a diocese, we share the Church of England's bold aspiration to see the number of children and young disciples in our churches double and more. We long to see vibrant, growing ministry to children and young people within reach of every home across south-east Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. We want to reverse the decline in attendance and to equip and encourage clergy and lay leaders in prayer and discipleship.

Our strategy for delivering Rejuvenate includes three main elements:

- to **REVIVE** the well-being and spiritual leadership of our diocese by growing a host of little communities ('Cairns') which create space for God's Holy Spirit by prayerful reading of scripture, eating and studying together
- to **REVITALISE** and encourage our churches, to create pathways by which those currently unconnected to church can connect with the Christian message and make their journey towards becoming committed disciples
- to **RENEW** the Church in areas where it currently has little presence, including the planting of new congregations and worshipping communities. Some of this work has already begun, with church-planting over the past eight years creating new and growing churches in central Portsmouth, Southsea, Gosport and Ryde. Hundreds of children, young people, students and young families have joined thriving congregations at Harbour Church in Portsmouth, St Margaret's Church in Southsea, Haven Church in Gosport and All Saints Church in Ryde.

The new investment will allow us to expand this work and start new projects that aim to rejuvenate our diocese, including:

- **Cairns**, a network of sustaining and inspirational little communities meeting regularly to pray, break bread and to encourage one-another in ministry.
- **Pathways to discipleship**, in which parishes will be given funding to create ways of engaging their communities and equipping new disciples for mission.
- **Choir Church**, a way that churches can use a love of singing to create new worshipping communities.
- **Flourish**, the creation of midweek, voluntary, worshipping communities for children and families, based in their schools.
- **Mission projects** in Paulsgrove and Leigh Park, to create new worshipping communities with young people and families as the heartbeat of each congregation.
- **Church plants**, both in urban Portsmouth and suburban Fareham, moving towards a worshipping community in the new major development of Welborne and Berewood.
- **Training in Youthwork from Youthscape**, establishing expertise and new leaders to work with children, families and young people.
- **Training in Children's Ministry Essentials**, establishing expertise and equipping new leaders to work with children, families and young people.

Role purpose and objectives

Children, Youth & Families Training Facilitator (Isle of Wight)

The PURPOSE of this role is to nurture and grow disciples of Jesus Christ - both in depth and in number – through the provision of training and support for those serving in Children, Youth and Families (CYF) ministry, equipping parishes to connect home, school and church in ways that enable children, young people and families to encounter Jesus, grow in faith and become committed disciples.

By equipping and resourcing leaders and volunteers, the role will enable churches, parishes and schools to respond more effectively to the discipleship needs of children, young people and families in their communities.

A particular focus of the role will be to equip and encourage parishes to build fruitful relationships with local schools, helping churches to see schools as important contexts for mission, relationship-building and ministry. The role will support leaders to connect what happens through parish and school relationships with the wider life of the church and with the faith formation of children, young people and families.

The role will therefore help strengthen the connection between home, church and school, supporting parishes to develop appropriate opportunities for children and young people to encounter and explore Christian faith and to take steps towards active discipleship.

The key OBJECTIVES for this role are:

- Support the CofE's Vision and Strategy for the 2020s and beyond.
- Affirm the CofE's vocation to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ afresh to every generation.
- Enable the CofE's priority to be a Church that is younger and more diverse.
- Contribute to the bold goal of doubling the number of children and young people in active discipleship by 2030.
- Assist parishes in placing CYF ministry at the heart of their mission.
- Assist parishes in building fruitful relationships with local schools as part of their mission to children, young people and families.
- Equip and encourage parish leaders to develop sustainable approaches to schools' ministry that connect school-based engagement with the wider life of the church.
- Support the development of the faith triangle between home, church and school, helping parishes to see these as connected contexts for the faith formation and discipleship of children and young people.
- To support the development of a CYF network for training and support on the Isle of Wight.

Key responsibilities

The role-holder will:

- **Training and Development:** Deliver high-quality, engaging training that equips and inspires those involved in Children, Youth and Families (CYF) ministry across the Diocese. Deliver the *Children's Ministry Essentials* and *Youthscape Essentials* courses, alongside bespoke training and support tailored to the needs and contexts of individual churches, parishes, deaneries and schools. Respond proactively to requests for training and support.

- **Schools' Ministry and Partnerships:** Support parishes in building fruitful, mutually beneficial relationships with local schools, helping church leaders identify and develop appropriate opportunities for engagement, partnership and mission. Encourage parishes to recognise schools' ministry as an integral part of their wider CYF mission and to explore opportunities to connect with children, young people and families who may otherwise have little connection with church.

- **Connecting Church, School and Home:** Support parishes in developing a joined-up approach to faith formation and discipleship, helping them connect school-based engagement with worship, discipleship, family ministry and pathways into the life of the church. Contribute to the delivery of the Church of England's *Growing Faith* initiatives by strengthening the connections between home, church and school.

- **Resources and Diocesan Initiatives:** Resource, guide and inform volunteers and leaders, ensuring they have access to appropriate and effective materials to support discipleship among children, young people and families. Support the delivery of diocesan initiatives, including *Flourish, Prayer Spaces in Schools, Growing Faith, Parenting for Faith, the Difference course* and the *Annual Education Project*, through relevant training, resources and encouragement.

- **Contextual Support and Collaboration:** Work collaboratively with parish leaders, schools, deaneries and other relevant partners to identify opportunities, respond to local needs and develop effective approaches to CYF ministry that reflect the diversity of communities across the Diocese.

- **Strategic Contribution:** Work collaboratively with the Diocesan CYF Team to contribute to the wider Church of England strategy of proclaiming the Gospel afresh to each generation, growing a younger and more diverse Church, and placing children, young people and families at the heart of mission.

Essential and desirable skills, knowledge and experience required for the job

Essential

- A dedicated disciple committed to their own personal relationship with Christ.
- Theological understanding of discipleship for children, young people and families, with the ability to ground training in Scripture and the Church's mission to develop disciples for Christ.
- Knowledge of contemporary issues affecting children, young people and families, and their impact on faith formation.
- An understanding of the opportunities and challenges involved in connecting parish ministry with local schools and communities.
- An understanding of the importance of the relationship between home, church and school in supporting the faith formation of children and young people.
- Organisational and administrative skills to manage multiple training initiatives, projects and resources effectively.
- Experience of working in or alongside local churches in a ministry capacity (paid or voluntary).
- Proven experience of training delivery - especially in CYF contexts.
- Proficiency in the use of digital tools and online training platforms.
- Ability to evaluate training impact, including gathering feedback and making improvements.
- Strong ability to communicate ideas effectively with a range of people across the traditions of the church, with the ability to engage across diverse communities and contexts.
- Ability to build positive relationships with a wide range of people, including clergy, lay leaders, volunteers and those working in schools.
- Ability to work independently and flexibly as part of a team.
- Understanding of and compliance with safeguarding policies.

Desirable

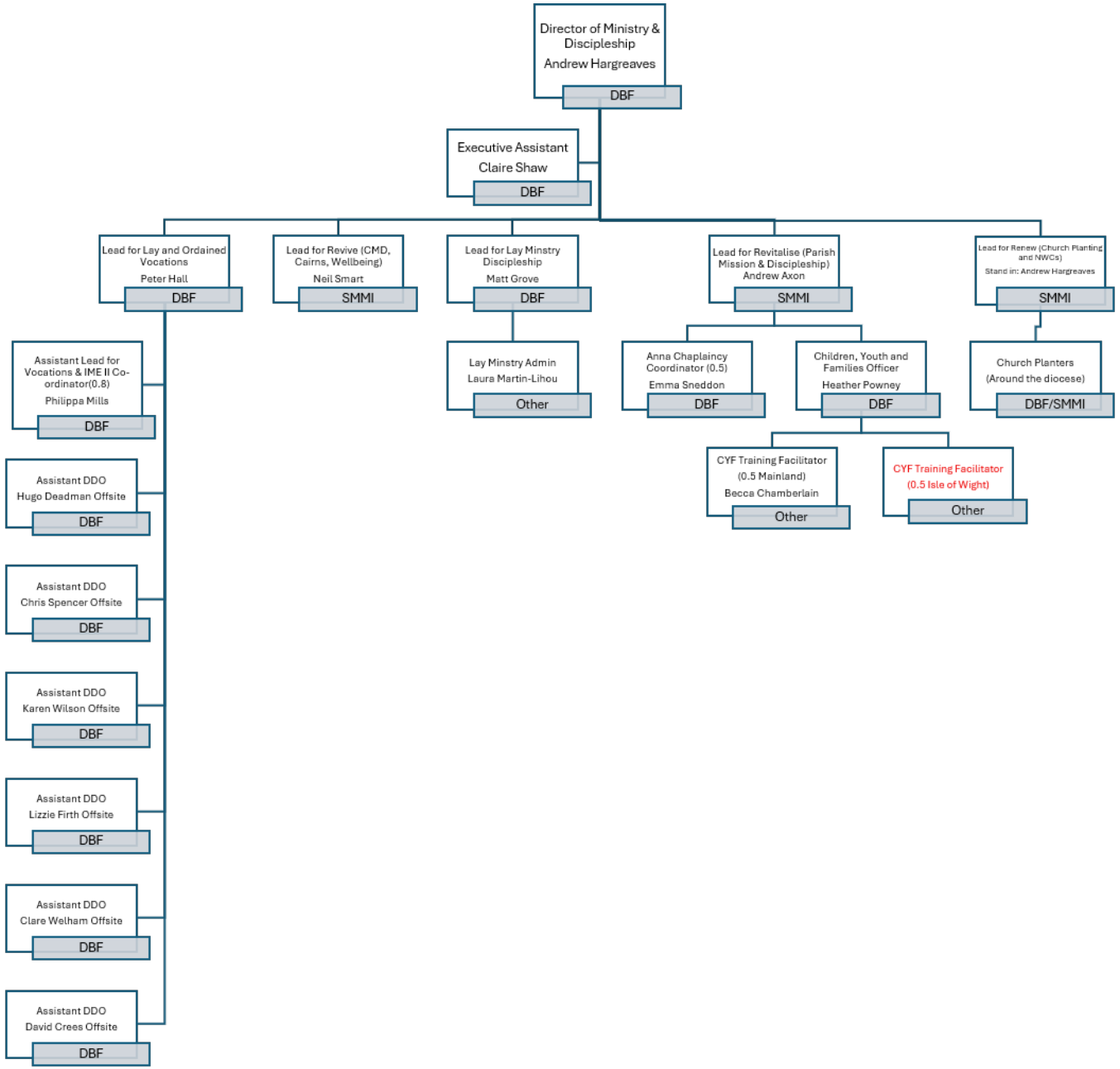
- Experience of working in or alongside schools in an educational capacity (paid or voluntary).
- Experience of schools' ministry, church–school partnership, or working with schools in a faith-based context.
- Relevant qualifications (e.g., degree or diploma in theology, children's work, youth work, education, or similar).
- Experience of mentoring / coaching / workshop facilitation.
- Experience of curriculum design (e.g., developing courses, training pathways, or discipleship materials).
- Awareness of national CofE initiatives relating to children, youth and families.
- Awareness of the Church of England's Growing Faith approach and its emphasis on the relationship between home, church and school.

Work expectations

- Working hours are 17.5 hours per week worked flexibly Monday – Friday.
- There will be regular evening and weekend working as required. TOIL can be taken for these.
- This role will be based on the Isle of Wight (location to be discussed). The postholder will be in regular communication with colleagues in the Ministry & Discipleship Team (Revitalise stream) with the expectation of travelling out to parishes to meet with people and deliver training as required.
- In negotiation with your line manager, we realise that sometimes it may be helpful to work from home depending on the tasks of the day.
- Regular travel will be required across the Diocese, including areas which are not well-served by public transport. Therefore, a full driving license and access to a vehicle is required.
- There is a genuine occupational requirement for the role-holder to be a practicing Christian of a denomination which is a member of the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland in accordance with Schedule 9 to the Equity Act 2010.

Remuneration

The role is remunerated as a lay role at 0.5 FTE at £29,555.65 per annum (pro rata).
26 days holiday plus bank holidays (pro rata).
Pension scheme.


Director of Ministry & Discipleship
Andrew Hargreaves
DBF
Executive Assistant
Claire Shaw
DBF
Lead for Lay and Ordained Vocations
Peter Hall
DBF
Lead for Revive (CMD, Cairns, Wellbeing)
Neil Smart
SMMI
Lead for Lay Minstry Discipleship
Matt Grove
DBF
Lead for Revitalise (Parish Mission & Discipleship)
Andrew Axon
SMMI
Lead for Renew (Church Planting and NWCs)
Stand in: Andrew Hargreaves
SMMI
Assistant Lead for Vocations & IME II Co-ordinator(0.8)
Philippa Mills
DBF
Assistant DDO
Hugo Deadman Offsite
DBF
Assistant DDO
Chris Spencer Offsite
DBF
Assistant DDO
Karen Wilson Offsite
DBF
Assistant DDO
Lizzie Firth Offsite
DBF
Assistant DDO
Clare Welham Offsite
DBF
Assistant DDO
David Crees Offsite
DBF
Lay Minstry Admin
Laura Martin-Lihou
Other
Anna Chaplaincy Coordinator (0.5)
Emma Sneddon
DBF
Children, Youth and Families Officer
Heather Powney
DBF
Church Planters
(Around the diocese)
DBF/SMMI
CYF Training Facilitator
(0.5 Mainland)
Becca Chamberlain
Other
CYF Training Facilitator
(0.5 Isle of Wight)
Other