

BFPC Children & Schools Minister

Reports to: Incumbent of Blandford Forum Parish Church (and Line-Manager from the Bridge Youth Project)

Place of work: Archbishop Wake Primary School, Milldown Primary Academy and Blandford Forum Parish Centre/Church. Occasional home working is possible and some, infrequent visits to the Bridge HQ in Salisbury.

Term: 3-year initial appointment, with extension, subject to funding.

Start date: TBC

Hours of work: 37 hours per week

Term Time: 2 days in school and 6 hrs admin for Bridge Chaplaincy. 2.5 days/wk for BFPC (inc 4 hrs on Sunday)

Typical Week:

Monday – 6hrs Bridge (Admin/team) - 2hrs BFPC

Tuesday – MPA

Weds – BFPC

Thursday – ABW

Sunday – BFPC

School Holidays: 37hrs pw for BFPC

Leave: 30 days/year inc 6 Sundays and leave not to be taken on Bridge Chaplaincy days during term-time, unless prior permission granted.

Salary: £30,000

Job Summary:

This is a new and innovative role with two distinct elements.

- School chaplaincy (in partnership with The Bridge Youth Project)
- Church Children and Families Minister with BFPC.

Each element is broken down separately in the following pages:

Background

Blandford Forum Parish Church is growing and wants to continue doing so.

Blandford is the largest population centre in the Milton and Blandford Deanery, covering a large section of rural central Dorset. The age demographic of the town is lower than the surrounding area standing at an average of 44 years, and the population is estimated to be 12,000 people.

There are two thriving Church of England primary schools in the town with strong links to the church. The church building itself is located on the Market Square and has undergone significant renovation to the roof to make it watertight. More work is planned to make it fit for the changing nature of its mission and ministry.

Salisbury diocese appointed Revd Chris Beaumont as interim-Priest in Charge in Jan 22 on an initial 3yr fixed term with a remit to discern fresh vision and to lead the church into fresh growth as a last chance initiative before deciding clergy allocations for the long-term. In July 2023 Will Burditt was appointed as Curate and arrived with his family to add to the growing sense of momentum.

There have been more than a few green shoots of new growth and life within the church over the last 2 years since the arrival of Chris and his family, with the inevitable changes that have happened. We have doubled in size as a church community over the past 2 years. It is however clear that we need to do more to sustain this initial growth.

We are seeing God work in many ways. People are coming to faith, people are joining us, God is providing financially. There is a growing sense of the presence of God through his Holy Spirit as we worship, pray and seek him for his purpose and plans here in Blandford Forum and beyond.

We are excited to partnering with The Bridge Youth Project in this innovative project of jointly appointing someone to be a chaplain in the local primary schools and to work for the church leading its mission and ministry to primary school aged children.

The Bridge Youth Project is a Christian schools-work charity that has been in existence since 1994, focused very much on serving the Salisbury area (Of which Revd Chris was himself a beneficiary as a youth). Over the last few years, the focus has very much moved towards providing chaplaincy in schools and being a Christian presence to school communities (parents/children/staff). As of 2024, the Bridge has Chaplains in 21 schools across Wiltshire, including 4 schools in the north of the county. The charity is exploring partnerships with in other areas in order to develop this exciting model of chaplaincy and be a missional link between school and church.

This exciting partnership with BFPC takes the Bridge into a new geographical area and builds on the positive relationships with other DSAT (Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust) schools in other areas. We are greatly looking forward to working together to see what missional opportunities and synergy can be built and sustained over the years to come.

Schools Chaplaincy (in partnership with The Bridge Project)

Schools Chaplaincy is an exciting, evolving, presence-based provision to primary schools. Chaplains are typically placed within a specific school at least one-day-a-week and are seen as a key part of the school team. For us, this role will act as a Bridge between church and school, enabling young people to connect with the spiritual (faith), pastoral (hope) and practical (love) outworking of the church on their own turf. As a Chaplain you will seek to be an authentic Christian witness, and in some settings, perhaps the only Christian witness children and young people will encounter. By being present WITHIN the school, a Chaplain witnesses to the reality of God's presence WITHIN the school. God is not just found in a church building on a Sunday but on the playground, in the RE lesson, in the anxiously whispered prayer before heading back to a difficult home situation or in the warm smile of a Bridge Chaplain in a 1:1 session. Chaplaincy journeys with young people (and staff!) within their setting to demonstrate and live out the love of God.

Our Core Standards: (based on the Chaplaincy Standards developed by CYM and partners):

Faith

1. Chaplains are committed to following the way of Jesus,
2. Ability to contribute towards the spiritual wellbeing of the school,
3. Look to resource the school's spiritual life,
4. Visible and available presence.

Hope

5. Will offer unconditional pastoral care,
6. Adhere to school safeguarding policy and practices,
7. Committed to equality, diversity, and inclusive practices,
8. Aware and equipped for current issues affecting children, young people and families.

Love

9. Work as an effective community link with church, home and local partners,
10. Work informed by the voice of children & young people,
11. Commitment to working within the ethos of school.
12. Where appropriate chaplains will work to develop an ethos that ensures that principles of fairness and justice are recognised and applied at all times.

Chaplaincy Key Responsibilities

- Liaise closely with senior management of the school/Bridge to establish a clear working practice and approach that is bespoke to the needs of the school.
- Work at enhancing clear areas of ministry and work in the school(s) around Faith, Hope and Love, drawing on our 12 core standards of chaplaincy.
- Deliver pastoral support to students and staff, both individually and corporately.
- Act as an interruptible presence down the corridors, in the classrooms, staff room, at the school gates and in the playground.
- Support the spiritual development of students through the delivery of RE, collective worship, drop-ins, and prayer spaces etc.
- Draw alongside senior management to offer pastoral care and support, where needed.
- Raise the profile of Chaplaincy across the school, ensuring that students and staff know that it's for them and they are able to access it.
- Work with ethos and student leadership groups, where appropriate.
- Act as a facilitator in connecting the school with its local community and the life of the local church(es).
- Where appropriate, pilot new ways of working and projects that will make a difference to the lives of both students, staff and families.

- Speak into and help shape the evolving model of Bridge Chaplaincy through connections with your line manager, the Chaplaincy learning group and other forums.
- Act responsibly and with integrity as a Bridge employee at all times.
- Understand and work within clear safeguarding policies.
- Connect with other Chaplains through collaborative work, where appropriate.

Children and Families Minister (Defined by BFPC PCC)

As a Children and Families Minister, you will take the lead on missional outreach and discipleship for primary school-aged children and families, working with and leading a team of volunteers to deliver a range of activities and events that communicate and demonstrate Gospel hope to the children of Blandford Forum. As lead on children's ministry within the church you will seek to demonstrate and teach that a life of faith is relevant, life-giving, and transformative in a way that communicates effectively with primary-school aged children. Although you will take the lead on this, you will not be on your own, but have the support of the church team, the PCC and the wider congregation. We are collectively committed to increasing our engagement with Children and Families and seeing the church community grow younger as families go on the exciting journey of faith.

Church Values:

• Dependent on God

All that we do is in dependency on God, through prayer and the empowering of His Holy Spirit. We respond in obedience to the Holy Spirit as we discern where God is leading us.

• Prepared to give it a go

We believe that God is active and dynamic, leading us individually and corporately into change and growth. Therefore, we're prepared to give new things a try, and risk failure, because this is what a life of faith and dependency looks like.

• Radically generous

In response to the immeasurable grace of God we are sacrificially generous with time, talents, financial giving and loving kindness – to see the Kingdom of God come in us, our town and the wider area.

• Collaboration and Teamwork

The church is the body of Christ, made up of a collective of individuals called together and united in following him. We lay aside personal agendas, and commit to discerning and working together in seeking to be the body of Christ in Blandford Forum.

• Committed to seeing people thrive

We believe that all should be welcomed, heard and have a place to worship and encounter God, belong, and be equipped as missional disciples within the life of the church, no matter their age, gender, ethnicity, worship preference, and relationship or family status.

• Real Relationships

We belong to the church family as we are, without the need for pretence, or putting on a brave face. We endeavour to be honest and open about what's going on in our lives thereby allowing others to care for us. Church is a community where we can receive comfort and healing.

Children's and Families Minister – Key Responsibilities

- Attend Weekly Team Prayers & Team Mtg (first thing on a Monday)
- Meet with the incumbent on a regular basis for direction and to ensure collaboration and alignment across the church.
- Lead and collaborate with the team delivering Sunday children's ministry (Explorers).
- Ensuring good safeguarding practices and procedures are implemented and adhered to in provision of children's activities.
- Report to PCC/APCM as necessary.
- Manage the annual budget for church children's mission and ministry as allocated/delegated by the PCC.
- Identify and deliver potential projects for further outreach i.e. after school clubs.

- Take a lead on the one-off events happening across the year in church aimed at children i.e. Light Party, Pancake Party etc.
- Assist with the delivery of “Stay and Play” sessions during school holidays (although recognising that leave may need to be taken also)
- Be a part of the monthly “AllTogetherAt11” All-Age Worship delivery team.
- Play a part in the regular school “Church Services”
- Co-ordinate with the leader of our “Little Peas” toddler group in getting to know families and seeing how we can continue to build relationships as children progress into primary school.
- We would also expect the individual to attend a leadership conference and go on retreat annually, as well as participating in relevant training and upskilling.

This Job Description should not be interpreted as exclusive as the job may occasionally require other duties to be done as may be seen fit by the line-manager. This is in no way a complete representation or list of all jobs that may be required and the Bridge and BFPC reserve the right to change or amend such job description as may be required from time to time.

There is a genuine occupational requirement for the individual in this role to be a practicing Christian.

It is expected that the successful candidate will play an active part in the regular worshipping life of Blandford Forum Parish Church.

How this role will work.

The individual appointed will be employed by Blandford Forum Parish Church PCC on a full-time basis. They will then be seconded to The Bridge Project for 22hrs a week during term-time as school chaplains in Archbishop Wake Primary School and Milldown Primary Academy. The remaining 15 hrs a week will be working for the Parish Church seeking to grow our engagement with children and families.

During the school holidays the individual will then be full-time with the Parish Church, although we appreciate that annual leave will need to be taken also. Some of the leave periods will be predetermined by the pattern of the church year, other periods will be flexible for the individual.

The relationship between The Bridge Project and BFPC PCC will be subject to a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations and will detail how we work together to safeguard the interests of all parties, and the partnership will be subject to regular reviews.

In terms of line management and direction, whilst on school premises (and doing associated admin), you will report to the Bridge Project chaplaincy leader, and when in the wider parish you will operate under the authority of Blandford Forum Parish Church.

Although we hope to appoint someone to a full-time post, we can envisage the role operating as a job-share between two individuals – the split of responsibilities would then be subject to conversation between the individuals, BFPC and the Bridge.

It is a genuine occupational requirement for the post holder to be a practicing Christian. The church itself is evangelical and holds to a word and spirit theology.