



Families Leader

Heswall Parish is excited to offer a rewarding opportunity for a passionate, creative, and people-focused individual to join our church staff team in the re-created role of Families Leader. Work with families sits at the heart of our mission to nurture Christian faith, build community, and support households of adults and children. We are praying for someone with a personal commitment to Jesus Christ who can inspire, connect, and help us strengthen our ministry among children, parents, and carers—both within the church and across the wider community. If you are a person with some experience of Christian ministry and leadership, who brings energy, compassion, and a vision for helping families grow in faith together – we would love to hear from you.

Job Profile

The Families Leader will play a key part in helping families encounter Jesus, grow as disciples, and become fully integrated into the life of the parish. The role has three central elements:

- 1. Making Connections:** to connect with and pastor the families with whom we are in contact, and to extend our connections with new families and their children in the wider Heswall community.
- 2. Making Disciples:** to provide personal and group spaces for adults and children to explore Christian faith, become followers of Jesus and grow as disciples.
- 3. Leading Leaders:** recruit, resource, train and support the teams of leaders involved in ministry with, and outreach to, families and children; provide vision, strategy and oversight, ensure best practice and safeguarding in all our work with families.

Core Responsibilities:

Making Connections

- To connect pastorally with young families the church is in contact with, building positive relationships with parents to effectively integrate families into the life of the church.
- To develop creative and inspiring initiatives and events which connect with families in the wider Heswall community, beyond the church's existing contacts.
- To work co-operatively with our church leaders and youth leaders to build positive connections for adults and children with other church activities and groups.
- To develop and manage forms of communication and social media that connect effectively with families.

- To take a lead in the ministry currently undertaken in St. Peter's CE Primary School and two other local Primary Schools, working with clergy and staff to develop these connections as opportunities for service and mission.
- To foster our links with the uniformed organisations and other children/family groups that use our buildings.

Making Disciples

- To be an example of a faithful follower of Jesus providing a personal witness to him.
- To provide resources and encouragement to groups working with families that present Jesus and the call to follow him in an appropriate way.
- To co-ordinate groups and activities to provide a coherent "discipleship pathway" that enable family members to "take their next step following Jesus".
- To link families with other church activities and groups that seek to build fellowship and faith.
- To provide resources and opportunities to support family life (parenting courses, training events etc.) and to connect the Parish with resources offered by the wider church (conferences, courses, events etc.)

Leading Leaders

- To be a "leader of leaders", recruiting, training, resourcing and supporting the team leaders and helpers involved in work with families – including our toddler groups, Messy church teams, and those providing children's ministry in the 10.30am TLC and 10.45am St P congregations.
- To resource our 10.30am TLC and 10.45am St P congregational teams in their provision of children's ministry on Sunday mornings – participating sometimes in ekids or leading Family Worship or Parade Services – but principally enabling the congregational teams to develop an effective and consistent programme to be delivered by members of the congregation.
- To be an advocate for families and children within the wider life of the Parish enabling their voice to be heard and interests represented in all aspects of Parish life and decision making.
- In conjunction with clergy, the Staff Team, PCC and others in leadership, to develop a strategy for mission and growth for the Parish's work with families.
- To be a key member of the Staff Team, working co-operatively with our Youth Leader and possibly responsible for supervising an intern.
- In conjunction with other prayer groups and activity within the Parish to promote and encourage prayer for and by the church's families and children in creative and engaging ways.

- To work with the Parish Safeguarding Officer to maintain and promote good practice across all our work with children and vulnerable adults.
- To develop with the Parish Office and others, effective means of promoting and communicating the Parish's work with families, using printed materials, electronic communication and social media.
- To maintain an up-to-date understanding of best practice and current thinking in work with families and children, through continuing professional development and training, and to incorporate this into Parish ministry.

Terms of Appointment

Responsible to: The Rector

Place of Work: The Parish of Heswall (St. Peter's Church and The Lighthouse Church) with workspaces provided in the Parish Office, St. Peter's Centre and at The Lighthouse Church

Hours: Part time 21 – 28 hours per week spread over 3 or 4 days, which at times may include some evenings, Saturdays or Sunday morning work as required

Salary: £23k - £26k (full time, 35hr equivalent) pro rata part time salary; depending on experience

Holiday: Five weeks, plus Bank Holidays (more weeks taken in school holidays would be considered, salary reduced pro rata)

Pension: The PCC operates an auto enrolment pension scheme for which employer contributions would be made at the rate required by legislation for the time being

Other Terms:

- There is an Occupational Requirement for the post-holder to be a practicing Christian, in accordance with the Employment Equality Act 2010
- An enhanced DBS Disclosure will be required for the successful candidate
- Offer of the post includes a six-month probationary period

Enquiries: Please contact Revd. Martin Cannam (0151-342-3471 or martin@heswallparish.co.uk) to discuss this exciting opportunity or to obtain an Application Form. Informal visits to the Parish are also welcome.

Closing Date for Applications: Completed Application Forms should be submitted by Sunday 8 February 2026 either by email to martin@heswallparish.co.uk or post to Revd. Martin Cannam, The Parish Office, St. Peter's Centre, Village Road, Heswall, CH60 ODZ

Interviews: Interviews will take place week commencing 23 February 2026 (TBC).

Families Leader – Information Pack

Heswall is an Evangelical Anglican Parish on the south side of Wirral peninsular located in the Diocese of Chester. Our life together is expressed as “one church fellowship with two church buildings” uniting St. Peter's Church in Lower Heswall and The Lighthouse Church on Telegraph Road in the centre of Heswall's High Street.

Our life together is centred on:
“following Jesus / serving Heswall / loving all”

We understand our mission as:
**“calling people to come and follow Jesus;
sending people to serve him in our daily lives”**

Our vision is to be a church where
**“anyone is welcome and able to encounter Jesus;
together we are learning to follow Jesus faithfully;
our lives of love and service make a difference for God and good in Heswall and beyond.”**



Most Sunday mornings we gather in 4 congregations who worship in different overlapping ways – some more traditional with robed clergy & choir, seasonal liturgies, organ music & hymns; others more informal, interactive with music groups, visuals & prayer ministry. Whilst anyone is welcome at all our services, two congregations (10.30am at TLC and 10.45am at St P) intentionally seek to embrace families with younger children. About 6 times a year we offer Messy Church specifically seeking to provide for younger families. Our youth work for older children and young people is provided in two groups that meet at TLC on Sunday evenings including a monthly youth service, Encounter. During the week we connect with families in several different ways and are active in 3 local primary schools. During the year we offer a number of events and activities to build our common life together and connect with new people, some particularly focussed on reaching families.

Vision, Opportunities and Challenges

We're looking for a person who can engage with our church life as it is and share in leading us forward into the things we believe God has for us in Heswall. In many ways we are still re-establishing church life after the significant cultural impacts of Covid – especially our younger families; we are also still in the early stages of developing the witness and outreach of The Lighthouse Church which opened in October 2023 and now provides the church with a very different relationship with Heswall High Street.

Whilst there were many ways in which we saw God's presence and blessing during Covid, the most significant impact was to reduce the active participation of younger families and children. Along with many other churches across the country we are in the process of rebuilding this ministry and outreach. It is a priority for us to connect with younger generations and to intentionally resource work with families and their children. In doing so, we are blessed with many opportunities - both those which draw people to church (school, baptism, pre-school/toddler groups, festival services etc) and those which enable us to reach out into the community (schools work, special events, parent socials etc)

We're looking for a person with vision, and a passion to share the love of Jesus with families, to discern the most appropriate means of mission and evangelism in our context, willing to take risks and generate new initiatives to make this happen.

Connections we have with Families - Adults & Children

Little Fishes and Little Lights

Two morning Toddler Groups provide for pre-school children and their parents, grandparent or carers. Two small teams lead this ministry each week in termtime. We have previously also run a small group for babies (0-1yrs) and their parents, called "Baby Tiddlers".



Messy Church

Since opening The Lighthouse Church in October 2023 we have gathered and grown a new congregation around Messy Church offered about 6 times a year on Sunday afternoons, linked to Christian festivals or seasons. A small team leads this gathering, connecting with an increasing number of younger families.

Family Events

Over the years the Parish has hosted several social/outreach events for families – most recently a Summer Family Walk & BBQ, Family Quiz, Lantern Walk (as alternative to Halloween) and Christmas Film Nights. We have found these to be effective ways of connecting with younger families but it remains difficult to build consistent relationships with a demograph of people, for whom church is just one option in a wide range of providers for activities and social events.



Local Primary Schools

There are 3 Primary Schools with whom we have regular contact – including a Church School, St. Peter's (CE) Primary. We lead Collective Worship at St. Peter's School every week, then adapt the material for a weekly assembly at Gayton Primary and half-termly assembly at Heswall Primary. In addition we offer occasional lessons, visits to church, and make the most of other opportunities at Christmas, Harvest and Easter. Our youth team supports Year 6 in preparing to move to Secondary School (Adventure) and offers half-termly gatherings for Years 5 & 6 (Explore)



Sunday Mornings – ekids, Family Worship, Parade Services

On an average Sunday morning we welcome a small number of families with younger children to both St. Peter's and The Lighthouse Church, though numbers vary from 2-3 to 6-8 at most. Both churches seek to make some provision for these families – TLC with a supervised creche and provision of ekids; St P 10.45am with a creche room and kids' table. An initial commitment to a monthly Café Church service in both locations did not effectively connect with younger families, nor did a monthly Family Worship service at St. Peter's. All Age worship is therefore offered only occasionally, principally at Festivals (Harvest, Easter, Christmas). 3-4 times a year St. Peter's hosts Sunday morning Parade Services including our uniformed organisations. Remembrance Sunday is very well supported but it's noticeable the others are becoming less significant in parents' calendars.



Discipling Parents

We have seen a small number of younger parents drawn onto the Alpha Course which we run each year but generally have found it hard to find ways that effectively connect younger adults to exploring faith or growing

in faith. Most are in demanding professional jobs with many other demands on family life, so with little availability on evenings or at weekends. We have around 12 Homegroups that meet weekly or fortnightly across the Parish. Whilst these have many strengths, we have again found it more difficult to embrace younger, working adults into these. We are in the process of reviewing these Small Groups with a view to prioritising accessibility to newer people.

Men's Breakfast and H2O Women's Events

Every other month we run a Men's Breakfast on a Saturday morning at The Lighthouse Church offering a low-key, sociable opportunity to welcome men across the threshold of the church building for breakfast and a short talk/testimony. This has grown over the last two years but also finds it more difficult to connect with younger, working men whose families are busy on Saturday mornings. H2O provides a termly gathering for women for spiritual encouragement, seeking to connect faith to women's experience of family, work and life.

Supporting Parents

We have previously offered short courses to support family life including Marriage Matters, Parenting, Faith at Home, at times using resources from our mission partner Care for the Family. There are church members with experience of leading such courses but some discussion whether the community we serve would actually respond to us offering them.

Teams of Leaders and Helpers

Most of our work with families and children is led and supported by small teams of church members who bring a variety of gifts to these ministries. Most work well collaboratively but some struggle to identify a clear leader and "joining up" our ministry across different groups is a constant challenge. There is a clear need for more consistent recruitment, training and support for those involved in leading our children's work.

Youth Work

Our Parish youth work is led by a full time employed Youth Leader supported by two Interns who are placed with us by "Time for God." Either or both Interns are available to resource our work with families and children. Our Youth Leader leads a youth team who run Impact for 11-14yrs on Thursdays after school at St. Peter's and early Sunday evenings at The Lighthouse Church. We are encouraged by the number of young people who have recently joined this group. The Parish also has a Youth Fellowship for 14-18yrs who meet on Sunday evenings and in two Life Groups during the week. They have an annual programme of social and outreach events, residentials, and fundraising events. In the August Summer holiday YF led the church in "Connect Heswall" – a long weekend offering a range of outdoor and indoor events to connect with families, children and young people. Next July a group of 24 youth leaders and young people will be taking part in a two-week mission to support the Rock of Joy Trust working in 3 schools in Uganda.

Safeguarding

Heswall Parish has fully embraced the priority given to Safeguarding by the Chester Diocese. We have an experienced and effective Safeguarding Officer supported in DBS applications by the Parish Office and in Safer Recruitment by our PCC Staff Support Group. Over 70 adults are trained in Level 1 Basic Awareness and Level 2 Foundation Safeguarding. Whilst there is need for constant vigilance and always need for improvement, we do have the foundations of a robust safeguarding culture in place.