



Welcome to Romsey Abbey!

We are looking for someone with a heart for young people and families, to take the lead with our ministry with Children (ages 0-11) & Families.

A bit of history – in 2023, after our full time Children & Families Worker left to be ordained, we appointed a part time Children & Families Worker (21 hours a week) and a part time Youth Worker (21 hours a week). We now have a vacancy for our Children & Families Worker role for 21 hours a week, to build on the excellent work of our present post holder who is moving on.

You will be joining a large and supportive ministry team, working collaboratively with the Vicar, our Youth Worker, Safeguarding Officer, Associate Priest, three part time Parish Administrators, Head Verger, Director of Music, and numerous lay volunteers and self-supporting clergy.

There are great opportunities in Romsey for personal development and growth, for fruitful ministry as well as facing challenges creatively with a supportive team.

Our vision is to be a thriving worshipping community, Living, Loving and Serving in the heart of Romsey.

We will be praying for you as you consider this opportunity.

The Essentials

Hours:	21 hours a week
Salary:	£18,180 (FTE £32,464)
Line manager:	The Vicar
Probationary period:	6 months

Please send completed application forms to jobs@romseyabbey.org.uk by midday on Wednesday 25th February 2026

Interviews by arrangement on Wednesday 11th March 2026

For an informal chat and to find out more, please contact the vicar, Thomas:
thomas.wharton@romseyabbey.org.uk or 01794 513125

This appointment is subject to the Church of England's safer recruitment process including a Disclosure and Barring Services check and satisfactory references. It also requires mandatory Church of England safeguarding training appropriate for the role.

Job Description - Key Responsibilities

- Lead, grow, and develop our existing ministry among Children (0-11) and Families
- Lead and develop our Children's Sunday ministry - currently
 - 9.30am Seekers
 - 11.15am Abbey Vine
 - All Age combined services – about 6 a year
- Lead and develop our Children and Family mid-week groups - currently
 - Wednesday 10.00-11.30am Abbey Toddlers
 - Wednesday 1:00-2.00pm Singing and Story Time at St. Swithun's
 - Last Thursday of month 10.00-11.30m Little Angels at St. Swithun's
- Take a lead role with our special family events including Light in the Abbey, Summer Family Fun and the Christingle Service
- Play an active role as a key member of our ministry team (leading services and working collaboratively with our Ministry Team)
- Support and encourage children and their families to grow in faith and feel valued by our church community
- Encourage, mentor and safely recruit a team of volunteers to help with the provision of children and families ministry
- Support our work with children and families for Baptism preparation
- Support our close relationship with Romsey Abbey CofE (Aided) Primary School and other local schools
- Build relationships with children and families, inside and outside the church
- Ensure the highest levels of effective safeguarding culture and practice are in place and maintained.

Work Expectations

- Attend weekly Ministry Team Meetings on Tuesday mornings
- Attend monthly supervisions with the Vicar
- Actively engage with other Children and Family Workers across Romsey, Romsey Deanery and wider church networks
- Undertake all required safeguarding and mandatory training for this role
- Liaise with Abbey staff, wardens parish safeguarding officer and relevant church committees for the running of all Children and Families work
- Understand and adhere to all the Abbey's working policies
- Maintain Romsey Abbey's Children and Families social media presence
- Use the Abbey's Church Desk system for communication and bookings
- It is expected to become an active member of the Abbey church community including on Sundays.

Skills and Experience

- To be a committed Christian with a heart for sharing the love of God with children and families
- Ability to communicate effectively the Christian faith with children and families
- Ability to build trust and relationships with children and families across different generations and from different backgrounds
- Strong understanding of safeguarding policy and practice
- Previous experience of working with children and families in a church setting is desirable
- Ability to work independently and to mentor and lead volunteers
- Ability to build collaborative relationships and work effectively as part of a team with clergy, abbey staff and volunteers
- Proficient in use of IT programmes including Office 365
- Remain flexible and agile in supporting the wider aims of the Abbey's ministry with this exciting opportunity
- Creativity and a willingness to explore new initiatives
- Pastoral awareness, empathy and understanding of the challenges some families face
- Have a hunger to learn, develop and be a reflective practitioner.

What Romsey Abbey can offer you

A place that will challenge and stretch you to develop your skills and experience and your Christian calling.

A creative 'can do' team who are fun to work and open to new initiatives.

Mentoring and training support within and outside of the abbey.

Exciting opportunities to engage children and families on a big scale and nurture faith and relationships on a small group level.

A place that values traditional and contemporary worship (weekly Parish Eucharist with the Abbey Choirs and weekly informal Abbey Vine congregation).

To become part of a large ministry team and church community.

Some of the challenges

Recruiting volunteers from predominantly older congregation members.

Creating spaces where more children and families can feel welcome and connected with our worshipping church family.

The many challenges of working in a 900 year old building!

