



Family Pastoral Worker of the Six Fen Churches

Contract for Work

Context

The Six Fen Churches serve six villages in Fenland to bring the fullness of life in Jesus Christ to all who live there. Over the past couple of decades the connections between the churches and young families has reduced so that only a small number of attendees have children. Our vision is to bring the fullness of life that Jesus Christ offers to children and young families as much as to people of older ages. Three of the villages have funding for a role that address this vision and the context of each village is different. The Family Pastoral Worker provides the mission resource to develop ministry amongst children and young families in these three villages in the benefice; Benwick, Doddington and Welney.

Benwick

The Victorian church in Benwick was decommissioned and razed to the ground in the 1980's following subsidence. The church community raised the funds to build an annex on the village hall to provide a space for worship and church use. This is located next to the primary school. There is a clean slate in Benwick to build a ministry to children and young families through identifying specific needs and building a team of volunteers to provide services that address this small and isolated rural and farming community.

Doddington

For well over 15 years the church has supported an Open the Book ministry in the primary school of Doddington. Over the past year the RE lead teacher, incumbent and churchwarden have been receiving training in the National Society *Understanding Curriculum* with a view to introducing the curriculum into the school. Every year group has a class in the church in addition to whole school visits at Christmas, Harvest and Easter. There is an opportunity to build on this existing ministry through connecting with young families, not least through existing baptism contacts.

Welney

The worshipping community of Welney already has more children attending worship than the other two villages. The popular Thursday coffee morning has for the past two years had a play worker providing activities for 11 children during the holidays. There is no village school and during winter months the village is even more isolated, often cut off from Littleport by the Washes flooding. The parish ranks within the most 5% of deprived parishes in England. Research suggests there are around 21 pre-school children for whom a toddler group might be beneficial. Initial funding has been secured from the village based William Marshall Charity, one of whose objects is, 'to advance the Christian religion by providing funds to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Welney.'

Purpose of the role

As the ministry in each village is funded for one day per week by different charities, the person contracted to this role must be accountable to each funder. This role therefore seeks an organised individual experienced in providing both Christian ministry and aspects of social care to children and young families. It requires the ability to connect and support parents of young children, to build volunteer teams in each village, and discern how to further the ministry towards establishing worshipping communities that provide a nurturing context for Christian discipleship. The person contracted to this role must be an advocate of Church of England Safeguarding policy and practices and arrange the necessary training and DBS Clearances for all volunteers, in collaboration with the relevant Parish Safeguarding Officers.

Clients	The Ecclesiastical Charity, Doddington Parochial Church Council of Welney
Reporting to	The Incumbent
Hours	21 hours per week (3 days/week, 91 hours per month) spread evenly between each village
Hourly rate	£18.00/hour for three days/week FTE £32,760pa. Or £15/hr FTE £31,200pa.
Status	Part-time contract for services - self-employed
Location	Each of the village churches are available for regular face to face meetings; working from home where needed

Core responsibilities

1) Spiritual Discernment

- Research and assess the key needs of each village within their particular contexts of rural poverty, physical isolation, educational attainment levels, health and wellbeing.
- Make contact with young families and for those with need, signpost them to appropriate existing wellbeing and support services.
- Discern what spiritual, emotional and wellbeing support may be provided through the role of the Family Pastoral Worker.

2) Provide a core support group for young families

- Provide a regular face to face meeting point in each village church that meets the appropriate need.
- Establish, where appropriate, reading groups for parents using a resource such as 'Chatting Faith' to develop literacy skills of parents/carers and their children.
- Establish, where appropriate, a toddler group or after school club, to provide emotional support to children and their families to overcome barriers they face in learning, development of social skills, mental health and emotional and spiritual wellbeing.

3) Develop a team to sustain regular child friendly worship

- Nurture new disciples, link with existing patterns of Breakfast Church in Wimblington to develop a vision for monthly child friendly worship in each village
- Comply with all necessary safeguarding procedures, training and practice
- Plan and deliver a regular monthly worship event as appropriate to the context
- Communicate using the wider benefice communications facilities via the Benefice Administrator

Person Specification

Skills and experience	Essential E or Desirable D
Knowledge of and experience of Church of England churches	E
High emotional intelligence and ability to work with a diversity of people and children	E
Experience in management, and working in church ministry contexts	E
Personally motivated who strives for high standards	E
Warmth and sensitivity when handling difficult conversations and skill in negotiating with volunteers, children and vulnerable adults	E
Emotional resilience working with challenging behaviours and managing appropriate personal and professional boundaries	E
Respect for Church of England structures and the unique rhythm of rural church life and liturgical heritage	E
Experience of social care provision to support wellbeing	D
Experience of providing ministry and discipleship to children and their parents	E
Experienced of having been trained or willing to be trained for authorised ministry	D
A minimum of two A levels and GCSE grade A-C in English and Mathematics	D
Ability to work with online documentation and Google drive systems	E
A demonstrable commitment to the safeguarding and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults	E

Practical details

- £18/hour for 21 hours a week. Delivery of hours in each village location may vary from week to week and within each month. Office space, if required, is available in the annex of the Rectory in Wimblington. Location for delivery is in each village. You

will be self-employed and invoice the agreed hours of work via the incumbent to the two clients, Ecclesiastical Charity Doddington and PCC of Welney.

- There is a General Occupational Requirement for the contractor to be a worshipping Christian who can explain the gospel to children and young families, disciple new believers, and embody Christ's mission and ministry in communities & the church.
- Working patterns are flexible but are likely to require some activity and prioritisation and do not need to be limited to three days in each week. E.g. 7 hours per village per week can be divided between multiple days in each week.
- The contractor may need to undertake training offered by the Diocese of Ely in order to become authorised or licensed for ministry.
- Funding has been secured for one year (with a six month review) with the potential of extending.

Safeguarding and Health and Safety for this Role

This role is largely face to face with children and potentially vulnerable adults. The post holder will have access to sensitive information retained by the Benefices or supplied to the Rector. They are therefore required to:

- Work within the requirements of our Safeguarding, GDPR and Health and Safety Policies
- Submit a Confidential Declaration with two references who have known you for at least 2 years
- Have and maintain a clear Enhanced DBS certificate (we will apply for this with you)
- Complete and pass Basic and Foundation level, Domestic Abuse and Leadership Safeguarding training either prior to or within two weeks of commencing the post.

Application Process

Submit a CV together with a 2 page letter (min. 12 point font) that demonstrates how your experience and skills relate to the role description and person specification and why you want this contract to Revd Canon Dr Mark Collinson, Rector of the Six Fen Churches at mark@sixfenchurches.org . For an informal conversation to understand the role you are welcome to call Canon Mark by arrangement. Priority will be given to contractors who can fulfil the requirements for all three villages but applications for one or two villages will be considered.

Application deadline Sunday 13th September 2026 at 5pm. Interviews Thursday 17th September 2026.

