

CHRIST CHURCH ABINGDON

FAMILY OUTREACH WORKER PROFILE
OCTOBER 2026

Welcome to
Christ Church



CHRIST CHURCH
ABINGDON



INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in the post of Family Outreach Worker at Christ Church. We hope the information in this document will give you a flavour of the work that is going on at Christ Church and the kind of person we are looking for.

A Profile of Christ Church

Christ Church began in the 1950s when a small group of scientists and others new to the area desired a Christian presence in the north of Abingdon. An ancient and dilapidated tithe barn, then used by a dairy, was purchased and restored for use as a church building; this is our worship centre today on our Northcourt Road site. The community in this part of the town continued to expand, resulting in a community today of around 6500 houses. A further development of around 1200 houses is now taking shape on the northern perimeter of the town.

In the early days, the church was overseen by a Curate from St. Helen's Church in the town centre. Over time, Christ Church grew to need its own vicar, and in 2011, to become a separate parish, the parish of North Abingdon. Most of the congregation have professional backgrounds and, continuing the focus from the earliest days, there is a high proportion of scientists, who work in the nearby research establishments, science parks or in the universities.

We hold four services on a Sunday (three at Northcourt Road and one at Long Furlong), with a variety of styles of worship from informal to contemporary to more traditional, reflecting the diversity of our Church community. We also have a wide range of midweek fellowship and outreach activities. We currently have an electoral roll of 420, and a typical total Sunday attendance of around 350 adults and 70 children. We place an important emphasis on people serving Christ on their Frontlines, whether that be at work, school, or university, in their families, neighbourhoods and social networks.

Christ Church has a large and gifted staff team led by the Vicar (Keith Dunnett). The staff team acts as a core resource to enable growth and fruitfulness throughout the fellowship, enjoying a high degree of commitment and relationship to one another. In addition to the staff team, there are several lay leaders who lead and preach at services, as well as heading up significant areas of ministry. Christ Church currently has five Licensed Lay Ministers, four of whom are based at Long Furlong.

The church has strong safeguarding policies, worked out over many years, and a committed volunteer team, wholeheartedly supported by the staff, which oversees all aspects of the safeguarding of children, young people, and vulnerable adults across both sites. We are thankful for the lessons learned, and the healing the Lord continues to bring, since our previous vicar was found guilty of spiritual abuse; and we seek to remain vigilant for any residual personal or cultural impact. Details of policies, guidelines and contacts are on the church websites.



Christ Church is an evangelical Anglican church, valuing scripture as authoritative and instructive, and affiliated to the Evangelical Alliance. We are committed in working together with other churches across the town, deanery and ecumenically – with an aim to be effective in mission and ministry – especially where we can share resources and utilise our complementary gifts.

The Family Outreach Worker is a new role, and will be part of the staff team which currently comprises the Vicar, Associate Vicar, Curate, Associate Minister*, Youth Pastor, Children's Minister, Associate Children's Minister, Older Person's Ministry Leader*, Worship Pastor, Barns Café Manager, Foodbank Manager, Operations Director and Church Administrator/Vicar's PA. The staff team meets each Monday morning for worship, Bible study, training and prayer.

(*voluntary posts)

For more information, please visit www.cca.uk.net

Context

The Diocese of Oxford is committed to becoming a more Christ-like Church: more contemplative, compassionate and courageous, for the sake of God's world. Through its vision articulated in 'Disciples Together' and 'Signs of a More Christ-like Church', the Diocese has identified a particular calling to place children, young people and families at the centre of its common life and mission. As a local church, Christ Church Abingdon has a vision to grow disciples by being with Jesus, becoming like Jesus and living for Jesus. Three priorities that sit under this, discerned in 2025 were Share Jesus, Equip Disciples and Invest in Rising Generations.

The Christ Church Abingdon (CCA) Family Outreach Worker (FOW) will play a key role in enabling this vision at parish level, supplementing the work of the existing children and youth team, building bridges between church, school and community, and supporting families, especially those on the margins, to flourish spiritually, socially and relationally. It is a relational, missional and formational role, helping the church to join in with what God is already doing among families and enabling children, young people and adults to journey together as disciples for the good of God's world.



Patterns of work

Healthy patterns of work are a high priority in the staff team at Christ Church, which incorporate a rhythm of rest, work, play, prayer, retreat, conferences and holidays.

The Family Outreach Worker would be expected to work Sunday – Thursday, with some flexibility to include possible evening meetings or activities and occasional weekend events.

In a typical week the staff gather on Mondays from 10am – 12pm for worship, Bible study, prayer, diaries, followed by lunch together.

The Family Outreach Worker will be provided with a desk and facilities on site at Northcourt Road.

How we will support you

Regular line management meetings

The Associate Vicar will be your line manager and will meet regularly to discuss project progress, personal development, performance and longer-term plans.

A supportive staff team to work alongside

You will have the joy of being part of enabling the mission of God in North Abingdon, serving with a great staff team and a church with many committed and willing members. We have a culture of supporting and encouraging one another. You would be expected to play your part in bringing life and encouragement to the staff team as well as receiving it.

Time to be fed, challenged and equipped

We will invest intentionally in your growth, supported by an annual training budget for courses, conferences and development opportunities relevant to your role. The staff team shares in regular training sessions and days across the year, and you're encouraged to identify opportunities for input that will stretch and equip you. Alongside training, we encourage you to make space for prayer, planning and personal renewal.

Great opportunities to Network

Other churches in Oxford have Family Outreach Workers, and many of the larger churches within the New Wine Network have similar posts. We would be supportive of you networking with these, sharing ideas and best practices.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Note: This Job Description forms part of the Contract of Employment and may change from time to time to reflect the evolving nature of the duties and responsibilities.

Role Purpose

The Family Outreach Worker will:

- Enable the church to journey in healthy, sustainable and pioneering ways as it engages in new forms of mission with families.
- Work with the Associate Vicar and wider team in pioneering a new congregation or worshipping community in the north of the parish.
- Strengthen and create new links between church and community.
- Support parents and carers in their role as primary influencers in the faith formation and wellbeing of their children building on the work of the existing children and youth teams.
- Develop and nurture relationships with children, young people and families, particularly those with little or no current connection to church.
- Contribute to the growth of an intergenerational, welcoming and inclusive church community and to the church vision of growing as disciples of Jesus.

Key Responsibilities

Responsibility	Description
Relationship Building & Community Presence	• Build trusted, consistent relationships with families in the parish and surrounding community, including Abbey Fields and the newly built estates. • Collaborate with existing church ministries and find new ways of reaching children and families within in local schools (where appropriate), community groups and in newly established groups/programmes. • Offer pastoral listening and appropriate signposting for families experiencing challenge (e.g. isolation, mental health pressures, financial stress). • Develop partnerships with local organisations, statutory services and voluntary groups to support holistic family wellbeing. • Assemble and develop teams of volunteers in order to deliver and maintain avariety of initiatives and events.
Developing Family-Focused Initiatives	• Pioneer creative mission in the parish by establishing, developing and/or supporting new initiatives such as family cafés, holiday activities, parenting courses, intergenerational gatherings, or other context-appropriate outreach. • Create accessible entry points into church life that are welcoming, relational and relevant. • Encourage experimental, pilot-based approaches; starting small, learning, adapting and growing sustainably. • Ensure that all activities are inclusive of families with additional needs.

Supporting Faith Formation & Discipleship	• Encourage children and young people to be active participants and contributors in church life. • Support parents and carers to grow in confidence in sharing faith in Jesus at home. • Develop intergenerational opportunities for worship, learning, service and reflection. • Embed the Diocese's vision of being more contemplative, compassionate and courageous in family ministry practice. • Work with CCA clergy, staff and lay leaders to nurture pathways of belonging, believing and becoming more like Jesus.
Building a Healthy Culture of Journeying	• Pray and reflect regularly on the work, discerning where God is already at work in the community. • Monitor and evaluate initiatives using both qualitative and quantitative measures. • Work collaboratively with CCA clergy, staff, PCC and volunteers, empowering others rather than creating dependency. • Share learning with the wider parish and, where appropriate, deanery or diocesan networks. • Plan for sustainability and identify emerging leaders to ensure that initiatives can continue beyond initial funding or staffing arrangements.
Safeguarding & Professional Practice	• Uphold the highest standards of safeguarding in line with parish safeguarding policy. • Maintain appropriate professional boundaries and confidentiality and establish effective working relationships with key staff, including the Children's Minister, Associate Children's Minister and Youth Pastor. • Participate in regular supervision, training and continuing professional development. • Work within agreed objectives set by the line manager and report regularly to the line manager/PCC.



PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential Qualities

- A committed Christian with a living faith and a heart for children, young people and families.
- An ability to articulate a healthy personal Christian faith and support growth in the discipleship of others.
- Relationally warm, approachable and emotionally intelligent.
- Passionate about inclusion, justice and hospitality.
- Able to work independently and collaboratively.
- Organised, reflective and able to manage time effectively.
- Experience of working with children, young people and/or families in church, school or community contexts.

Desirable

- Relevant qualification or training in youth work, family work, theology, education or community development.
- Experience of school-church partnership work.
- Understanding of contemporary cultural challenges facing children and young people (including digital culture and mental health pressures).
- Experience of leading volunteers and developing teams.

Ways of Working

The Family Outreach Worker will:

- Be accountable to the line manager and PCC.
- Work collaboratively with clergy, staff, volunteers and local partners.
- Be rooted within the community and a participant in the worshipping life of Christ Church
- Commit to ongoing learning.
- Model the values of humility, compassion, courage and hope.

Outcomes & Impact

Over time, the impact of the role may be seen in:

- Increased meaningful engagement with families previously unconnected to church.
- Stronger, healthier relationships between church, local schools and the wider community.
- Greater participation of children and young people in the life and leadership of the church.
- Parents and carers growing in confidence in nurturing faith at home.
- A more intergenerational, welcoming and Christ-like church culture.

Towards the end of the second year/start of the third year we'd hope to see:

- The formation of a new congregation or worshipping community.



EMPLOYMENT DETAILS

Employer: Christ Church Abingdon

Line Manager: Associate Vicar

Hours: Full-time (37.5 hours per week). Some evening work may be required.

Contract: 3 Year Fixed-term contract.

Annual leave: 25 days paid leave per calendar year (full-time role), plus public holidays or equivalent time off in lieu.

Salary: £37,000 per annum

Pension: Nest pension scheme, 5% employer contribution

Place of work: The Family Outreach Worker will be based at Christ Church, Northcourt Road, Abingdon, OX14 1PL, where office space is provided. Occasional working from home is appropriate, in liaison with your line manager.

Probation: There will be an initial probation period of 6 months, during which time progress and performance will be reviewed regularly. The appointment is subject to satisfactory references and DBS checks.

Occupational Requirement

There is a genuine occupational requirement that the post holder is a practising Christian as permitted under the equality act 2010.

We would prefer the post holder to worship at Christ Church (Northcourt Road or Long Furlong) to encourage a feeling of belonging and being known by the wider congregation.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Full details of pay, working hours, holidays and other entitlements will be discussed with the successful candidate and will be included in their contract of employment.

Candidates must be resident in the UK and be in possession of proof of identity and the right to work in the UK – this documentation will be required at interview.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested candidates should submit a completed application form and equal opportunities monitoring form. These should be submitted to Andy Voyce on hr@cca.uk.net.

The closing date for applications is: **5pm, Friday 27th November 2026**

Interviews are scheduled to take place on the 10th December 2026.