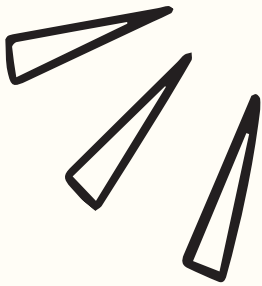




**HEAD OF CHILDREN,
YOUTH & FAMILIES**

JOB PACK

Is it you?



WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH SOUTHEND



A note from the Vicar

Thank you for taking the time to consider this new role at Christ Church Southend. We have been on an exciting journey over the past two years following the launch of this revitalisation project and have been blessed with a growing church and an expanding ministry.

Christ Church is an exciting, friendly, and warm place to be and we delight in welcoming new people into our growing church family.

From the beginning of this journey we have been seeking to put our ministry to children, youth, and families at the heart of our church life.

This role has been created to help us further develop this work, pioneer new strategies, and bring about a greater sense of intentionality and purpose in growing this ministry in reach, depth, and outcomes.

We are part of a church planting network in Southend alongside our network partners St Michael's Westcliff and St John's Southend. Together with them we carry a city-wide vision for the revitalisation of the church in Southend and beyond.

We are still at the beginning of a journey, and are hoping and praying God might call someone who is as excited and invested as us in what he is doing here in our city.

Here at Christ Church Jesus is at the heart of everything we do. I believe that's why it's such a joy and privilege to be part of this wonderful church.

Steve

Revd Steven Collier
Vicar, Christ Church Southend



start children off on the way they should go,
and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22:6



HEAD OF CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

A new, permanent, full-time role to lead, develop, and grow Christ Church Southend's ministry with children, youth, and families. The Head of Children, Youth & Families will take on overall leadership of Children & Youth Ministry (0-18s), be responsible for developing the ministry and creating opportunities to build relationships in the local community. The successful applicant will be an integral part of the Church leadership and will play a significant role in shaping our ministry with under 18s across all aspects of church life. The day-to-day ministry of this role will be primarily focused on primary-aged children and their families.

ABOUT CHRIST CHURCH SOUTHEND

Christ Church Southend sits to the east of the city centre with a parish that spans both affluent and deprived areas. Southend itself is home to 200,000+ people and is a lively and interesting place to live, on the banks of the Thames Estuary.



Our church is characterised by its warm welcome, a strong focus on preaching and teaching, and a commitment to engaging in heartfelt worship. We are an Evangelical church and are attentive to the Scriptures, always seeking to go deeper in our walk with Jesus. We are strongly focused on evangelism and relationship building in the local area. We have a heart and passion for church growth and long to see churches across our city and beyond revitalised with the life and goodness of Jesus.

The 10.30am Sunday Service has a regular attendance of around 80-90 adults and 20-25 children. This represents in excess of a doubling in attendance over the past two years. This is an informal service with groups for children and youth.

We are excited that **a new Sunday service** will be launched in the coming months, and we are currently seeking to discern exactly what that will look like.

The 10.00am Wednesday Service is a traditional communion service attended by between 30-40 people, which represents a quadrupling in attendance over the past two years.

As a multi-generational church there are lots of people across the congregation engaged in serving on various teams, bringing a variety of skills and experience. We have a current staff team of Vicar (FT), Worship & Youth Leader (FT), Church Administrator (PT), Pre-School Worker (PT), and Charity Shop Manager (PT).

OUR VISION GOALS

In September 2022 we set out three key vision goals. One shorter term, one medium term, and one longer term. They are as follows:



1. Secure the future of this church

In the shorter term, continue to grow the church to the stage of supporting a full-time stipendiary minister (who is currently funded by SDF) and our staff team.

Progress: This is a goal that has now largely been met, with Steve being licensed as Vicar on a permanent basis in March 2024.



2. See the church full twice on Sundays

In the medium term, launch a second Sunday service in order to create room for further growth, and see both services full.

Progress: The 10.30am service is now quite full most Sundays and we are in the final stages of discerning plans for a second Sunday service.



3. Send out a new project within 3-5 years

In the longer term, raise up a team to send out as either a revitalisation project or plant.

Progress: We continue to work alongside our network partners and the diocese to identify new church planting/revitalisation opportunities in the area.

CHILDREN & YOUTH AT CHRIST CHURCH

Kids Church

Each Sunday there are multiple age-specific groups for children during the 10.30am service. The current groups are pre-school, Reception-Year 2, Years 3-5, Years 6-10.

There is a Kids Church team of 24 who help run our sessions each week, and we have been mostly following the Scripture Union resources.

Youth Group

Every Thursday evening during term time the youth meet for fun, games, and Bible study. This group began with a handful of youth in November 2022 and now regularly welcomes between 15-20 each week. They have recently done Youth Alpha together and some invited friends from school.



Revitalise Youth Events

In early 2023 our network launched a termly youth event called 'Revitalise'. This has been incredibly successful, and we now welcome around 130 teenagers to that event each time. This is a joint venture led by the youth leaders at Christ Church, St John's, and St Michael's and many churches in the city (and beyond) send their youth to it.

Christ Church Tots

Every Monday morning during term time dozens of parents & carers come along to Christ Church with their little ones to enjoy a drink and a chat whilst the children play.

Holiday Clubs & Other Events

Over the past two years we have run multiple holiday clubs and fun days for primary school-aged children, which have been attended by church children and children from the local community. Our family events have been very popular with the local community, including the Light Party and the Christingle Services.

Relationship with Schools

There is one school in our parish, which is very close to the church - a primary school with around 1,000 pupils, which serves a wide area including neighbouring areas of very high deprivation. We have a growing relationship with the school and regularly host classes from the school as they come to learn more about the church.

ABOUT SOUTHEND-ON-SEA

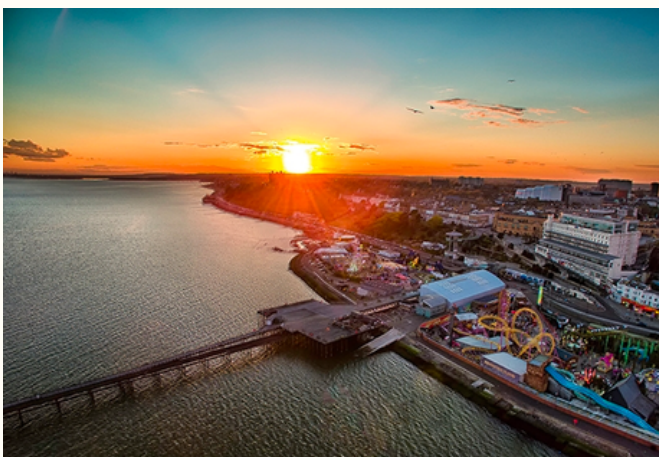


Around 200,000 people live in the area shown on the map above. Southend is a city in south Essex, situated at the mouth of the Thames estuary. It's a fantastic place to live all year round, and in the summer it really comes alive, with people flocking to the beaches and enjoying the seafront amusements. Lots of people take the opportunity to take up paddle boarding or kayaking, and the seafront walks are enjoyed by all.

The city boasts a number of tourist attractions, most notably the longest pier in the world (1.3 miles) and the Adventure Island theme park.

Southend is growing, and has an active commercial airport with regular flights to various European destinations including Italy, Spain, and Switzerland. There are quick and easy rail links into London, with the journey into Fenchurch Street or Liverpool Street taking just under an hour. Given the proximity to London, there is a large contingent of commuters who live in Southend

Southend is a largely ethnically white (87%), and there is a huge range of wealth and poverty, even within the parish of Christ Church. There are good schools in Southend with a number of high-achieving grammar schools.



HEAD OF CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

ROLE DESCRIPTION

Leadership, Vision & Strategic

- Take on duties of overall leadership and management of the church's ministry to 0-18s and their families.
- Share pastoral care responsibilities, alongside the Vicar and pastoral team, for 0-18s and their families.
- Alongside the Vicar and other leaders, prayerfully discern, formulate, and keep under regular review a short, medium, and long-term vision and accompanying goals for our work in this area.
- Prayerfully discern, formulate, and keep under regular review a comprehensive and joined-up strategy for achieving agreed vision goals.
- Have oversight and line-management responsibilities for two staff positions: the Pre-school Worker and the Worship & Youth Leader (youth element of the role only).
- Be an advocate in the church for the spiritual life and development of 0-18 year olds, seeking to see them grow and flourish in Jesus.
- Alongside the Parish Safeguarding Officer, ensure safeguarding procedures are being followed in our work with 0-18s.
- To keep abreast with new developments and initiatives in children and families work and identify how they can be incorporated into our ministry where appropriate.
- Take seriously your personal spiritual and professional development, attending training events and conferences regularly.
- Other duties and tasks in consultation with the Vicar.

Children & Families Work

- Take day-to-day responsibility for the church's ministry to primary-aged children and their families.
- Share the Gospel with children and families, and always be looking to help people in their walk with Jesus.
- Design, implement, and lead an exciting and inspiring Kids Church programme for primary-aged children (with input into the programme for pre-school and youth).
- Manage and develop the volunteer children's team including recruiting new members and training the team.
- Build relationships with parents and carers and seek to involve them further in the life of the church.
- Build stronger relationships with the local primary school, Greenways, exploring opportunities especially to serve the more socially deprived families associated with the school.

Events

- Continue to develop and implement a programme of events for children and families, including Holiday Club, Light Party, Christingle, and others as an entry point to developing a living faith.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

We are looking for someone who is passionate about seeing children and young people – those within the church and those outside – becoming disciples of Jesus Christ. They will be an encourager who cares for others. They should be prayerful, humble, and willing to learn professionally and personally.

As this is a leadership role, it requires someone who is able to build and work creatively in teams, building trust whilst contributing constructively. They must be flexible and able to see their role within the wider mission and ministry of the church. We expect them to offer their own ideas, skills, and experience to this role. Their faith in Jesus should be demonstrated through their lifestyle and appropriate spiritual disciplines including daily prayer and personal Bible study. We would expect the successful candidate to oversee and develop teams, allowing others to grow in leadership and build skills.

	Essential	Desirable
Knowledge, Qualifications & Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An undergraduate degree <u>OR</u> at least three years' experience working in children's ministry. • Experience of leadership within children's, youth, or families work. • A thorough knowledge of the Bible, with the ability to communicate it creatively and in an engaging way. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A degree in children's work, a theological or ministry degree, or teaching degree. • Experience in designing and implementing programmes for children's church. • A track record of successful team building and recruitment. • Knowledge of issues particular to children, young people, and families. • Experience in line-management. • An understanding of safeguarding policy and its application in a parish context (training provided).
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT Skills, including MS Office. • Social media awareness and ability to use in ministry. • An excellent communicator, particularly with children and parents/carers and others working in this area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A full clean driving license. • Experience of graphic design and digital media. • Video editing. • First Aid and food hygiene qualifications (training provided)
Personal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A committed Christian. • A pro-active, self-motivated team player, able to inspire. • Good organisational skills and strong initiative. • Flexible and innovative, adapting to change. • Strong sensitivity to others. • Enhanced DBS clearance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A baptised and confirmed member of the Anglican Church.

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT

Start Date

From 1 June 2024. There is flexibility in the start date depending on the circumstances of the successful candidate.

Working Hours

This is a full-time role of 40 hours per week. Precise working pattern to be agreed/confirmed and will include Sundays and some evenings.

We are willing to consider part-time hours (no fewer than 30 hours per week) for exceptional candidates.

Holiday Entitlement

In addition to bank holidays, you will receive 25 days' paid leave annually.

Salary & Additional Benefits

Salary between £25,500 and £27,500 depending on experience plus 3% contribution to a pension scheme provided by the church.

Additional Requirements

An occupational requirement exists for the post-holder to be a practising Christian in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

There is an expectation that the successful applicant would become an active member of the worshipping community at Christ Church, if they are not already.

The post is subject to a safer recruitment process and a DBS check.

HOW TO APPLY

Thank you for taking the time to consider this role. If you'd like to talk with someone further, please contact Revd Steve Collier: steve.collier@christchurchsouthend.org

If you're ready to apply, please download the application form provided on our website at: christchurchsouthend.org/job-opportunities

Please then complete the application form and submit it to the email address above by 9.00am on Thursday 18th April 2024. We look forward to hearing from you!

We anticipate interviews taking place on Sunday 28th April 2024. If you are currently working in church ministry and have Sunday obligations, you may like to ensure you can be available on that date.