

Our Story

In early 2020, a parish church in the centre of Blackpool felt moved to pray night and day for the people of Blackpool and the future of the town. Out of their prayers came an ambitious vision to become a thriving, church planting church with a focus on reaching younger generations with the good news of Jesus.

Through a partnership with HTB and the Diocese of Blackburn, this vision was kickstarted in early 2022. Since then, the church has grown and developed and we are always looking for people to join us on the journey. You might be a born and bred Sandgrown'un or you might have never heard of the Big Dipper! It really doesn't matter. What matters is, do you long to see the church alive and thriving? Do you have a passion for people and want to see them healed, freed and transformed by Jesus? Do you love Blackpool and want to see better headlines spoken over the town? If so, read on.

Church Profile

Situated at the top of Church Street, across from the Winter Gardens and a stone's throw from the Tower and the beach, our church is perfectly placed to reach out to anyone and everyone in Blackpool. The church has a committed and growing congregation who are enthusiastic about becoming a church-planting church and a greater force for good in the centre of Blackpool. As we build on this work, we will particularly invest in:

- Contemporary worship with a focus on welcoming newcomers
- Regular Alpha courses with a focus on reaching non-Christians
- Youth and children's ministry to develop a generation of passionate young disciples
- Social transformation projects in partnership with Love Your Neighbour

As an HTB Network church, we share our vision with over 100 other churches across the country and the world. With that in mind, everything we do at Blackpool Church will be seeking to: "play our part in the evangelisation of the nation, the revitalisation of the church and the transformation of society."

Overview

We are looking for an enthusiastic kids and families lead with a passion for seeing children encounter Jesus and grow in faith. This role is maternity cover so builds on the strong foundation of a committed volunteer team and is perfect for someone looking to explore ministry or compliment other work or family responsibilities.

Job Description

PROFILE	
Job Title	Kids and Families Lead (Maternity Cover) - fixed term contract
Team/Department	Kids & Families
Reports to	Church Leader
Location	St John's
Hours	20 hours (Negotiable but incl. Sunday & Wednesday Mornings)
Salary	Circ £13,000
Holiday Entitlement	5 weeks per annum + pro-rata bank holiday allowance
Special Conditions	Subject to safer recruitment procedure and reference check
Start/End Date	Negotiable: September 2024 – September 2025
PURPOSE	
To grow and develop the ministry of Blackpool Church with children and families. To join the rest of the staff team in leading the congregation in prayer & worship, evangelism, discipleship and the service of others.	
KEY RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grow and develop our Sunday morning children's ministry ● Encourage and resource parents and carers to disciple their children at home ● Grow the church's mid-week toddler ministry and take advantage of missional opportunities surrounding it ● Support and administrate the church's safeguarding alongside the vicar as the assistant parish safeguarding officer ● Grow and train teams of volunteers for Sunday Kids and Toddlers ● Lead school assemblies and visits (particularly with St John's Primary) ● Support clergy in preaching, leading and prayer ministry where appropriate ● Carry out other reasonable tasks which are asked of you by the Church Leader* <p>It is expected that the post holder will be an enthusiastic and active member of the congregation of Blackpool Church and participate in the life of the HTB Network.</p> <p>*Like clergy, it is expected that departmental leads might need to change departments throughout their time at Blackpool Church to enable them to grow and fill gaps in the team.</p>	
WORKING ENVIRONMENT	
<p>Working for Blackpool Church is often exciting and fast-paced. Our values of Ambition, Brilliance, Creativity, Dependence and Enthusiasm set the culture for the teams with whom we work. Working arrangements are often flexible as staff manage their own diaries and respond to new opportunities. However, throughout the challenges and changes, the team function as a family first and hopefully develop life-long friendships.</p>	

Person Specification

	ATTRIBUTE	DESIRABLE	ESSENTIAL
CHARACTER			
1a	<u>A is for Ambition:</u> Team members believe that if God is for us, nothing can be against us. They set brave targets and make themselves accountable. They assume things can be done until proven otherwise.		X
1b	<u>B is for Brilliance:</u> Team members seek to do everything they do well and do small things with great love. They are not perfectionists, but rather try to continually develop through seeking feedback.		X
1c	<u>C is for Creativity:</u> Team members rule everything in before they rule anything out. They are gracious and flexible when change is needed. They take risks and aren't afraid of failure.		X
1d	<u>D is for Dependence:</u> Team members have a deep personal commitment to Jesus and the Church. They are prayerful and seek to do their work in step with the Holy Spirit. They are not lone wolves and ask for help quickly.		X
1e	<u>E is for Enthusiasm:</u> Team members chose to speak positively and optimistically before critiquing. They believe God has a good plan for Blackpool and wholeheartedly play their part in that plan. When thinking about their work, 'they don't have to, they get to'.		X
SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE			
2a	Excellent interpersonal, pastoral and group skills with children		X
2b	Discipline and self-motivation when working independently	X	
2c	Good public speaking skills with the ability to speak to assemblies or groups of 100+ children	X	
2d	Leadership and team building skills with the ability to inspire and encourage staff and volunteers		X
2e	Ability to plan and prioritise competing tasks and work well under pressure	X	
2f	Competent computing, writing and creative resource making skills	X	
2g	Good event planning and administrative skills	X	
2h	Excellent problem-solving and boundary setting, particularly when resolving complex pastoral situations	X	

2i	Excellent knowledge of best practise for resolving safeguarding issues with children and adults		X
2j	A willingness to learn skills and acquire knowledge needed for the successful completion of tasks		X
EXPERIENCE			
3a	Experience of children's work in the church, education or voluntary sector		X
3b	Experience of recruiting teams and training volunteers for ministry projects	X	
3c	Experience of developing curriculum for children and producing resources	X	
3d	Experience of resolving complex safeguarding situations		X
3e	A willingness to gain the experience needed for the successful completion of tasks		X

Application Process

To apply, please send the following to andy.dykes@blackpool.church by 31/05/2024:

- A CV of no more than two pages covering your previous work experience and relevant skills
- A one or two-page cover letter detailing any sense of calling to the post and a vision for kids in a church like Blackpool Church.
- The details of one character referee and one professional referee (in general, this should be your most recent employer)

An interview will take place on Zoom or in person in the week commencing 10/06/2024 and include a 5-10-minute all-age talk on a passage of your choice. For more information about the role or process, contact Andy Dykes using the email address above.