

stchad's

WOODSEATS • SHEFFIELD

This role is employed locally by the parish but part of The Centenary Project



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES' WORKER

24

Hours per week

£17,472 - £19,968

(FTE £27,300 - £31,200)

5

Year fixed
term contract

ST CHAD'S, WOODSEATS



Thank you for taking the time to consider the role of Children and Families' Worker at St Chad's Woodseats. We're grateful for the prayerful thought you're giving to whether God might be calling you to explore this opportunity.

St Chads is a welcoming and vibrant Anglican church, blessed with many resources and a desire to serve our community and to reach out to our parish with the good news of Jesus.

If you share our heart for seeing lives transformed by Jesus and have a particular passion for Children's and Families' ministry, this could be the role for you. You'll be joining a gifted and supportive team of clergy and lay leaders.

The Children and Families' Worker will naturally closely with our Youth Worker and clergy, and while each of us has our own calling, we believe in working together as a team to achieve a greater impact for Christ in the church and beyond. Recent efforts have included successful All Souls café and a Christmas workshop for Woodseats Primary school. But we also are looking to the future with our "Communi-Tea" drop in starting in the new year, which will bless families in that busy period after school pick up with a good meal and fun activities in a warm space.

We're looking for someone who can both lead and support others in our mission, both inspiring and equipping, to aid the growth of our teams. You'll be involved in our programme of Sunday services, helping children engage meaningfully in worship - both within the main congregation and in their own separate activities.

Whether you're stepping into this kind of role for the first time or bringing relevant experience from a previous post, we're committed to supporting your growth and helping you flourish. We're not looking for someone to follow a rigid script - we want to hear your vision, your ideas, and how we can work together to bring them to life.

Above all, we believe children can know and grow in Christ. They are not just the church of tomorrow - they are the church of today. Alongside their families, we want them to experience and know the love of God as shown in Jesus.

If this resonates with you, we'd love to hear from you.
With our prayers as you discern God's call

Revd. Jon Hidden
Oversight Minister St Chad's Woodseats

About St Chad's

St Chad's is a church with a warm, family-friendly heart and deep roots into the Woodseats community, where there are two large state primary schools along with many pre-schools and therefore, several hundred families. Woodseats is known as a great place to live.

Our vision is to *celebrate God, resource His people and grow in love and discipleship*. At St Chad's we are on a renewed journey to deepen our connections with Woodseats, finding fresh ways to demonstrate God's love and longing for people of all ages to come to know him for themselves. This is by word and action.

We have an active Third Age ministry. We already employ a youth worker and have a flourishing youth ministry. Members of the church are involved with the youth worker in the School Pastors' presence in Meadowhead School.

But we need someone to join us in our developing children's and families' ministry. We have active Sunday groups and a toddler group. Popular uniformed organisations are associated with the church. This December we welcomed Year 3 pupils from one school for an educational workshop and children from a local nursery came for a Christmas event. An Easter workshop is also planned. Our community relationships with the schools have much potential.

January 2026 sees the start of Communi-tea, a once-a-week after-school gathering not just for children and carers/families but older people too. This is family ministry, with a light meal and activities. A flourishing community garden has been developed on church ground in the last four years. Church members lead that with an enthusiastic team of community volunteers of all ages. Greater church involvement is welcomed.

So many relationships. So many opportunities. We believe God by his Spirit is at work, but we need someone to bring fresh insight and energy, to lead us in telling the story of Jesus' good news.

That is why we are advertising this position in conjunction with the Sheffield Diocesan Centenary Project Fund.



The Job

The successful applicant will play a key role in engaging and nurturing children within the life of our church and community. They will work with an enthusiastic team of volunteers, on Sundays and midweek, but also seek to encourage others to get involved.

They will build connections with local families, foster meaningful relationships, and become a familiar and trusted presence within Woodseats. The role will involve developing our existing children's ministries along with identifying new opportunities to expand our mission within local schools, preschools and other children's groups.

We are looking for an imaginative, relationship-orientated Children and Families' Worker who can inspire and guide children on their journey as disciples of Jesus. This will involve creatively using the Bible, sharing its stories, and encouraging children to develop their own conversations with God in diverse and engaging ways. Of course, family members become part of the picture.

The Church

St Chad's is a vibrant and welcoming church situated in the heart of Woodseats. The parish encompasses around 12,000 people, and has a diverse socio-economic mix, evident in the housing that includes terraced homes, semi-detached and detached properties, and council housing. Much of the area is surrounded by green areas, parks and woodland. Complementing the church building is our busy community hub on the main road, opposite Abbey Lane Primary School, used daily by church and community groups.

You would be an integral part of a staff team, working alongside our oversight minister, curate, youth worker, administrator and church wardens. Sunday mornings offer two distinct styles of worship: a traditional service at 9am and a more contemporary service at 11am. Adding to this, once a month we host the Pitch-Up service at 11am, a more café-style opportunity to explore the Bible together in a variety of ways. Groups for children and young people take place during the 11am service. The Kingdom Kids group welcomes primary school children, while the occasional Kingdom Kiddies caters to the under-fives.

The dedicated Sunday morning youth group is for Year Six and above. We have a newly-developed toddler and babies area within the main service, with soft toys and comfortable seating for accompanying adults.



On Wednesday mornings, the popular Toddler group meets for young children, parents, grandparents or carers - many with no other connection with St Chad's. Throughout the year, we host a range of events that draw in families from across the wider community, including a Halloween drop-in café, Messy Easter workshop and family fun afternoons.

The thriving Scouts and Guiding groups see over 160 children and young people attending each week, with many of their leaders connected to the church community. They occasionally join Sunday services and are actively encouraged to participate in the broader life of St Chad's. Local primary schools and pre-schools visit the church for special events.

In the past, we have shared Bible stories through Open the Book sessions and led school assemblies, and we are eager to see these relationships grow. The Woodseats Community Garden, developed on our former church field, offers excellent opportunities to connect with God's creation. Throughout the week, the garden is a vibrant hub, welcoming individuals from across the community.

Our youth worker dedicates his time to those in year six and beyond through our weekly youth group, the Woodseats Double Six Youth Club, and by running School Pastors at Meadowhead School, supported by a committed team of volunteers.

There are various other groups meeting throughout the week for all ages at St Chad's, plus small groups where people meet in homes to study the Bible, pray together and encourage each other. Our thriving Third Age Ministry includes Natter, a Memory Café and various social groups.

At St Chad's, we are a welcoming church striving to live lives grounded in the Word and the Spirit, with a passionate desire to see God's kingdom come. We fully support women in leadership and believe in the active participation of every member in ministry. Ultimately, our vision for St Chad's is to see our work with children, young people, and their families grow and flourish, both in our church and the wider Woodseats community. We want to be a shining example for children's work in the area, reaching out to share the love and story of Jesus more and more.



Employment Details:

- The post covers the parish of St Chad's, Woodseats 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.
- The post is part time and covers 24 hours per week. Some evening and weekend work, including regular Sunday work, will be required.
- The post is employed locally by the parish of St Chad's, Woodseats but is part of The Centenary Project Network.

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;

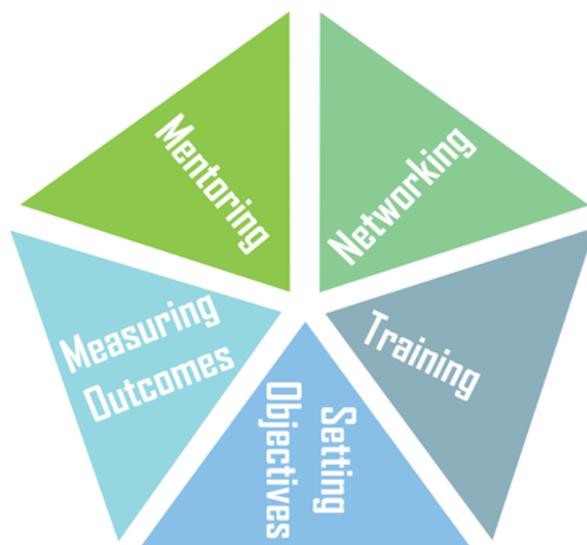
- Lack of objectives - unclear what their role is.
- Poor line management - incumbents unskilled in managing staff and volunteers.
- Too inward looking - not enough mission-focus.
- Overworked and underpaid - feeling unappreciated and unvalued.
- No support or network to draw on.
- Money runs out - post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



Application Information:

For an informal conversation about this role or for an application form, please contact:
Tim Hopkinson at: tim@stchads.org

For more information about the Church, visit: <https://www.stchads.org/welcome.htm>

For more information about The Centenary Project, visit: www.centenaryproject.org.uk
or contact Dave Ludbrook, Pastoral Manager at: dave.ludbrook@centenaryproject.org

Closing Date: Sunday 25 January 2026 (midnight)

Interview Date: Wednesday 04 February 2026

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.

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.

JOB DESCRIPTION

TITLE	Children and Families' Worker
EMPLOYER	St Chad's, Woodseats PCC
RESPONSIBLE TO	Rev. Jon Hidden and Centenary Project
REPORTING TO	Line Manager, Emily Hopkinson

1 GENERAL SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The key responsibilities of the role are:

- 1.1 To work alongside and help grow St Chad's team of volunteers who will help engage and nurture children and their families in the life of the church and wider community.
- 1.2 To develop links with local families, building relationships and becoming a key person within the local community.
- 1.3 To be part of the Centenary Project Network, an initiative of the Diocese of Sheffield.

2 KEY TASKS

- 2.1 To develop the missional potential of current ministries at St Chad's and discern new opportunities to grow mission among children and families in the church and wider community.
- 2.2 To work with St Chad's children leaders and the 'Pitch-up' worship team to expand and develop existing all-age opportunities.
- 2.3 To have experience of or be open to training on working with children with additional needs in St Chad's church and parish.
- 2.4 To comply with relevant safeguarding and health and safety guidelines, including ensuring compliance by volunteers and completing appropriate risk assessments.
- 2.5 To meet monthly with other Children's workers in the Centenary Project Network for learning
- 2.6 To work towards and set achievable objectives and record measured outcomes.
- 2.7 To record and submit quarterly statistics on group attendance using the Centenary Project's statistics system.
- 2.8 To undertake such other duties as may reasonably be required to commensurate with the responsibilities of the post.

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*