

Draft Job Description for Messy Church Adviser in the Shrewsbury Episcopal Area of Lichfield Diocese

The person (lay or ordained) in this post will be expected to work ecumenically, although priority will be given to Anglican Messy Churches.

The role has five key elements:

1) Leading a local Messy Church

The person who takes up this role will be a leader of a Messy Church in a few churches and will continue to help lead them as part of their work for the diocese, using their experiences here to inform their wider work. She or he will support the core values of Messy Church (all-age, hospitality, creativity, celebration, Christ-centred.) and be a model for good practice across the Diocese.

2) Informing and equipping those wishing to start a Messy Church

The person will be available to help those thinking of starting a Messy Church, which may involve chatting with them, inviting them to see an up-and-running example, organising introductory events, and if required, visiting new Messy Churches to offer advice and reflection.

3) Supporting and encouraging those who already run a Messy Church

The person will work with the Diocesan Youth and Childrens Adviser and be similarly available to meet with individual leaders and to organise events across the Lichfield Diocese that will inspire and resource other leaders. He / she will also inform local leaders of helpful resources, training events and people: anything that will enrich the lives and witness of the Messy Churches.

He or she will compile a set of contacts and data for local Messy Churches and encourage the sharing of stories, wisdom and queries in that group and in the wider Messy Church network

4) Discerning where God is moving and developing appropriate Messy Church discipleship

He or she will be alert to observe, reflect and share how the Spirit is moving within Messy Churches. The person appointed will have a vision for the big picture and have a strategic eye on how Messy Church will make an impact for God's Kingdom in the whole Diocese.

The post holder will have a desire to see adults and children become mature disciples in Christ and will provide suggestions and opportunities for families from the congregations and leaders, young and old, to grow closer to Jesus.

5) Remaining in an active relationship with BRF's Messy Church work

It is expected that the person in this post will be in close contact with Lucy Moore and BRF and that the relationship will be of mutual benefit as developments, resources, problems, solutions and discoveries are shared. Most contact will be by email or telephone, but it will entail a number of meetings in Abingdon and it is hoped that the person in post will be able to join in national and local gatherings of Regional Coordinators (national gatherings at present held once a year and local gatherings at the initiative of the Regional Coordinators: at least once a year).

Person Specification:

The qualities required in the post holder are:

Ability to inspire others and cast a vision.

Ability to enable others

A networker

Skill and confidence to train leaders

Proven ability to work with children and families

Good organisational ability

IT skills – ability to compile a data base and use PPT, Excel and Word.

Some experience and understanding of Messy Church

A readiness to work with different traditions

A self- starter and motivator

A heart for God's Mission

Ability to drive a car and a full driving licence.

Local remit, salary, housing and support:

The office holder will be licensed to the Bishop of Shrewsbury and accountable to the Rural Deans of Wrockwardine and Telford.

80% work in the Shrewsbury Episcopal Area (locally in Wrockwardine and Telford deaneries)

It is expected that the post holder will start a Messy Church at the Bratton Church Plant in Wrockwardine and one in Telford.

20% work across the wider Diocese, promoting, equipping,, encouraging

Housing will be in a four bedroomed house in Hadley, Wellington (well situated for serving Wrockwardine and Telford Deaneries) or a housing allowance if the person appointed chooses to live in their own home.

Salary will be £22765 plus housing or a housing allowance (if house not required)

A non contributory full salary pension scheme is applicable.

Full working expenses will be reimbursed according to Diocesan policy. Some resources will be available for personal development and training.

The office holder will meet regularly with the Diocesan Youth and Childrens Adviser (at least six times a year) and twice a year with the Bishop and Archdeacon at the Area Staff Meeting.