

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

Benfleet, Essex SS7 5LH



WHO WE ARE

The Church is a very active one, with 75 members, a good worshipping congregation each week and has first-rate premises. **Our mission is to be a powerful spiritual force in the community and a visible expression of God's inclusive love.**

The Church itself was refurbished some 15 years ago and a new Welcome Area added to the front. The rest of the premises (including all the halls, kitchen etc) were demolished and new premises constructed 10 years ago with a large and smaller halls, state of the art kitchen and toilet facilities plus a counselling suite and meeting room, plus car parking.

It is used extensively by the 40-strong Church preschool, unformed groups of Rainbows, Brownies and Guides (90 children), Fusion Youth group for years 3 – 6 (50 children), plus Wives Club, Badminton, Art Group, Women's Fellowship, Ladies Thursday Club, Craft group – all of which are Church Groups.

In addition we host the Mencap Music Man project providing therapy for handicapped young people, a professional counselling service, OACS, meeting three evenings each week, a folk orchestra and we are the South Essex offices for Headway – the Brain Injury Charity – and provide office and counselling facilities for them and their clients. Other users include Kumon, educational, and National Childbirth Trust – courses for expectant mothers and partners. With all the "outside" groups there is a very good relationship and they all seem to feel part of the Church Family.

The Welcome area is open every day from 10.00 to 12 noon for tea, coffee and a drop-in and on Mondays we have an informal lunch facility for people who would otherwise be on their own. We also have Sunday lunches twice each month and a monthly Tuesday lunch as well as coffee mornings for church or charities every Saturday morning.

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WHO ARE WE LOOKING TO RECRUIT?

A CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WORKER

Main Responsibilities

- Oversight of the Fusion Youth Group on Friday evenings (years 3 – 6)
- Plan and lead Youth Club for older children (years 7 – 10)
- Develop links with local schools and undertake assemblies where possible
- Liaise with existing uniformed groups that operate at the Church
- Strengthen relationship with Church Preschool group, including being a Church representative on its management committee
- Liaise with children and young people and their families and seek to draw them into the life of the Church Family where possible
- In conjunction with the Minister, Worship Leaders and local preachers to engage in 'Fresh Expressions' of Church including 'Messy Church'
- Plan the setting up of a Sunday morning crèche facility

Key skills

- A committed Christian with a desire for children and their families to come to a knowledge of the love of God and being part of a church family
- Good leadership skills, able to work independently and as part of a team with volunteers
- Enthusiastic, energetic and innovative
- Some experience of organising Children's clubs and family orientated events

Terms and Conditions

- Normal working hours - 20 per week – flexible by agreement
- 3 year appointment (subject to satisfactory probationary period)
- Salary in the range £13,000 to £15,000 per annum
- 25 days annual leave per year plus public holidays
- Pension scheme provision in accordance with legislation
- Will require Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Scheme certificate

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Management arrangements

- The Children and Families Worker will have a support Group comprising the Minister at least one Church Steward and three or four other members with relevant skills drawn from the wider Church, including a representative from the Fusion Youth Management Committee.
- One member of the support group will be designated the role of supervisor to act as the link between the Children and Families Worker and the Church Council, to be available to advise and act as a discreet sounding board and to carry out a yearly appraisal, with regular review meetings
- Training will be available through Methodist and other sources

Applications to: **Richard Reeves** reeves221@btinternet.com

Closing date **Flexible**

February 2020