

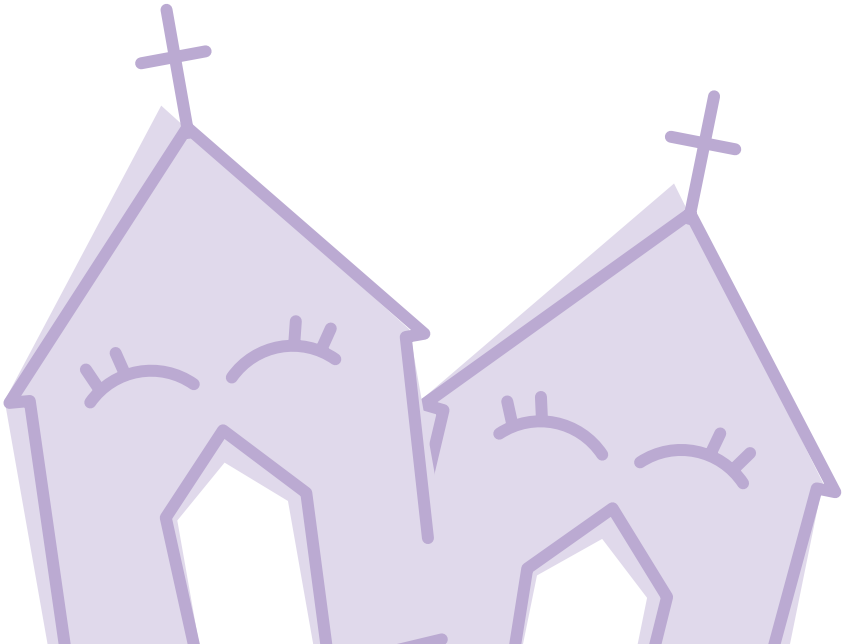
Child friendly CHURCH

Journeying together
for the growth of
God's Family

Application Pack



Diocese of
Liverpool



Welcome to the Child Friendly Church Award

We have designed and planned this resource to enable, equip and support your ministry to children and families. Helping you to respond effectively to the call of God, to encourage children to discover Jesus and become His followers today.

"If we are honest most of us struggle to find easy ways to welcome children and engage their interest. That's why I encourage you to work towards the Child Friendly Church Award. This award will help you look afresh at what you do, build on good work and help you learn from the best across our diocese. My prayer is that your church, and every church in our diocese can become Child Friendly extending Jesus' welcome to all."

Rt Rev Richard Blackburn – Bishop of Warrington

"In today's world children can be either demonised or worshipped. Obviously both are wrong and as Christians we're called into a family with every member valued and loved by God. By working towards this award you will show you value your young people as joint heirs of the Kingdom - listening, loving, caring and understanding their experience of life. I warmly encourage your church to do this, giving them the greatest gift - the knowledge of Jesus as Lord in their lives."

Linda Jones – Director of Church Growth

Church as a Good Parent

Children can become, be and make disciples of Jesus, while they are children.

The Child Friendly Church Award team has been inspired by the work of Dr Lucy Peppiatt* who asks us to reflect on what makes a good parent and the role of the church as a good parent.

We feel this to be a very helpful analogy for our ministry with children/young people.

Dr Peppiatt suggests that good parents:

- Adapt to the different phases of a child growing up
- Delight in their children's differences (from themselves and siblings)
- Impart values by teaching them and modelling them.
- Act as guides and friends throughout a child's life.
- Depend on their grown-up children when they need to, modelling humility and teachability.
- Prepare their children to leave home.
- Strike a balance between control and freedom.
- Prepare children to take responsibility, to make good decisions on their own, and to form healthy relationships
- Give children the freedom to fail.

How can the church respond to the challenges that being a "good parent" can bring?

"Churches, as communities of disciples, should be places where we nurture, encourage, teach, and then send out. The best families are those that provide security but also know when to release children to grow, to grow up, to become independent and to blossom and flourish away from home. May the places where we serve Jesus Christ be places that know how to do this."

Dr Lucy Peppiatt - Dean of Westminster Theological Centre

What is the Child Friendly Church Award?

We believe churches should welcome and integrate children and their families into the worshipping life of their church. By applying for, and achieving Child Friendly status your church displays to your community that ministry for children and their families is taken seriously.

OUR Vision:

Journeying together for the growth of God's family through resourcing, supporting and empowering churches.

In Practice:

The Child Friendly Church Award team works towards this vision by:

1. Providing this self assessment tool to allow churches to reflect on their existing ministry to children and families under the three core components of Church, Children & Community.
2. Encouraging churches to then create or develop their vision for ministry with children and families and think to the future.
3. Allocating each church a Child Friendly Church Award Advisor who will support you through the process and beyond, providing encouragement and acting as a mentor to help you achieve your goals.

The award is valid for a period of 3 years.

All our advisors have extensive experience in ministry to children and families. Mentoring however is always a two way experience as we journey together through this process and share our experiences with others.

What are the benefits?

We want to help you celebrate all that you have achieved, and publicise the fact that you are a welcoming Child Friendly Church. The following are just some of the benefits of achieving this award:

- Allocation of a Child Friendly Church Award Advisor who will support and journey along side you as you achieve your goals.
- Membership of the Child Friendly Churches Network. The network provides the opportunity for regular meetings, peer support and sharing of resources and ideas.
- Opportunity to attend a Quiet Day designed specifically for Children and Families Workers/Volunteers.
- Use of the Child Friendly logo on your website, stationery and other publicity materials.
- Listing on the Diocesan website.
- A certificate for display inside your church building and an all weather logo for display outside your church
- A tailored publicity campaign through the diocesan communications office including press releases, facebook/twitter campaign, diocesan news etc.
- Notification to local schools of your Child Friendly Status.
- A visit to your church from the CFCA advisor during your main Sunday service to present the award with a simple outline of liturgy for use within this service.
- The Child Friendly Church can help you achieve your plans for the Growth Agenda and the Growth Planning Framework.

How to use this booklet

1. Let your PCC and the wider church family know you are applying for this award.
2. Form a small, representative group made up of members of your church. We suggest the following would be particularly valuable people to include in the group:
 - Children's Worker (paid or voluntary)
 - Reader
 - Churchwarden
 - A young person
 - A parent
 - Youth leader
 - Creche leader
3. Use the questions on the following pages to focus your discussions as you begin the award process.
4. Complete the enclosed document in a single session of up to two hours. Remember to trust your instincts and collective insight rather than get into extended discussions.
5. Return the form to:

Debbie Evans
St James' House
20 St James Road
Liverpool L1 7BY

If you would prefer to complete this electronically email Debbie at: debra.evans@liverpool.anglican.org to receive a copy.

6. On receiving your completed form we will:
 - Allocate you an advisor.
 - The advisor will arrange an on-site visit to the church.
 - During the visit we will unpack the questions further and offer advice & support.
 - A report will be compiled and sent to the PCC

CHURCH

Welcome | Belonging | Worship | Safeguarding

*"whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."
Matthew 18:5 NIVUK*

On a score of 1 – 10 how do you rate the following statement:

We are good at welcoming Children into our church family

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Completely Disagree

Fully Agree

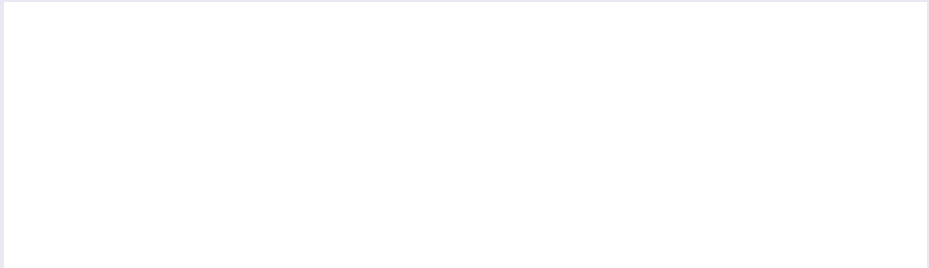
1. How do you welcome Children?

2. What activities, groups and/or resources do you provide to help children belong?

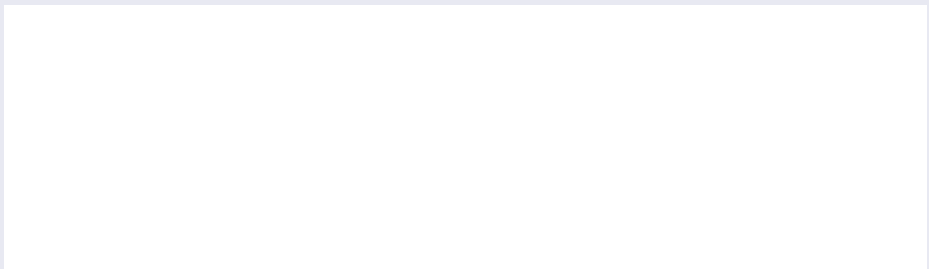
3. How do you help children engage with worship?



4. Do you have an up to date safeguarding, equality and health and safety policy, and is this being implemented?



5. What areas would you like to improve and how can we help you improve in this area?



Children

Discipleship | Empowerment | Nurture

"Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Mark 10:15 NIVUK

On a score of 1 – 10 how do you rate the following statement:

Our church is a place where children and families can journey and grow in their relationship with God.

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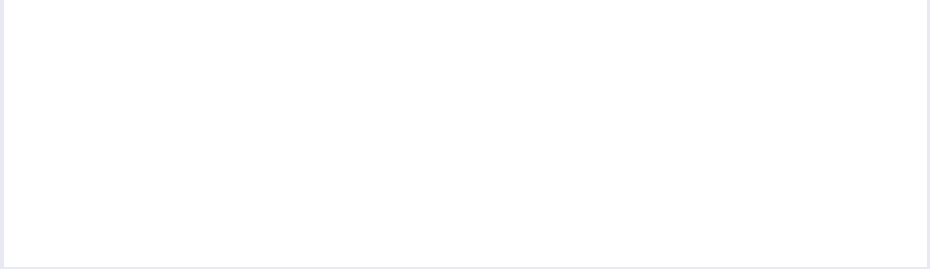
Completely Disagree

Fully Agree

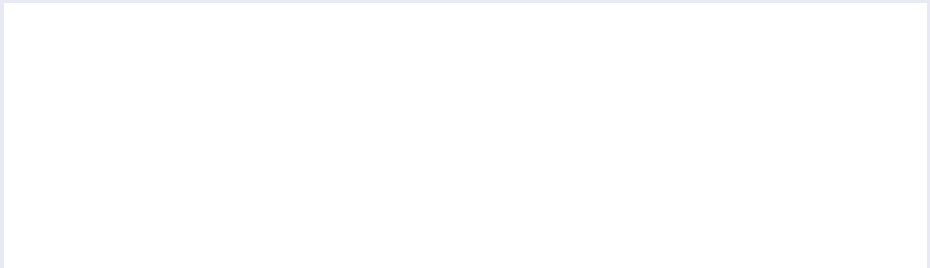
1. How do you disciple children and young people and nurture their spiritual development?

2. How are the voices of children and young people heard?

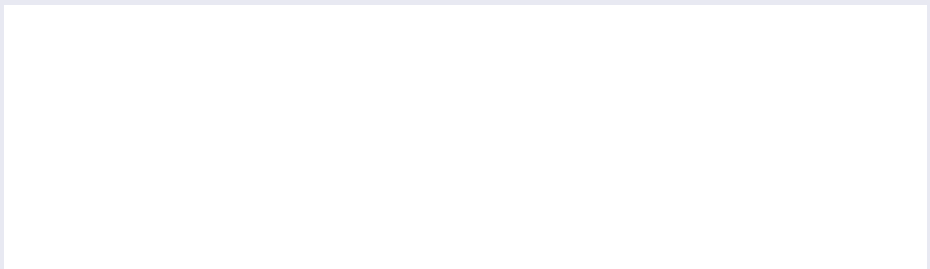
3. How do you equip & support your Children & Families Leaders?



4. How do you provide the opportunity for interaction between parents and children's leaders?



5. What areas would you like to improve and how can we help you improve in this area?



Community

Schools | Outreach | Fresh Expressions

"Then, gathering the children up in his arms, Jesus laid his hands of blessing on them." Mark 10:16 The Message

On a score of 1 – 10 how do you rate the following statement:

Our church makes a difference to the children and young people in our local community.

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Completely Disagree

Fully Agree

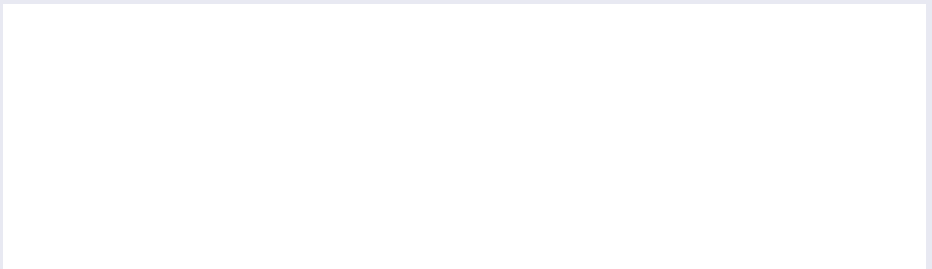
1. How do you engage with local schools?

2. How are you engaging with children and young people in your community?

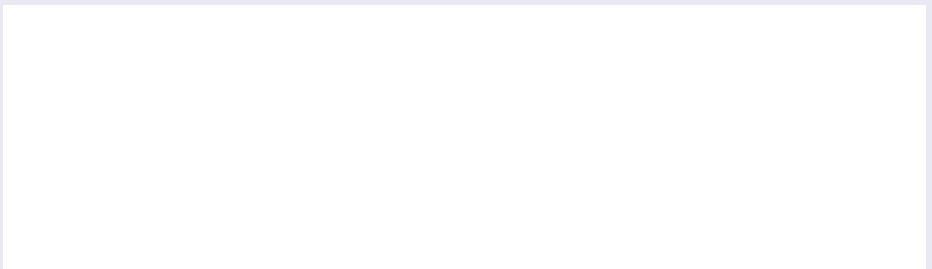
3. What forms of fresh expression happen for children and young people?



4. What is your church's vision for children and young people?



5. What areas would you like to improve and how can we help you improve in this area?



Who to contact

child friendly church Award Team

Sue Mitchell - Children & Families Missioner

Geoff Pinnington - CFCA Advisor

Caroline Collins - CFCA Advisor

Emma O'Hagan - CFCA Advisor

Debbie Evans - Central Services Administrator

debra.evans@liverpool.anglican.org



other Useful contacts

Safeguarding Team

Su Foster - su.foster@liverpool.anglican.org

Ruth Reed - Disability Officer

ruth.reed@liverpool.anglican.org

Debbie Doran - Admin Support Officer

debbie.doran@liverpool.anglican.org

Rev Clive Doran - Bishop's Advisor on Children & Holy Communion

revclivedoran@yahoo.co.uk

St John's Ambulance Courses

Edgar Street

Liverpool L69 3RB

0844 770 4800

Ark Resource Room

St James' House

20 St James Road

Liverpool L1 7BY

warren.hartley@liverpool.anglican.org

Church and Society also have a selection of resources for children with additional needs. Contact **Sr Ruth Reed** - ruth.reed@liverpool.anglican.org

Rev Dr Hannah Lewis - Chaplain for the Deaf Church

hannah.lewis@liverpool.anglican.org

Dr Lucy Peppiatt - Dean Westminster Theological Centre

Author of "The Disciple on becoming truly human"

ISBN 978-161097984

