

Taking our next steps towards:  
- deeper faith in Christ  
- welcome and belonging  
- shining God's light.

Walton-on-Thames  
**St Mary's and St John's**

Parish Office, St Mary's Church Hall, Church Street,  
Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, KT12 2OS 01832 224238  
office@waltonparish.org.uk  
www.waltonparish.org.uk



# Now is the time to take on a new Children and Families Minister



We need to raise £27,000 p.a.

to employ someone full-time from

January 2023.

This is £45 a month for 50 families

**Gift Day 6th November**

**Let's invest in our  
children!**

**Children and families are precious and we  
want to see them grow in faith  
Our Children and Families Minister will help  
us to do this in our church**

**We want to:**

***Build on our pioneering discipleship for families  
through the parish All Age service including:***

- *Provide discipleship in age appropriate ways for children age 7 upwards i.e. midweek groups for age 7-9 and age 9-11.*
- *Provide age-appropriate activities for families and children under 7 to grow in faith together*
- *Equip children to mature spiritually and prepare for Secondary school and youth groups.*
- *Be more available to pastor and disciple our families—adults and children*
- *Encourage families to grow as Christians together – Faith at Home materials.*
- *Link with Toddler Praise congregation*
- *Provide support to the volunteers who reach out to families in the community through Messy church and Holiday club.*
- *Monitor closely our safety and safeguarding procedures.*

**Statistics:**

- Over 100 families have attended All Age services over the last 2 years 2020-2022.
- We have contact with 302 children up to age 11.
- We have contact with over 1400 children through local Primary schools.

*“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7*

**Walton on Thames financial position**

We run a well-managed, restricted ‘break even’ budget, which has got tighter over recent years, as our financial reserves are run down to a minimum. Previously, we had been running a deficit budget but 2020 was the first year we had a small surplus for many years. Sadly, that was only after a reduction in staffing levels.

This all means that, from our regular giving, we cannot afford this role. We need to raise our giving to invest further in our Children.

**Expenditure Information**

As a Church, our outgoings are £18,000 a month. Half of this goes to pay for Clergy and Staff; 27% supports the Diocesan and National Church, including paying for central support, Bishops, curates’ training and one vicar’s salary. The remaining 23% pays for our buildings, administration and our mission giving (we give away 10% (tithe) of our general income).

**For more information about Parish finances,  
see the ‘Our Church Finances’ A5 leaflet.**

**Please Note:** any extra funds that are raised over and top of the costs of a Children and Families Minister, will be allocated to the ministry and mission of the Parish

## Our church has a unique opportunity in Walton on Thames

Walton on Thames has a population of 26,000 people, including approx. 5,000 children under 14. Post-pandemic, many churches in the country and in Guildford Diocese have lost most of their children and young people. We are in a privileged position where we do have children and young people in our church. What can we do to ensure they have a good grounding in faith? God cares about families.

### What value will the Children and Families Minister add?

#### 1 All Age worship and discipleship

The All Age service is a very popular place for adults and children to worship and grow in faith together. But Cathy depends on a very small group of volunteers to keep this going.

#### 2 Help children age 7 to 11 grow in faith

We are painfully aware that children aged 7 to 11 need more than an All Age service. They would have age-appropriate groups in which they can grow in faith. We want to send them off to Secondary school as confident Christian young people.

#### 3 Co-ordinated outreach strategy

This role would co-ordinate with outreach to Children and families through Messy church and Holiday Club and with Toddler Praise to create a supportive network for parents.

#### 4 Safeguarding

The PCC is fully committed to keeping children safe in our church. Overseen by Vicar, Cathy, this role works with our Safeguarding Administrator and PSO to ensure a coherent safeguarding strategy.

## How will we finance this post?

We need to raise the funds for two years of employment starting in January 2023.

Please would you especially consider giving if either your children will benefit or you value ministry to Children and Families and want to expand this important ministry in our Church.

*'My children benefitted from the giving of the previous generation, when my children were young and I could not afford to give much. Now, I want to give to this initiative, to help the younger families and future generation of the Church'.*

### How can I give?

- ◆ a lump sum or one-off gift
- ◆ a monthly Standing order

Please start a new standing order for this post

Please do **not** reduce your giving to the church to contribute to the Children and Families Minister

**If you can Gift Aid your** donation, the church receives an extra 25% towards this initiative

Please think and pray about **your contribution** to the new post. We will collect responses in October/November, which will include a

**Special Gift Day Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

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## My Contribution to the new post of Children and Families Minister

I will set up a new Standing order for the next 1 YEAR \*/ 2 YEARS\*/3 YEARS\* for

- ◇ £20 per month
- ◇ £30 per month
- ◇ £40 per month
- ◇ £50 per month
- ◇ Other \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please delete as appropriate.

I enclose a lump sum gift of

- ◇ £250
- ◇ £400
- ◇ £500
- ◇ £750
- ◇ £1,000
- ◇ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Cheques payable to Walton on Thames PCC**

### Gift Aid details

I AM A UK TAXPAYER, I wish to Gift Aid this

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you and may the Lord bless you for your generosity*