

Our Vision

At the heart of St James' is a simple but demanding vision:

**To be a place of welcome, hospitality, safety, and support -
a place where people of all faiths and none can gather,
where community is nurtured,
and where gaps in local provision are met with compassion and creativity.**

We are committed to working collaboratively with local organisations to strengthen community cohesion, to listen carefully to emerging needs, and to allowing our mission to remain organic, responsive, and open to change as the community itself changes.

Shaped by the Five Marks of Mission

Our life and direction at St James' are grounded in the Church of England's Five Marks of Mission:

- **To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom**
- **To teach, baptise, and nurture new believers**
- **To respond to human need by loving service**
- **To seek to transform unjust structures of society**
- **To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain the life of the earth**

In a parish marked by deprivation but rich in people, cultures, and possibility, these marks are not abstract ideals. They are daily work, holy work, and work we believe God continues to call St James' to share.

Parish Profile: St James', Clifton

The parish of St James', Clifton sits at the heart of a dense and vibrant urban community in Rotherham, within the Diocese of Sheffield. With a population of just under 15,000 people living within a compact area of 1.2 square miles, Clifton is one of the larger parishes in the diocese and one of the most economically challenged, ranking 71 out of 12,178 parishes nationally for deprivation.

Yet statistics only tell part of the story.

A young, diverse, and resilient community

Clifton is a surprisingly young parish. Nearly a third of the population is under the age of 20, and over half are under 45. This brings energy, creativity, and potential, alongside real pressures on families, schools, and local services.

Poverty is a daily reality for many:

- Around **one in three children** live in poverty
- **One in three working-age adults** live in poverty
- **One in three pensioners** live in poverty

Educational inequality also shapes life here, with over a third of adults having no formal qualifications. These challenges are not abstract, they are lived realities affecting housing, health, opportunity, and wellbeing.

Clifton is also richly multi-ethnic and multi-faith. Around a third of residents identify as Christian, nearly a quarter as Muslim, and almost a third say they have no religion. There is a significant Romani Slovak population, alongside long-established White British families and communities of Asian, Black, Mixed, and other ethnic backgrounds. This diversity is one of Clifton's greatest strengths, even as it calls for careful work in building trust, understanding, and cohesion.

St James': belonging that runs deep

Although average Sunday attendance is modest, St James' continues to hold deep significance for many local families. In the past twelve months, 44 baptisms have taken place. Many families maintain a strong sense of belonging through historic connections: baptisms, weddings, and funerals of parents and grandparents have shaped a shared memory of the church as a place of meaning and care.

We are, by our own admission, a church a little rough around the edges, but with a very big heart.

Buildings, resources, and opportunity

St James' is blessed with a substantial church building and a well-used hall including a kitchen, stage, and three additional meeting rooms. These spaces are used regularly by:

- A warm room
- Drama and music groups
- Choirs
- Foster carer groups

The hall is also hired for one-off events and community use. We are currently developing a business plan to strengthen income generation so that we can cover costs more sustainably and reinvest in local mission and outreach.

Over the coming years, we plan to undertake development and repair work to address building issues and sensitively update our spaces. This work will be shaped not only by practicality, but by mission, ensuring that our buildings serve the needs of the community and remain welcoming, accessible, and fit for purpose.

Schools and partnerships

There are five primary schools and one secondary school in the parish. Historically, St James' enjoyed strong relationships with the primary schools; while these links have weakened in recent years, we are actively and intentionally rebuilding them, seeing schools as key partners in the life of the community.

We also work alongside a range of local organisations, including:

- REMA
- Flux
- Clifton Learning Partnership
- Rotherham Minster Social Supermarket
- ROAR
- The Methodist Church
- The United Reformed Church

These partnerships are vital signs of hope, reminders that the church does not serve alone, but alongside others committed to the flourishing of Clifton.

Conclusion: Hope, Calling, and Commitment

St James', Clifton stands in a place of real challenge and real possibility. The needs of the parish are complex and often pressing, shaped by poverty, inequality, and social change. Yet this is also a community rich in people, cultures, relationships, and resilience, and a place where the church continues to matter deeply.

St James' is not a church with all the answers, nor a church untouched by struggle. But it is a church rooted in its neighbourhood, trusted by many, and committed to staying, listening, and serving. Its story is woven into the lives of local families across generations, and its buildings, relationships, and worship continue to offer spaces of belonging and care.

Looking ahead, the parish is seeking to grow not by retreating from complexity, but by engaging with it faithfully, strengthening partnerships, stewarding resources wisely, renewing buildings with purpose, and shaping mission that is responsive, relational, and grounded in prayer.

In a parish where the needs are great but the potential is greater still, St James' believes it is called to be a steady, hopeful presence: proclaiming good news, offering loving service, working for justice, nurturing faith, and helping to hold the community together.

This is not quick work, nor easy work, but it is holy work. And it is work that St James' is committed to sharing, trusting that God is already at work in Clifton, and continues to invite the church to join in.



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SHEFFIELD

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE:	Community Engagement Officer
EMPLOYER:	Sheffield Diocesan Board of Finance
RESPONSIBLE TO:	Oversight Minister (Vicar) Rev Caroline Wyman
RESPONSIBLE FOR:	n/a
HOURS:	Up to 28 hours per week

The Diocese of Sheffield is called to grow a diverse network of Christ-like, lively and sustainable Christian communities in every place which are effective in making disciples and in seeking to transform our society and God's world.

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ROLE

The Community Engagement Officer will play a key role in developing and strengthening the churches' presence and participation in local community life, with the post based primarily at St James', Clifton, and working collaboratively with St Cuthbert's, Herringthorpe, and St Mary Magdalene, Whiston.

Rooted in the shared vision of the churches to be places of welcome, hospitality, safety, and support, this role exists to help ensure that the church is not only open to the community but actively embedded within it. The postholder will help nurture community cohesion by listening carefully to local needs, building partnerships with local organisations, and enabling creative, responsive initiatives that meet gaps in local provision.

The work of the Community Engagement Officer will be shaped by the Church of England's Five Marks of Mission — proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom through presence and relationship; responding to human need by loving service; seeking to transform unjust structures; nurturing new believers; and safeguarding the integrity of creation — understood not as abstract principles, but as lived, local commitments.

Through community events, collaborative projects, and relationship-building, the role will support the churches' mission to serve their neighbourhoods with compassion, inclusivity, and openness, while also helping to create accessible, invitational pathways for those who wish to explore or deepen their faith as part of the life of the church.

MAIN DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Work alongside clergy and church volunteers at St James', St Cuthbert's, and St Mary

Magdalene to ensure that community activities reflect the churches' shared values of hospitality, compassion, and respect

- Develop and deliver community events and initiatives that bring people together, promoting inclusion, wellbeing, and neighbourliness. We are open to the successful candidate understanding the context and exploring options. However, some initial ideas that have been discerned are; youth work, a community engagement space with social activities and opportunities for people to access information, food festival, other activities that brings together and celebrates cultures. The role would help deliver these activities through teamwork and partnership networks
- Build and maintain partnerships with local organisations identified in the parish profile — including local schools, voluntary and charitable organisations, community groups, and statutory services — to support collaborative projects such as youth drop-in sessions, intergenerational activities, family support initiatives, and local celebrations
- Act as a welcoming and visible presence within the parishes, developing a culture of invitation and helping to identify local needs and opportunities for engagement
- Support communication and publicity for community initiatives, including social media, local newsletters, and noticeboards
- Keep accurate records of activities, attendance, and outcomes, and contribute to reports for funding and parish review
- Recruit and coordinate volunteers where needed for events and projects
- Contribute to team meetings and mission action planning as a team member in the parish and wider Mission Area

This role description provides a guide to the duties and responsibilities of the post and is not an exhaustive list. The post holder may be asked to undertake any other relevant duties appropriate to the post. The role description will be amended over time, in full consultation with the post holder, to meet the needs of the Diocese.

PERSON SPECIFICATION: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

CRITERIA	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Qualifications/Key Attributes	Educated to A-level or equivalent	Study or qualifications relating to community development and cohesion building
Experience	Experience of planning and delivering community projects or events Able to work as part of a team as well as taking the initiative	Experience of working with young people or vulnerable groups
Skills & Knowledge	Excellent networking and relationship building skill in order to bring about change Strong organisational skills Strong communication abilities (verbal, written, and social media) Reflection on and evaluating the impact and effectiveness of different activities and be able to adapt accordingly Knowledge of community development and empowerment methodologies / practice	Familiarity with local voluntary and statutory services
Personal	A commitment to inclusivity and community cohesion Sympathetic to the Christian faith and supportive of the mission of the Church of England Ability to work some evenings and weekends as required	A practising Christian with a deep-rooted faith

Please note this role may be subject to a Basic 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

This is a post which is funded by a grant from the National Church currently up to the end of 2028. There will be further opportunity for us to review and extend the role if further funding is available with the current expectation that this could be until 2031. Regular reviews on this will take place. We have a strong record for applications and grants, but we are not in a position to give guarantees.

Last updated: 7/1/2026