

Youth & Families Worker

Job Description & Person Specification

£30,000 per annum
Plus employer pension contributions
3 year contract

Charity no. 1159229
www.emmanuelhastings.org.uk



Why are you reading this?

We really hope it's because you share our desire to help young people know and love Jesus. If not, then stop reading now!

If you're still reading, that's great, and we hope it's because you're interested in helping us build and establish an excellent youth ministry for a small but growing group of young people at Emmanuel Church.

We are thrilled that the congregation has given generously to make this possible. Despite not being a wealthy church, we have pitched in to guarantee a salary of £30,000 p.a. plus pension contributions for a three-year post. It's evidence of the gospel heart here at Emmanuel and our commitment to the next generation.

We are praying hard for the right person to apply!

Here's a bit about Hastings and us.



“Keep Hastings Weird!”

It's a campaign slogan that speaks volumes. Hastings certainly has a wonderfully quirky side. A picturesque seaside town with numerous cafes, restaurants, theatres, small independent cinemas and live music venues, there is always something going on. Especially in the summer, when festival follows festival: the Fat Tuesday Music Festival, Jack in the Green, the Seafood & Wine Festival, a Blues & Music Festival, Pirates Day, and more.

It's a tourist town with a thriving seafront during the summer months and high levels of seasonal employment, alongside big employers such as the Conquest Hospital. There's talk of steady 'gentrification' yet it's a town that continues to struggle with high levels of social deprivation. Hastings may be “on the up” but, for many, life is still very hard.

And this is where you'll find us.

Keep Emmanuel Weird?

Well, no-one has actually said that yet. But to many in the town, it may be how we seem. We are a medium-sized, conservative evangelical church of about 80 adults and nearly 30 children united by our love for Jesus.

We believe that following him is the very best way to live. We gather each week to sit under the expository preaching of the Bible, which we believe to be the inspired and authoritative word of God, and we meet in small groups to help each other live under Christ's loving rule. We even meet up one-to-one to study the Bible and pray together. Our mission is to help people of our town and local community become fully committed followers of Jesus and we are connected to other like-minded churches through the Sussex Gospel Partnership.

If that's weird, then we intend to keep it that way!



What about the children?

Good question. We thank God that we've got so many of them!

Currently, most of them are primary school age or younger, and we have established ministries set up for them. There is a mid-week toddler group that serves church and non-church families. On Sundays, we have a Creche and Sunday Club, which provides age-appropriate Bible teaching. And throughout the year we run children's parties and a Summer Holiday Club.

However, in the next few years, many of our children will become teenagers, and to be honest, we're not ready for that! We have a small Youth Bible Study for those who are currently secondary school age, but we need to be able to offer more. And that, chiefly, is where this role comes in.

What needs to be done?

We need someone who can support our existing children's ministries while developing new youth ministries. This will mean checking in regularly with the senior leaders who run the children's ministries and being involved with the safe recruitment and training of leaders in those ministries. It will also mean taking the lead in organising and running children's parties and the Summer Holiday Club.

But the focus will be on building an excellent youth ministry for a small but growing group of young people. We want the successful applicant to form their own ideas about how this can be done but expect it to include Sunday morning youth work, evangelism and continuing the mid-week Bible study. Inevitably, this will involve team building, safe recruitment and training. More widely, we want to strengthen our existing links with two CYFA Ventures, and other staff responsibilities will be included.

So then...



Who are we looking for?

This is what we consider to be essential:

- You will have a mature Christian faith and a genuine love for teaching young people about Jesus.
- Your lifestyle will provide a positive example of Christian living for young people to follow.
- You will have completed some form of ministry training, for example with Cornhill, a regional Gospel Partnership, or a similar organisation.
- You will be able to assent to the Basis of Faith of the Church of England Evangelical Council ([What we believe - The Church of England Evangelical Council](#)).
- You will have experience on a leadership team in a church youth ministry.
- You will have experience of developing and training a team of volunteers.
- You will have good communication skills.
- You will have good interpersonal skills.
- You will have good IT skills.
- You will be able to work on your own initiative.
- You will have the right to work in the UK.

The following are desirable but not essential:

- You will have completed a ministry training course with a theological college such as Oak Hill College.
- You will have experience of developing a church youth ministry from scratch.
- You will hold a valid driving licence.



If this describes you...

...then please get in touch.

Perhaps you're feeling called to a new challenge or your current post is coming to an end. Perhaps you're feeling suffocated by city life and would enjoy the sea air by the coast. Perhaps this sounds like just the role that the Lord has been equipping you for.

We would love to hear from you! Please feel free to contact our vicar if you have any questions (martin@emmanuelhastings.org.uk) or fill in an application form and send it over. We look forward to hearing from you!

The PCC of Emmanuel Hastings

