



**THE DIOCESE OF
SHEFFIELD**



CHILDREN AND YOUTH WORKER

25

Hours per week

£17,857

£13.74 per hour

5

Year fixed
term contract

ST JAMES & ST CHRISTOPHER



St James and St Christopher's is a lively parish church in the Shiregreen area of Sheffield. Shiregreen is one of the most economically deprived parishes in the country. There are challenges to doing ministry here, but also lots of opportunities for the church to bless our community.

When the Shiregreen estate was being built in the 1930s, children across the Diocese of Sheffield raised money to buy land for a church to be built. This is why the church is dedicated to St Christopher. Just as children and young people were a vital part of the church's beginning, we believe that they are a precious part of our present and future.

In September 2025, a team of 27 people from St Thomas Philadelphia (Philly) came to join with the existing congregation at St James and St Christopher's. Rev Zak Venable, previously curate at Philly, is leading the church as Priest-in-Charge and Oversight Minister.

This is a new season for our church and we are excited to see what God will do. The church has had a faithful, dedicated existing congregation (15-20 people) who work hard to enable the church to flourish. The team from Philly have brought gifted leaders in worship, kids and pastoral ministry. They are mainly families, and 13 of the 27 who came are children.

We have recently started running one kids group and one youth group on Sunday mornings during our service. We are looking for someone who can oversee the running of these groups, whilst discerning with the church family what new opportunities there are for youth and children's ministry in our parish. You will have the support of the vicar, Parish Safeguarding Officer, PCC, and a passionate team of volunteers.



Employment Details:

- The post covers the parish of St James & St Christopher in Sheffield and is a post funded by a grant from the National Church currently up to the end of 2028 with the potential for further review to 2031.
- The post is part time and covers 25 hours per week. Some evening and weekend work, including regular Sunday work, will be required.
- The post is employed by the Diocese of Sheffield (SDBF) and is part of the Centenary Project.

What is the Centenary Project?

The Centenary Project was set up to equip local churches, enabling them to effectively engage, nurture and disciple a new generation of children, young people and families.

The Centenary Project supports parishes and their workers to be missional in their activities, so that many more people connect with our churches, especially children and young people.

How does the Centenary Project Work?

Over the last 15 years, the trend has been that youth workers and children's workers leave their jobs for a number of reasons;

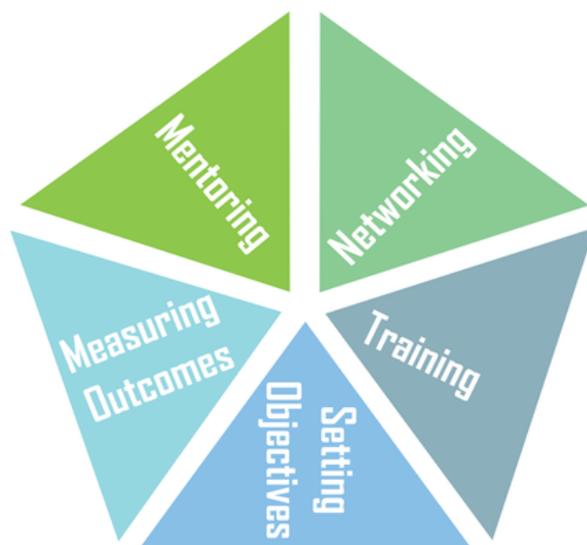
- Lack of objectives - unclear what their role is.
- Poor line management - incumbents unskilled in managing staff and volunteers.
- Too inward looking - not enough mission-focus.
- Overworked and underpaid - feeling unappreciated and undervalued.
- No support or network to draw on.
- Money runs out - post not sustainable.

The Centenary Project is tackling all of these issues head on, and seeing workers commit for the long-term, happy in their work, feeling supported and encouraged by the network, seeing a future in youth or children's ministry and feeling secure in their roles.

How are Centenary Project Workers supported?

Support for workers is essential. The help, guidance and encouragement that's continually provided to Centenary Project workers is having a huge impact on the success of youth and children's ministry across the Diocese.

The Centenary Project works with parishes, incumbents, the Diocese and other workers and team members to provide each of the following areas of support and opportunities for ongoing growth.



JOB DESCRIPTION

TITLE	Children and Youth Worker
EMPLOYER	Sheffield Diocesan Board of Finance
RESPONSIBLE TO	Rev Zak Venable and Centenary Project Pastoral Manager
REPORTING TO	Rev Zak Venable and Centenary Project Pastoral Manager

1 GENERAL SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The key responsibilities of the role are:

- 1.1 To develop and oversee the work with children and young people in the Parish of Shiregreen,
- 1.2 To organise, strengthen and expand Sunday morning activities by establishing a unified approach to ministry and ensuring the safe recruitment of volunteers.
- 1.3 To be an active member of the Centenary Project Network.

2 KEY TASKS

- 2.1 To lead the Sunday morning children's ministry, ensuring strong safeguarding measures, safe volunteer recruitment and effective support for the team is in place.
- 2.2 to look at our current offer for children and young people on a Sunday looking at new and creative ways for expansion whilst focussing on spiritual growth and depth.
- 2.3 To plan and develop a series of materials for our current Sunday provision.
- 2.4 To equip the Church to welcome children and young people and be their advocate in leadership spaces.
- 2.5 To be part of our existing team to plan our monthly All Age Service bringing the voices of children and young people.
- 2.6 To explore and develop relationships with Lift Firth Park Secondary School and Beck Primary School leading to a regular pattern of involvement.
- 2.7 Identify skills and talents relevant to children and youth work, within the congregation and community. Nurturing and developing those gifts to grow teams of volunteers.
- 2.8 To explore other opportunities within the local church and community with a focus on children and young people.
- 2.9 To explore new and exciting ways to disciple children and young people and their wider families.
- 2.10 Comply with relevant safeguarding and health and safety guidelines, including ensuring compliance by volunteers and completing appropriate risk assessments.

2.11 Meet on a monthly basis with other youth and children's workers in the Centenary Project Network for learning and support.

2.12 Meet on a monthly basis with a member of the Centenary Project Central Team for ongoing mentoring and support.

2.13 As a member of the Centenary Project, set achievable objectives and record measured outcomes.

2.14 To undertake such other duties as may reasonably be required commensurate with the responsibilities of the post.

Application Information:

To apply for this role, please complete the Diocese of Sheffield DBF application form and equality monitoring form from the recruitment page of the Diocese of Sheffield website:

www.sheffield.anglican.org/vacancies

Completed applications should be submitted by email to recruitment@sheffield.anglican.org.uk

Closing Date: **Sunday 2nd November 2025** (Midnight)

Interview Date: Friday 14th November 2025

For more information about the Church, contact:

Zak Venable, Priest in Charge - zakvenable@ncsheffield.org

For more information about The Centenary Project, contact:

Dave Ludbrook, Pastoral Manager - dave.ludbrook@centenaryproject.org

This is a post funded by a grant from the National Church currently up to the end of 2028 with the potential for further review to 2031.

Given the nature and context of the work it is an occupational requirement that the post holder should be a communicant member of the Church of England or a full member of a church within Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

Please note this role is subject to a DBS check in accordance with Safer Recruitment and Safeguarding provisions. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact the HR Team at HR@sheffield.anglican.org

Person Specification

Attributes	Essential	Desireable	Method of Assessment
Education and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good standard • of written English (GCSE English or equivalent). • Experience of work with children and families in a church context and or relevant training. • A willingness to undertake training relevant to the role. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A nationally recognized qualification in children's work. • Core C of E Safeguarding training and/or a willingness to undertake further safeguarding training such as 'safer recruitment' 	Application documentation
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active member of a Christian church.* • First-hand experience of leading or co-ordinating activities for children, young people and families that are appropriate for the context. • Experience of working within a team. • Experience of working with and nurturing volunteers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of working in a local church context. • Experience and understanding of Fresh Expressions of Church and pioneer ministry. • Experience of working in schools. • Experience of working as part of a staff team. 	Application documentation and interview
Knowledge and Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear understanding of children and young people and principles of children's work. • Working knowledge and commitment to safeguarding and promoting the safety and welfare of children. • An awareness of practices for when working with children/ young people with additional needs. • Excellent skills in direct work with children and young people. • Literate in IT including use of social media and word processing. • Good people and communication skills, appropriate for connecting with children and families, interacting with the church family and reaching the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific gift(s) or interest(s) that could be a focus for attracting children and families. 	Application documentation, interview and practical exercise

Qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to speak with sincerity about matters of Christian faith in an informed, effective and non-judgmental way. • Ability to disciple children in regards to reading the bible and prayer. • A mature faith in the Lord Jesus, modelling a life of faith and godliness. • Able to relate effectively with a wide spectrum of people, both adults and children & young people. • Able to reflect and be open to constructive criticism and to learning from others • Able to communicate effectively in person and in writing. • Able to motivate self and others and to manage use of time. • Able to work as part of a team. • Able to initiate: develop and evaluate projects. • Able to present a strong Christian role model. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to set and work to goals without direct supervision. • Able to work in a range of social and cultural contexts. 	Application documentation, interview and practical exercise
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfactory Enhanced DBS disclosure. • Commitment to engage in professional and spiritual development. Have access to appropriate transport for travel within the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willingness to receive spiritual accompaniment 	Application documentation and interview

** Given the nature and context of the work it is an occupational requirement that the post holder should be a communicant member of the Church of England or a full member of a church within Churches Together in Britain and Ireland in order to fulfil the main purpose of the post. This post is therefore exempt under Schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010*