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St Barnabas  
Knowle West



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



# Children's and Families Worker

Job profile and  
information  
pack



DIOCESE OF BRISTOL  
TRANSFORMING. TOGETHER.

 @StBarnabasKnowleWest



## The Parish

The Benefice of Filwood Park with its Parish Church, St Barnabas, is situated in the area often referred to by Bristolians as 'Knowle West,' an inter-War (homes for hero's) suburb of Bristol lying about a mile and a half south of the city centre. The church stands off Davenry Road. To the rear of church is a green space area known as the Northern Slopes with panoramic views of the city of Bristol skyline.

There is huge new potential in the parish, which is slowly changing demographically and economically. For example, a new secondary school being build opposite the church building, will open in 2026. Other major infrastructure projects are being developed around housing, energy, and retail with £15m of Government Levelling Up funding for Filwood Broadway 'high street' and the £11m South Bristol Youth Zone facility ('Youth 242').

## Priority Community Network

St Barnabas is a part of the Priority Community Network (PCN) and the funding for this post comes through the National Church as a result of our position on the indices of deprivation.

The PCN describes its inception in this way:

'Many communities across our Diocese have been subject to decades of underinvestment from national and local government leading to significant socio-economic disadvantage and marginalisation. Across the Bristol and Swindon area approximately 30 of our parishes sit within the 20% most deprived in the country when ranked using the national Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). Local churches and clergy serving in these areas often face a range of particular challenges, not least, limited resources. We long to turn the tide and see clergy and churches in these areas flourishing and cultivating sustainable good growth, through intentional investment and support.'

## Who we are

St Barnabas is a relatively small but growing, lively, informal church with modern worship, accessible inclusive teaching, Sunday worship (including Sunday 'club' for children), Wednesday Café church, and monthly Messy Church.

St Barnabas as the patron saint of "Encouragement" was about lifting people up while also working with others to share hope and good news. This is what we are about. We are per our mission statement, **"Proud to be loving and serving the people and community of Knowle West"**.



## What we do

We have a yearning for a world that's as it should be, a world in which all people thrive, the environment flourishes, diversity is celebrated and those who live in deprivation are seen as the assets they are, not as burdens of society. We believe the faith we have in Christ will help us to strive towards and to model this life.

We offer various support and inclusion activities to the local community through a mixture of faith based and non faith based activities.

In addition to services on Sundays, we offer:

'Men's Shed' style activity and also a "Purple Shoots" self reliant group on **Tuesday**. Through the craft and activity these support emotional and mental health wellbeing.

On **Wednesday** we are host and partner in the weekly BS4 Foodbank during the day and in the evening a café style meeting for discussion and support.

On **Thursday** we run a Welcome Space which includes activities, technology /digital access and occasional information sessions long side morning refreshments, social time and a light lunch.

All the services are intended for any local person whether of faith or not.



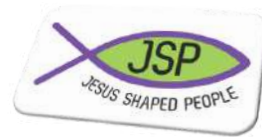
In recent periods we are designated as a community 'Listening Space' by Bristol City Council in response to a critical event and community trauma on the estate.

The events in late January 2024 on the estate have reinforced our awareness of the need to be more "out in the community" (e.g., as street and community-based chaplains), opening the church more during the week, **and particularly supporting children, families and youth through relevant activities/groups.**

Through this awareness we are looking to developing new and existing new opportunities for mission connected to this role including:

- a 'Kid's Matter' parenting initiative
- a 'Safe Hang Space' after school club (with 'World Sport Ministries'),
- and other opportunities to use unutilised time in the church to run activities that support children and families (in specific or broad ways but also in faith),





## Developing Deeper Discipleship

St Barnabas has recently commenced the Jesus Shaped People (JSP) Innovation (JSPi) and discipleship journey. The initial teaching series has been well received by the congregation as we start to help increase people's confidence in the Gospel and offer them support to develop or discover new vision, depth, and purpose.

We are really excited about our possibilities for further and increased missional working by building on our existing community involvement and making a transformational difference in the lives of local people, improving vital connections and opportunities for growth and well-being in the name of Jesus.

Over the last two years a prayerful focus of our church has been to improve a consistent intergenerational profile of the congregation so that it better reflects the demographics of the local area.

Knowle West is a young Parish with about 68% of the people living in Knowle West under 45 years old, (88% aged 64 or below). There is immense opportunity for St Barnabas and our wider community. In better working to actively engage children and their families we can not only encourage them to explore and deepen their faith whilst living it out in their daily lives, but we will sow seeds for future growth of disciples, for engagement with church (in whatever form that may be), and with social transformation.

## Our new Children's & Families Worker - *could it be you?*

We are NOT looking for someone who can walk on water!!  
We are NOT looking for someone to come in and single-handedly grow the church! We are NOT looking for someone who thinks they have all the answers!

We ARE looking for someone with a passion for Jesus; loves people and working with families and children in an estate setting.  
We ARE looking for someone who enjoys being part of team both paid and volunteer and who will encourage others in children and families ministry, looking to raise disciples and their gifts.  
We ARE looking for someone who can use their own gifts to contribute to and strengthen existing and planned activities and who can look to developing new opportunities all of which bring transformational change and create longer term legacy.

