

Huntingdon Parish

All Saints + St. Barnabas + St. Mary's

Profile

Introduction

The parish is thriving and we are experiencing an exciting time of growth both missionally and in terms of discipleship. This role offers an exciting opportunity to build on the ministry of our current Children's and Families Missioner who is retiring in the summer after five years in post. You would be working as a key part of a supportive team (see further below) and a church community which is keen to share the Gospel with our community.

Huntingdon is a traditional market town with a growing population, currently estimated at 30,000. There is a mix of long-established housing and significant new housing areas. Over a quarter of the population live on the Oxmoor which is an area of relative deprivation / "urban adversity". Our main church is situated on the Market Square in the middle of town which offers a perfect and highly visible location from which to reach out to the local community.

Sunday Worship:



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The worship tradition of the churches is evangelical / gently charismatic. Our worshipping community is very ethnically diverse and around 40% is non-white British. We have a significant number of Eastern European and African people and together we have an enriching mix of cultures and influences. Numbers attending Sunday services and other events / services have increased significantly and are significantly ahead of "pre-Covid" attendances. In addition, there are fresh expressions and many exciting new groups for children and adults alike.

Vision and Values

Our vision is to share the love of Jesus across Huntingdon and we do this both in word and action. Our ministry to children's and families is a key piece of our mission as a parish. Our values are attached as an appendix to this document. We seek to undergird all our ministry in prayer and have three "principles" behind all our ministry:

- **Relationship** – we seek to build relationships with our community and show them the love of Jesus. Hospitality, outreach and the power of invitation are key. The hope and prayer is that this will lead to both participation in our worshipping community; and a
- **Decision** – to make a commitment to profess a faith in Jesus. Having made that decision we help believers with
- **Discipleship** as we all move along our journeys of faith and together form the priesthood of all believers.

Children's and Families Ministry

With the support of other members of the team and our congregations, our existing C&F Missioner has built an exciting and growing range of services and events to serve the children and families in our community. These include:

Schools:

We have strong and growing links with several primary schools in the town. We have opportunities to lead assemblies, RE lessons and "festival" assemblies / collective worship. We are currently developing a Church: School Covenant with our local Church of England School and there is an opportunity for the successful candidate to play a vital role in developing this.

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A "station" at an Easter All Age Service:



Events and Services

- Messy Church which runs monthly in a community centre on the Oxmoor (see above);
- A weekly group, *Footsteps*, for pre-school children and their parents / carers;
- A monthly group, *Oasis*, is led by the licensed lay pioneer minister and provides an opportunity for parents / carers to reflect on significant questions using film clips as discussion starters;
- *Young Church* on Sunday mornings is running at record attendance levels;
- Circle of Security Parenting courses. Some of these have been run in conjunction with local council employed leaders;
- Starting Rite courses for mothers and their newborn babies;
- A *Mums Connect Group* runs fortnightly and has been doing the Alpha course in late 2024 and early 2025;

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Sharing a Bible story at Footsteps:



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Staff Team

We regularly remind the church that the “ministry team” here is everyone! As well as a supportive church community, you will be joining a very strong and supportive staff team. As well as the role advertised, the team comprises:

- Vicar (line manager for the C&F role);
- Pioneer Curate;
- Full time Youth Missioner (note 1);
- 0.6 FTE Operations Manager;
- 0.5 FTE Parish Administrator;
- Self supporting Associate Minister with a focus on leading Deaf Church (note 2);
- Self supporting FTE lay pioneer minister Licensed Lay Minister.

Notes:

1. This ministry means that there is continuity of discipleship etc for children moving on to secondary school;
2. We host Deaf Church for Cambridgeshire and their Chaplain is an Associate Minister in the parish. As well as their own separate monthly service, Deaf Church attend our Sunday service once a month;
3. The staff team has developed strong links and significant goodwill with various local community groups who are very keen to develop their partnerships with us. You would be able to leverage off these contacts.

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Appendix

Values

1. Christ-centred – we love God and seek to demonstrate our love of God and our faith in him by caring for those around us of all nationalities, economic and social backgrounds – in the name of Jesus.
2. Worship – we seek to love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our mind, all our soul and all our strength.
3. Missional – all believers, irrespective of gender, nationality or background are called to share in the Missio-Dei – the mission of God, to join with him in loving those around us and inviting them into the Kingdom. We are a priesthood of all believers.
4. Word and Spirit – we believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. We encourage openness to the power of the Holy Spirit and the exercise of the gifts of the Spirit.
5. Relationships – Positive relationships enable all the rest of the ministry to happen. Building positive relationships is foundational in all aspects of our ministry.
6. Accompanying – we are interested in people, and being with them on their journey, engaging with who they are and accepting them as they are rather than setting expectation of what we think they should be.
7. Nurturing – we need to invest in people's growth, in all areas of their lives, but particularly nurturing faith development, appreciating the power of prayer and spirituality and seeking to grow in the fruit of the Spirit.
8. Empowerment – we want to show respect to those with whom we are in contact, support them taking responsibility for their lives, and build their confidence to access support for them to regain control over areas of their lives that might have felt hopeless.
9. Advocacy – we are committed to be advocates for the poor, the vulnerable and the oppressed.
10. Family¹ – the family is the primary support network for a child, so strengthening families will support healthy child development.
11. Community – there is a saying – it takes a village to raise a child. It is so important to support the development of people's networks. As their networks are extended, so too is their capacity to cope with new situations, as they have more people to turn to for support.
12. Intergenerational – we are called to be an example to other generations, and to tell other generations of what God has done for us. To do this, the generations need to interact.

Note: 1. We recognise that 'family' can take many different forms depending on circumstances and affirm that all family units are valued.