



HOLY TRINITY CLAYGATE

Children and Families Minister Profile



Our purpose is to encounter, celebrate and share God's transforming love.

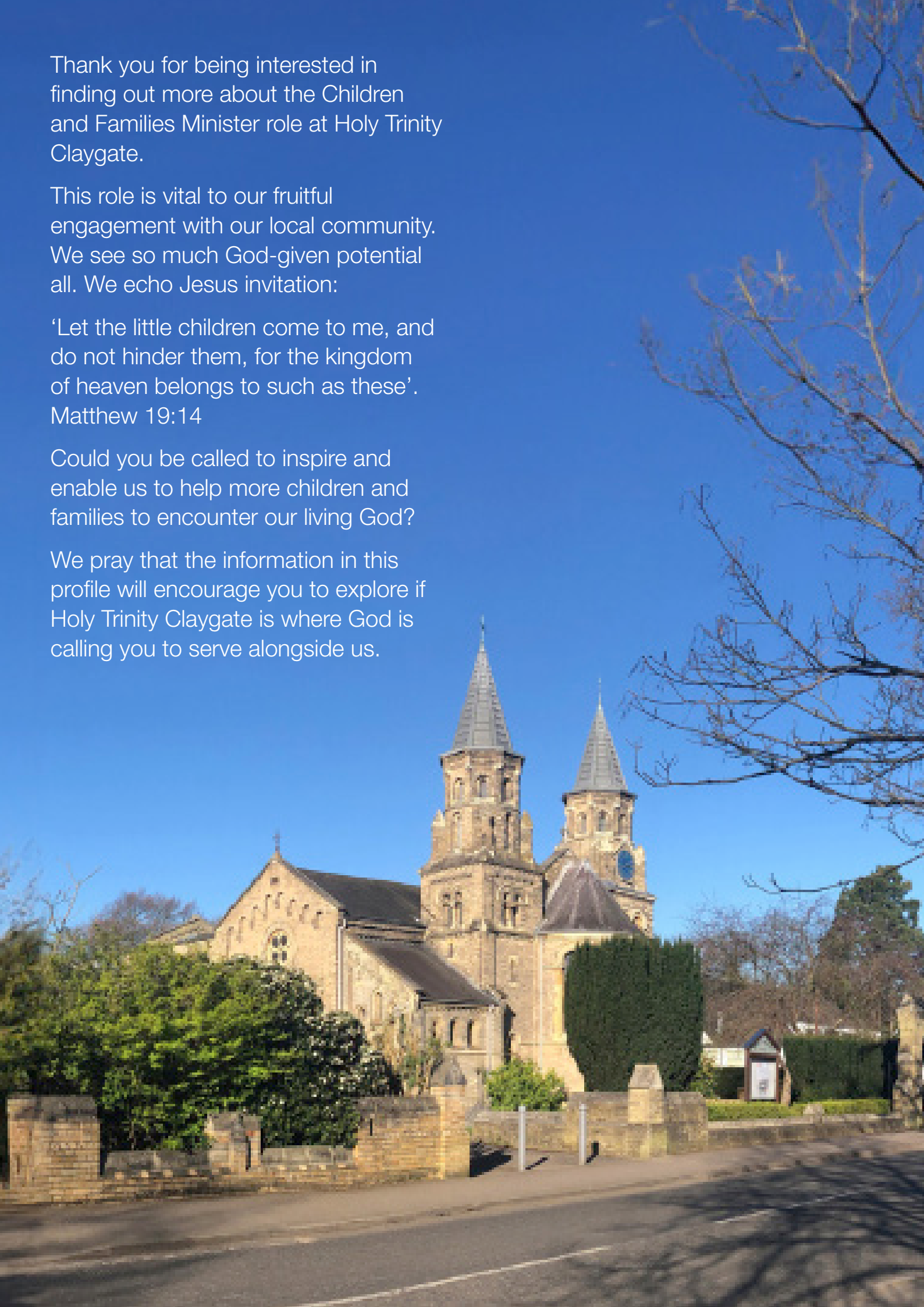
Thank you for being interested in finding out more about the Children and Families Minister role at Holy Trinity Claygate.

This role is vital to our fruitful engagement with our local community. We see so much God-given potential all. We echo Jesus invitation:

‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these’.
Matthew 19:14

Could you be called to inspire and enable us to help more children and families to encounter our living God?

We pray that the information in this profile will encourage you to explore if Holy Trinity Claygate is where God is calling you to serve alongside us.



We want share God's love
from when God starts
His 'knitting'.

The Church

Holy Trinity Claygate is a multi-congregational Anglican evangelical church in the Diocese of Guildford. We are rooted in the authority and teaching of Scripture, whilst being guided and equipped by the Holy Spirit.

Holy Trinity is a church that has strong connections with its local community. We have enjoyed some considerable growth in the past but have needed to reimagine how we do church and connect with our local community after the challenges of recent years. Our desire is to reconnect with and reach out to more people than we currently are.

Although we enjoyed meaningful contact with young and old during lockdown, we are still recovering from its impact. Sunday worship attendance reduced because of the pandemic but has and is recovering and our midweek ministries have enjoyed significant growth since we reopened. Online worship offered at 9.30am enjoys a faithful following. It has been helpful to enable people to connect with us remotely and we estimate that we have meaningful contact and connection with over 800 people of all ages in our local community, through Sunday services and our midweek activities.

On Sundays we have four services which vary in style, from traditional to very informal. On a typical Sunday around 300 people will attend in person, which includes about 80 children and young people, and on top of this there is a small online community of about 20 households. Families with younger children gravitate to our worship on Sundays at 9.30am. The majority of our young people attend the evening service, The Six.

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made..." Psalm 139:13-14

The Village

Claygate has a population of 7,200 with a strong village identity and sense of community. There are a significant number of people working in managerial and professional roles, many in London, with many households having two incomes.

There is a local authority primary school in the parish and a church primary school just beyond the parish boundary; there are also several pre-schools in the parish (including Jigsaw, owned and run by Holy Trinity Claygate). There is a Church of England secondary school and another local secondary school into which pupils from both primary schools feed just outside the parish. We have links with both schools. Shops are excellent for a village of this size, and transport links to London and Guildford are good.





Our Purpose

As a church, we exist for a very definite purpose: **to encounter, celebrate and share God's transforming love.**

That may sound simple but it's also profound. All our ministries, engaging with the youngest to oldest, work towards fulfilling this purpose in our community.

Our conviction is that the God of the Bible is 'love' and He demonstrates this love by transforming lives, relationships, communities and nations.

This transforming love – shown most perfectly in the relationship between God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit – inspires and equips us to:

Encounter our God of love in our worship and prayer; welcome and service

Celebrate Him in praise, thanksgiving, and by telling our good news stories

Share this transforming love in daily life with those we connect with, near and far.



Our Values

All Involved in welcome, worship, mission and ministry; empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Proactive in Mission, being people of influence and godly change; locally, nationally and globally.

Distinctive Daily Disciples, living as faith-filled followers of Jesus; making Him known in word and deed.

Connecting with God in prayer, worship and word; together and alone.

Loving and Generous Community, offering God's hospitality, friendship and care; sharing our time, talents and money.

The vision for Children and Families Ministry remains value-based. In line with Holy Trinity Claygate's five values statements, we identified three values which underpin everything we do.

- **God-Centred** - reflecting the values of connecting with God and Distinctive Daily Disciples
- **Relational** - reflecting the values of loving and generous community and connecting with God
- **Engaging** - reflecting the values of all involved and proactive in mission



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Our Provision

In recent times the focus for Children and Families Ministry has been to **consolidate our existing ministry** by equipping teams to use their God-given gifts, whilst always **looking for God-prompted** creative and effective **ways to engage with our local community**.

Sunday Morning Groups

The children's groups have continued to provide opportunities for children to engage and grow in faith in age-appropriate and fun activities. All groups have a similar session format and follow the same topic each week. We put a lot of energy, creativity and love into making these groups fun, engaging and spiritually uplifting.

A typical session starts with 15 minutes of free play that helps children to settle into the environment and build connections with one another and their leaders, followed by an ice breaker activity or game, worship time, Bible Story, prayers and follow up / application activity.

On a Sunday morning during the 9.30 service, we have the following groups:

Little Stars group / creche for babies to

3 year olds – meets in prayer room and back of church. Responding to the changing needs of families with creche age children, we changed our provision from a supervised creche to providing a welcoming space in the prayer room hosted by a member of the Little Stars team for parents to use.

Sparkle group for 3 years olds to Reception

meets in the Ministry Centre

Glow group for primary school years 1 to 4

meets in the Church Hall

Blaze group for primary school years 5 & 6

meet at Emmanuel Hall

Attendance continues to vary. We have 76 children registered and on a typical Sunday we get between 25 to 45 when attendance is high.

The change in the provision for the creche age children (under 3s) has been very successful in encouraging families with babies and younger toddlers to be a part of church life. The back of the church has become an accessible and welcoming space for families.

We are seeing a slow (but steady) increase of families coming to church through our mid-week outreach groups: Mums, Bumps and Babies and Trinity Tots.

Mid-week missional activities

Mums, Bumps and Babies meeting on Monday mornings continues to be a huge success.

Currently, we are getting 15-20 mums every week and over the academic year, we had contact with 65 new mums.

The team running the group are a great example of embedding our church values in particular being a 'loving and generous community' and 'all involved'. In September, the leadership of the team was handed over to a very able church member, Cath Tanner, and the group now operates independently with support and supervision from the staff team.

Trinity Tots has now been running for two and a half years and continues to be a huge success. The vision to create a baby and toddler paradise and a wonderful supportive community for those caring for little ones has become reality. We use the biggest space we have available and we fill it. Currently, this term we have been getting between 65-75 children and 55-60 adults every week. This means that on a Thursday morning we have over 120 people gathering in church.

Trinity Tots is a place where everyone is welcome and we have parents (mostly mums, but not exclusively), nannies, child minders and grandparents building community together. The highlight is the singing and Bible Story time at the end of the session.

We are thrilled to bring together large numbers at Trinity Tots and Mums, Bumps and Babies, but this is not the end goal. An area for future development and prayerful discernment is developing next steps / pathways for people to connect with God and explore faith.

Jigsaw Story time

We have continued to go into Jigsaw, our preschool, every week for a Bible story, songs and prayer session. There is a willing and able team of staff members, who are regularly delivering this. The children seem to love it.



Schools work

Schools work has been an aspirational missional priority for the last three years. Currently Simon Botham, also facilities manager, supported by a Ministry Assistant, takes weekly Christian assemblies in two local primary schools.

We have also been able to offer interactive workshops (experiences): Easter Cracked and Christmas Unwrapped to Claygate and Esher Church School. The pattern is for children in year 2 to come at Christmas and year 5 at Easter.

Other events and initiatives

Intergenerational worship – Worship For All

We've been on a journey with our multi-generational worship which occur roughly once a month. The exception during the summer holidays when Worship For All takes place weekly at the 9.30am service. Our aim is to make these gatherings a joyful and engaging experience where all gather as one big family. Over the past year, through hard work, creativity and planning these services are beginning to show fruit, with greater numbers experiencing more meaningful spiritual engagement.

The Christingle Services and the Nativity Play added significantly to our Christmas offering and involved people of all ages.

Shine party 2023 – with a throw back to pre-Covid times we offered a wonderful alternative to Halloween celebrations.

Film nights – continuing to build relationships with our local community, we have offered 3 film nights over the last 18 months.

Children and Communion – we ran another children and communion course in the summer term and admitted four children to communion early September.

Parenting conversations – we ran a series of six sessions designed to create a supportive and loving community by deepening existing relationships with those who attend mid-week groups as well as members of our congregation. These sessions offered parenting support from a Biblical perspective by exploring principles for healthy relationships and intentionally making connections between them and the gospel.

We are praying for a new Children and Families Minister to come and join our team.

Working Environment

Holy Trinity Claygate is blessed with a committed and diverse staff team which oversees ministry areas and resources church members in their service within and beyond the church. Staff members meet daily for prayer, and as a whole team once a week. We aim to build strong relationships and believe honesty and humility are really important.

The Children and Families Minister is line-managed by the Associate Vicar with regular one-to-one meetings for support of your role. You will also work closely with the Vicar, other clergy and service leaders, and your teams of volunteers.

All staff are encouraged to have a spiritual director and we support, where possible, appropriate professional development and learning opportunities staff wish to undertake. Ministry Leads will have at least one 24 hour period off each week and are strongly encouraged to take their full holiday allowance.

The Children and Families Minister has an office in the Ministry Centre shared with colleagues and a designated workspace and desk. You will be expected to normally work at church, but there is some flexibility which can be discussed with your line manager.



Celebrating the past, embracing the present and looking to the future

Celebrating the Past

We celebrate the rich history of our Children and Families Ministry, which has enjoyed spiritually engaging children's groups, vibrant worship experiences, and meaningful intergenerational activities. These efforts have sought to create a welcoming environment where families encounter God's love and deepen their faith journey. Our offering includes a variety of midweek activities, including schools work and meaningful engagement with our local community, some even before their first breath through the Mums, Bumps and Babies group. We recognise that ministry is vulnerable, and we can't live on past success, but feel that it does provide a solid foundation upon which we can build and expand our ministry now and in future.

Embracing the Present

We can only minister in the present so we are looking for a Children and Families Minister who can help us to consolidate and develop our work, starting from where we are. There always seems to be more opportunities than we have the capacity to do, so we need to pray and to trust that God will guide and help us to prioritise. We aim to focus on connecting families to God, empowering leaders, and expanding Christian influence within the local community. Working with a willing and able team we seek to create engaging activities, where individuals of all ages can actively participate in church life and experience God's transforming presence.

Looking to the Future

Looking ahead, there are always exciting opportunities for growth and development. Society changes, the gospel message doesn't, so we at Holy Trinity need to adapt and innovate. We are far from being the perfect church and have setbacks and struggles. However, we long for better links between mid-week groups and our Sunday worshiping communities. Ideally, we will be able to equip teams to be missional and confident in sharing God's love, creating pathways to becoming core members of our church family. With a vision for continual growth - measured not just in numbers but in loving relationships and depth of faith - we work with God to ensure more people encounter His transforming love.



Please read the Job and Person Specification.

Any questions please feel free to contact Patrick Bateman:
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