



St Mark's Church

Living Thinking Loving Faith



Application Pack for the post of Associate Priest,
with a focus on teens, students and young adults.



THE DIOCESE OF SHEFFIELD

Post: Associate Priest with a focus on teens, students and young adults.

Fixed term post: four years.

Stipend: £30,110

Housing is not provided with the post, instead the post comes with a housing allowance of £12,000 per annum, paid monthly.

The post is advertised as full-time, but we are open to explore reduced hours of 0.75 with candidates.

Welcome from the Vicar

Thank you for your interest in the post of Associate Priest at St Mark’s. Over the past few years, the number of teens and students at St Mark’s Church is slowly growing. We are looking to invest in these areas of ministry to support what is already happening, and to look for ways to grow our ministry amongst the many teens, students and young adults who live and study close by.



St Mark’s has a lively team of staff, committed congregations, and terrific volunteers. The successful candidate will be joining a team of people who are fully committed to healthy and flourishing ministry in our parish and beyond. I hope that the pack encourages you to consider applying, and we look forward to hearing from you.

The Revd Dr Beth Keith, Vicar of St Mark’s

Bishop’s Statement

For several reasons, 2025 feels like the start of a new chapter in the life of the Diocese of Sheffield.

First, it is the year in which we launch the refreshed version of our Diocesan Strategy, by which we seek to be ‘renewed, released and rejuvenated, by God’s grace and in Christ’s service. The original seven-year strategy, launched in 2018, has served us well and (despite the very real ravages of the Covid-19 pandemic) there has been much fruitfulness in that time for which to give thanks to God: a new prayer community developed, new ministries begun, new congregations formed. A Diocesan-wide consultation over the refreshing of the strategy gave a clear message: increase the emphasis on seeking the welfare of local communities, of our neighbours and neighbourhoods, but retain the 3Rs and the Diocesan Vision Prayer. This we have sought to do.



Secondly, it is the year in which the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board responded generously to our partnership funding request, committing £17.5 million for investment in the revitalisation of our Diocese with immediate effect and in principle committing a further £18.5 million for the period 2028-2031. We are hugely grateful for this resource and for all the exciting potential it brings, as we continue to seek to see the whole people of God mobilised in the whole mission of God, and every baptised person enabled to enter into the full dignity of their baptismal vocation to shine as a Light for Christ in the world to the glory of God the Father.

Thirdly, it is the year in which we will welcome a new Bishop of Doncaster and a new Archdeacon of Sheffield and Rotherham into post, to bring fresh energy and perspectives to the Bishop’s Senior Staff Team.

In this context, the appointment of an Associate Priest at St. Mark’s Broomhill and Broomhall is all the more important. As St. Mark’s seeks to grow and develop, especially amongst teens, students and young adults this role will create capacity for the church to exercise its calling.

In this Gospel adventure for the sake of the coming kingdom of God, the leadership of these church families is going to be vital. It will require someone who is able to exercise leadership, with a passion for teamwork, for developing leaders and for empowering the whole people of God for the whole mission of God. It will require someone who understands that overseeing the ministry of the body of Christ does not mean doing everything personally, but releasing the gifts and ministries of others.

We are praying that the Lord will bring to us a person with a strong sense of vocation to this task at this time; a person of faith and hope and love in God; a person who laughs easily and has a zest for life in Christ; a person with a sense of adventure, unafraid of failure and reliant on the grace of the Holy Spirit. If that might be you, we would love to explore with you the possibility that the Lord is calling you to this role.

With every blessing

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pete Sheffield".

The Rt Revd Dr Pete Wilcox
Bishop of Sheffield

About St Mark’s

Our vision is to practise a living, thinking, loving, faith. Living faith, which is inclusive, vibrant & engaged. Thinking faith which engages with scripture, tradition, reason & experience. Loving faith which serves our communities by following Jesus.

We celebrate the wonderful diversity of human life, believing that Jesus revealed God’s love for all people. We’re attracted to the big questions of life and faith and understand that we are called to engage with our world, to challenge the barriers which seem to separate the sacred from the secular or which try to define us according to categories such as gender, sexuality, wealth, race, ability or age.

We believe that Jesus came that we might have life in all its fullness, and we encourage people to join in with God’s work of transformation and hope wherever they are. We are not afraid of being political, especially where people feel excluded, marginalised or misunderstood.

We are committed to being rooted in Jesus of Nazareth and celebrating diversity in the community of Christ. We engage in critical and creative dialogue between the Christian faith passed down to us and the challenges and opportunities of our contemporary world. We are comfortable living with the hard questions and exploring faith together.

Our Worship

Our main Sunday service is a Eucharist at 10am in the church building and on Zoom. This includes groups for children, teenagers, and students, and sung worship with our choir. The Director of music has a policy of inviting and including anyone who wants to be involved in music making with singing and instruments.

Night Service is held every Sunday evening at 7pm. This act of worship uses music, silence, readings and prayer to create a space to be in the presence of God and follows a regular pattern of Communion, Taizé, and contemporary worship. We have recently introduced a panel discussion called Thinking Faith on the second Sunday of the month, and when there is a fifth Sunday we have a service of Healing and Wholeness.

St Mark’s host Open Communion once a month for people who identify as LGBTQ+, their families and friends. The 8am BCP communion happens twice a month. More information about services can be found on our website.

Young People and Students at St Mark’s

Our ministry with teens, students and young adults is a vital part of the church’s mission and one that we look to support and grow.

There are over 30 families registered for St Mark’s provision which represents over 20% as a proportion of the overall congregation. Our teenage group, Lions, meet once a month on a Sunday morning to become more familiar with the Bible, and uses these stories to explore issues in daily life. Every couple of months they meet on a Sunday

afternoon for social activities. Teenagers are also involved in the musical side of church, some being organ and choral scholars. Some of the teenagers also help with creche.

The Young Adults’ group is a small but important community for students and young adults, meeting fortnightly during the university term. Recently the group has studied styles of prayer, and approaches to scripture and theology, including feminist, queer and black theology. Students and young adults are very much part of the wider St Mark’s community and are involved in different aspects of church life. Some young adults attend the 10am Sunday service, others attend Night Service or Open Communion.

The Student and Young Adults Group is affiliated with the national organisation Student Christian Movement, which is the main voice and space for progressive Christian students in the UK. SCM’s work is focused around the key aims of creating community, deepening faith, seeking justice and celebrating diversity, and we share this vision and are proud to be a part of this national movement of progressive and action-based faith.

Both Sheffield universities have accommodation and buildings in our parish, many students live near St Marks. We are looking to build a thriving student and young adults SCM group, with better links to the universities.

Community Outreach, Social Justice and Eco Activism

We are committed to serving the wider community. St Mark’s offers a wide range of activities and an inviting building, with a variety of spaces and facilities available for hire. Pastoral care takes many forms and is carried out within the church building, in people’s homes and in our local community. We serve our local community through lunch club, care home services, home visits, and support for those seeking asylum.

We are committed to responding to the climate emergency and see our response to this as embedded in our faith. We have a Gold Eco award for our ministry in this area which is reflected in our work on our building and outdoor spaces, in our worship and teaching, our commitment to living sustainably, and in our engagement with the local and global effects of the climate crisis.

The Home Donations Committee supports a variety of initiatives and local charities. St Mark’s bought a two bedroomed flat in Sheffield to lease to Roundabout, a local youth housing charity providing shelter, support and life skills to young people aged 16-25 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

A group of people from within and outside of St Mark’s congregation organise a weekend Soup Run that makes and distributes food and warm drinks to the homeless and socially marginalised in Sheffield city centre.

St Mark’s International Donations group direct 5% of St Mark’s income to overseas projects using good governance and respect for St Mark’s ethos of inclusivity. The group fund raises through the sale of cards, preserves, Nepalese goods, Christian Aid week activities, church lunches and Christmas carol singing.

Our Parish

Sheffield is known as a city of villages that merged as urbanisation took hold. Our parish is just outside the city centre on the west side, including Broomhill and Broomhall, which are distinct communities with their own local identity. The vast diversity within Sheffield is very much represented across these two areas.

Broomhill is an attractive, leafy suburb. The area is influenced by the neighbouring University of Sheffield and Sheffield Teaching Hospital Trust sites. The Royal Hallamshire Hospital estate and the Medical School both face the grounds of St Mark’s Church. Broomhill includes a range of shops, cafes and restaurants, and a library.

Broomhall is a mixed area which includes the Collegiate Crescent Campus of Sheffield Hallam University. It has a multi-ethnic population including a large Somali community. The Broomhall Centre provides a home to a large range of groups and activities including English for Speakers of Other Languages courses, youth clubs, cultural groups and a foodbank. Parts of this location face a variety of social problems.

St Mark’s is also close to some of Sheffield’s green spaces, a short walk from the beautiful Botanical Gardens and is also in walking distance of Weston Park and Endcliffe Park.

Both Broomhill and Broomhall have a mix of long term and short-term residents living in a wide range of housing, including multi-occupancy housing and social housing. There is also a wide age range, from older people to families with young children, single people, young professionals and students. There is a wide variety of ethnicity and many different languages are heard in local schools. 24.9% of the population in the Broomhill and Sharrowvale Ward is BME. We recognise that our congregation is predominantly white and well educated and are seeking ways to make our church an inviting place that embodies the gospel’s call for radical inclusivity.

Because of the high student population primarily in Broomhill, the population of the parish varies substantially between term time and vacation. Some students also make their home in the area throughout the year.

There are several hospitals within the parish boundary and both primary and secondary schools: Broomhill Infants School, Westbourne School, Birkdale School, King Edward VII School, and Sheffield High School for Girls.

Some of our congregants live within the parish, many travel in from other areas, some from the edges of Sheffield.

St Mark’s is part of the Three Spires Mission Area, along with St Mary’s Walkley and St John’s Ranmoor. Whilst each church is different and distinct we meet together for prayer, for joint services and other activities. The associate priest will be licensed across the Mission Area.

Role Description

This Role Description should be read in conjunction with the application pack and the Guidelines for the Professional Conduct of the Clergy which apply to all in ordained office and is subject to review. The successful candidate will have a ministry agreement which is reviewed every three months in the first year as the post is developing.

General Responsibilities

As a key leader at St Mark’s, you will play a full part in the ministry and mission of the church, with a particular focus on supporting those aged 11-30 yrs. Your ministry will be fully integrated as part of the wider ministry of St Mark’s, serving the congregations, and the parish. You will be licensed across the Three Spires Mission Area, which includes St Mary’s Walkley and St John’s Ranmoor. This ministry will be rooted in prayer and through the development of good relationships and communication with the vicar, and other staff and volunteers, including the following responsibilities:

- To participate fully as a member of the ministry team.
- To take an active role in worship, preaching and pastoral care, whilst retaining a focus on teens, students, and young adults.
- To lead and serve the congregations of the parish under the oversight of the vicar and in collaboration with other members of the ministry team.
- To lead the development of ministry with students and young adults, and to work with the Children’s and Families worker on provision for teenagers.
- To recruit, supervise and support volunteers in your areas of ministry responsibility.
- To develop services, new groups, and activities with teens, students and young adults.
- To develop sustainability and clear goals to enable the growth of St Mark’s ministry with teens and young adults.
- To attend PCC and other meetings as appropriate and in agreement with the vicar.
- To participate and contribute to the life of the Mission Area, Deanery and Diocese, as appropriate and in agreement with the vicar.
- To undertake such additional duties as reasonably required by the vicar, such as occasionally conducting funerals, weddings and baptisms.

There will be support and encouragement to engage with continuing ministerial development and in seeking out training and development opportunities within or beyond the Diocese.

Safeguarding

All staff and volunteers are expected to demonstrate a commitment to safeguarding the welfare of all children and adults who may be vulnerable, who are involved with and/or visit the church. The successful candidate will be required to undertake regular mandatory training and adhere to policies and procedures, following good practice in relation to their own behaviour and conduct and undertaking any safeguarding duties commensurate with their specific role.

Person Specification

We are looking for a priest who:

Essential

- has an excitement about their faith, is reflective, curious, questioning, prayerful, and makes time for their own spiritual health and development.
- has the ability to articulate and express a lively faith, which is thoughtful, questioning, generous, and compelling.
- has experience of mission and ministry with young adults, students, and/or teens.
- has experience of nurturing young people and young adults in the Christian faith, enabling people to explore faith and grapple with hard questions.
- will be committed to the life and vision of St Mark’s, and its inclusive belief and practice.
- is a person who treasures both word and sacrament and can lead worship prayerfully and confidently.
- values the richness of a range of musical styles (choral, Taizé, contemporary), and liturgical and contemplative spirituality, whilst having a creative and pioneering spirit, open to new possibilities of outreach and ministry.
- is a good communicator who can inspire people of all ages and backgrounds.
- is a team player and team leader, able to encourage collaboration and develop other’s gifts, skills and leadership.
- is a person capable of building and leading effective teams.
- demonstrates a maturity of character and a good sense of humour.
- has the ability to stay calm under pressure.
- is eager to develop their own ministry through reflective practise and feedback from relevant team members.
- is a well organised, confident user of IT who will self-manage and prioritise their workload effectively, maintaining a good work/life balance.
- demonstrates a commitment to the full inclusion of all, with special regard to age, ability, sex, gender identity, sexuality, religion, economic status, social class, and ethnicity.
- is committed to current safeguarding culture and procedures.

Desirable

- has extensive experience of mission and pastoral care with either teens, students or young adults.
- has experience of leading and enabling teens, students or young adults to engage in social justice and outreach.
- has a theological specialism or other research interest.
- has experience and skills in online communication, producing video content, and social media.

Terms and Conditions

The Associate Priest is accountable to the vicar of St Mark’s for all matters relating to their role and will be licensed for 4 years under the terms and conditions of Common Tenure with a written statement of particulars.

Offer of the position will be subject to satisfactory references, the completion of a self-declaration form, an ‘Enhanced plus barred lists’ DBS disclosure and the agreement to abide by St Mark’s safeguarding policy.

Further Information

Further information about St Mark’s, the staff, our pattern of worship, and what we believe can be found on St Mark’s website (stmarkssheffield.co.uk). If you would like to have an informal chat before applying, please contact the vicar Beth Keith beth@stmarkssheffield.co.uk

How to apply

Return the clergy application form to clergy.recruitment@sheffield.anglican.org. CV’s will not be accepted.

The deadline for applications is midnight 6th November 2025.

Shortlisted candidates will be contacted by 14th November 2025.

Interviews

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a short interview on zoom with the Bishop of Doncaster on 19th November.

Interviews will take place at St Mark’s on either 25th November 2025

You will be asked to prepare a 5 minute homily, and to prepare a presentation for the formal interview, details will be sent to the shortlisted candidates.

At interview there will be the opportunity to meet an informal panel of people representing different aspects of St Mark’s.