



**Stirling North
Parish Church**

Stirling North Parish Church
Parish Worker (Children, Youth & Families)

Introduction

In 2018 we began a Messy Church at Stirling North. This has proven to be a vibrant ministry, regularly attracting over 100 people for a two hour programme of activities, celebration and a meal.

During lockdown we prepared Messy Church at Home bags which we delivered to families who requested them. Each time we delivered around 80-100 bags. We also ran a Zoom Christingle and arranged an Easter Trail. As restrictions eased we organised a Messy Church picnic with a scavenger hunt and around 130 people attended.

In Spring 2022 we restarted in-person Messy Church and are continuing to have over 100 in attendance - many of whom have little or no other church connections.

We are looking for someone who can coordinate and build on this work, discipling our Christian families and helping to reach out to non-Christian families.

Job Description

The post is for a committed Christian (attached Scripture Union Basis of Faith refers) for the purpose of overseeing our work among children, young people and families.

Stirling North Parish Church is committed to seeing children, young people and families integrated into the life of the congregation, finding a spiritual home where healthy growth in Christ is nurtured.

The Parish Worker will focus on leading us as we develop ministry and mission among children, young people and families in the church and local community. Our vision is that, working alongside volunteers, we will develop new opportunities and build on our existing work to help people encounter the grace of God in Jesus Christ.

As Christians we have concern for the whole person. The employee will become a full and active member of the congregation. During the employee's time of service, we want encourage them to make time for an ongoing and growing relationship with God. We want to ensure they spend adequate time with family and friends.

We seek to take personal development seriously. Regular training opportunities will be provided. These will be formal and informal.

The employee will be responsible to the Staff Committee and will be line managed by the minister, Rev Scott McInnes. The employee will be supported by a Support Group.

The employee will seek, in consultation with the above to establish his/her priorities according to the aims that follow:

To support and develop the youth, children's and families work programme:

- by seeking out volunteers to be involved in youth, children's and families work in church, school and community settings;
- by training and supporting volunteers;
- by helping all volunteers to develop the best shape and style of their group;
- by running special events for young people, children and families; and
- by being involved in the planning of meaningful and relevant worship for young people and families.

To develop and maintain opportunities to serve the local communities of Braehead Primary and Bannockburn High School:

- by being involved in Religious Observance events in the named schools at the invitation of the head teacher,
- by offering a variety of pastoral support to the whole school community at the discretion of the head teacher;
- by involving, where appropriate, members of the congregation in chaplaincy initiatives; and
- as a member of the chaplaincy team, by being involved in the life of the school, building relationships and providing support to staff and pupils.

To support and develop pastoral care of children, young people and families:

- by developing and growing relationships with children, young people and families;
- by training and supporting leaders in the care of children, young people and families; and
- by providing creative opportunities to allow children, young people and families to discover faith in Jesus and to grow in their faith.

To promote the visions and aims of families, youth and children's ministry within the congregation:

by working alongside volunteers to model and develop good practice;
by integrating families, young people and children into all aspects of church life;
by communicating and reporting on the work to the congregation; and
by playing an active and significant role in the congregation.

In order to facilitate the working of these aims, the employee will be asked to undertake the following:

see to administrative work in connection with the children's, youth and families work, including correspondence and communication;
liaising with the safeguarding officers in the congregation to ensure that recruitment and monitoring of volunteers' policy is appropriately maintained;
keeping record of visits, groups, volunteers, etc;
preparing reports as requested of his/her own work; and
reporting to the Kirk Session from time to time as required.

Initial Duties

- Get to know children, young people & families who are already actively involved in our congregation and to develop relationships with volunteers involved in Kidzone, Teenzone & Messy Church.
- Help (and eventually coordinate) planning of Messy Church and associated community events (Christingle, Messy Pancakes etc.)
- Together with the minister, to plan and lead all age worship
- Together with the minister to plan, prepare and deliver chaplaincy assemblies
- Begin to better integrate teens in the life and service of the congregation through music, drama, opportunities to work with children
- To investigate and begin planning some of the following:
 - Toddlers group
 - SU Group at Braehead Primary
 - After school club / breakfast club
 - Youth Group

Person Specification

The Parish Worker will be:

- able to initiate and build relationships with children, young people and adults;
- proactive, able to work autonomously and equally able to seek support as required;
- resilient, creative and innovative;
- able to take theories and ideas and apply them in practice;
- experienced in, and/or with an understanding of, working in a Scottish Educational context;
- committed and enthusiastic about being part of the worshipping life of the church;
- a motivator, someone who can get alongside teams of volunteers and inspire, encourage and equip them;
- an excellent communicator one to one, small group, large group settings;
- able to express biblical truths clearly in a manner appropriate for the context;
- have a good understanding of IT and social media and its safe use;
- strongly called to this ministry.

Scripture Union – Basis of Faith

As the Scripture Union family throughout the world, we accept and proclaim the historic truths of the Christian faith including the following:

1. God and the human race: We hold that the Lord our God is one: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and that He fulfils His sovereign purposes – in creation, revelation, redemption, judgement, and the coming of His Kingdom – by calling out from the world a people, united to himself and to each other in love. We acknowledge that though God made us in His own likeness and image, conferring on us dignity and worth and enabling us to respond to Himself; we are now members of a fallen race; we have sinned and come short of His glory. We believe that the Father has shown us His holy love in giving Jesus Christ, His only Son, for us, while through our sinfulness and guilt, we were subject to His wrath and condemnation; and has shown His grace by putting sinners right with Himself when they place their trust in His Son. We confess Jesus Christ as Lord and God; as truly human, born of the virgin Mary; as Servant, sinless, full of grace and truth; as only Mediator and Saviour, dying on the cross in our place, representing us to God, redeeming us from the grip, guilt and punishment of sin; as Victor over Satan and all his forces, rising from death with a glorious body, being taken up to be with His Father, one day returning personally in glory and judgement to establish His Kingdom. We believe in the Holy Spirit who convicts the world of guilt in regard to sin, righteousness and judgement; who makes the death of Christ effective to sinners, declaring that they must turn to Christ in repentance, and directing their trust towards the Lord Jesus Christ; who through the new birth makes us partake in the life of the risen Christ, and who is present within all believers, illuminating their minds to grasp the truth of Scripture, producing in them His fruit, granting to them His gifts, and empowering them for service in the world.

2. The Scriptures: We believe that the Old and New Testament Scriptures are God-breathed, since their writers spoke from God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit; hence are fully trustworthy in all that they affirm, and are our highest authority for faith and life.

3. The Church and its Mission: We recognise the Church as the body of Christ, held together and growing up in Him; both as a total fellowship throughout the world, and as the local congregation in which all believers gather. We acknowledge the commission of Christ to proclaim the Good News to all people, making them disciples, and teaching them to obey Him; and we acknowledge the command to love our neighbours, resulting in service to the church and society, in seeking reconciliation for all with God and their fellows, in proclaiming liberty from every kind of oppression; and in spreading Christ's justice in an unjust world ... until He comes again.