



THE DIOCESE OF
SHEFFIELD

SCHOOLS & FAMILIES MINISTER



25

Hours per week

Flexible working available
(see pack for details)

ST NICHOLAS, THORNE



Thorne is a vibrant market town set to the east of the River Don, on the northern edge of the Diocese of Sheffield, and part of the Flowing Waters Mission Area.

Over the past four years, the church has been on a remarkable journey of renewal and growth, with our main congregation increasing from around 20 to well over 60 people.

Our purpose is to receive the good news of Jesus, to share it with others, and to equip people to live as confident disciples in everyday life.

We now have a committed and enthusiastic team leading a monthly all-age act of worship, creating space for people of all generations to explore faith together.

Alongside this, we are in the early stages of launching a new youth choir, supported by a dedicated choir leader working one day per week.

There are also encouraging connections with families in the community, particularly through regular requests for baptisms and strong links with local uniformed organisations, who attend parade services in significant numbers. We also put on film nights in church during the Winter months for children and families. They find the church atmospheric!

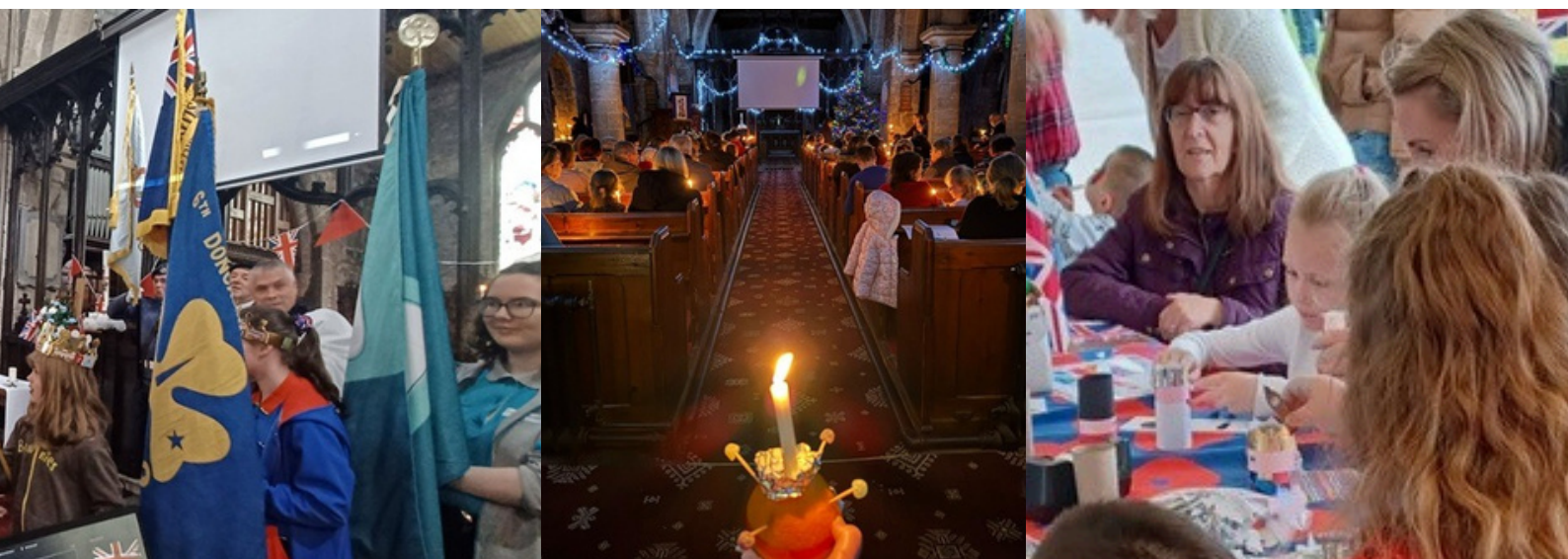




We also have tentative but growing links with the four schools in the area. The Principal of Trinity Academy is excited about this appointment especially as they would welcome support in running their weekly lunchtime club for children who are keen to explore the Christian faith. The doors are open in the other schools, too. They all have regular church visits that could be further developed.

We have recently refreshed our Church Hall, having decorated throughout, installed a new fire alarm system and audio-visual equipment, put up new signage and addressed compliance issues so that it is a safe warm and welcoming facility that is now fit for the 21st century. It looks amazing inside!

We recognise that we haven't got it all together - there is much potential - but we need help to lead our small team of volunteers who like working with children and families. We are praying that God will send us someone who is confident in their faith in Christ and has a pioneering spirit and a willingness to try new things. This is an exciting opportunity to help us prayerfully discern and shape new ways of connecting with children and families, building on existing relationships and developing new worshipping communities in Thorne.



Employment Details:

- The post covers the parish of St Nicholas, Thorne 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.
- This is a part time role covering 25-hours-per-week, but we welcome conversations about flexible working and would consider hours between 20 and 25 per week.
- 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 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:

This is an opportunity to join St Nicholas' as Schools and Families Minister employed centrally by The Diocese of Sheffield's initiative, The Centenary Project.

We are looking for a committed Christian to join our team who has experience in working with schools and families who will develop and co-ordinate the work in the life of the church and the wider community.

This is a 25-hours-per-week role, but we welcome conversations about flexible working and would consider hours between 20 and 25 per week.

This is a post funded by a grant from the National Church currently up to the end of 2028. Our hope to commit to a minimum 5 year post.

- **25 hours per week (flexible working hours available)**
- **Starting Salary £18,214 - £20,714 (£25,500 - £29,000 FTE)**
- **Annual salary review**
- **10% employer contribution to pension**
- **Generous holiday entitlement**

General responsibilities:

- 1.To establish meaningful connections with local schools and families, fostering positive relationships and becoming a key figure within the local community.
- 2.To build strong relationships with school staff and volunteers through effective communication and collaboration, while actively recruiting and integrating new volunteers to support our mission and activities.
- 3.To be part of the Centenary Project Network, an initiative of the Diocese of Sheffield.

Closing date for all applications: 14 September 2026 (midnight)

Shortlisting date: TBC

Interviews will be held on: TBC

To find out more about the Centenary Project: www.centenaryproject.org.uk or for an informal conversation, contact Dave Ludbrook, Pastoral Manager: dave.ludbrook@centenaryproject.org.uk

For an informal conversation about this post, contact Rev. Tim Mitchell: revmitchell.t@gmail.com or to find out about the church: www.stnicholasthorne.org.uk

Please send completed application forms to: recruitment@sheffield.anglican.org

Please note this role is subject to a DBS check in accordance with Safer Recruitment and Safeguarding provisions - for more information about this, contact: HR@sheffield.anglican.org.

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.

JOB DESCRIPTION

TITLE	Schools and Families Minister
EMPLOYER	Sheffield Diocesan Board of Finance
RESPONSIBLE TO	Rev. Tim Mitchell
REPORTING TO	Rev. Tim Mitchell and Centenary Project Pastoral Manager

1 GENERAL SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES -

The key responsibilities of the role are:

- 1.1 To establish meaningful connections with local families and schools, fostering positive relationships and becoming a key figure within the local community.
- 1.2 To build strong relationships with school staff and volunteers through effective communication and collaboration, while actively recruiting and integrating new volunteers to support our mission and activities.
- 1.3 To be part of the Centenary Project Network, an initiative of the Diocese of Sheffield.

2 KEY TASKS

- 2.1 To plan and deliver a well-structured and engaging programme of regular school assemblies, ensuring appropriate content, effective coordination with school staff, and high-quality delivery.
- 2.2 To deliver a regular programme of holiday activity mornings.
- 2.3 To strengthen and develop existing relationships with staff and pupils in local schools, exploring and fostering opportunities for meaningful partnership and collaborative working.
- 2.4 To work collaboratively with the Youth Choir Director, supporting rehearsals and helping to grow the choir through school relationships.
- 2.5 To explore the opportunities and develop a new school-based worshipping community.
- 2.6 To establish and develop partnerships with the local secondary school to create a consistent and sustainable pattern of engagement, involvement, and input from students and staff.
- 2.7 To proactively establish and sustain positive working relationships with uniformed organisations, fostering effective communication and collaboration within the church and community.
- 2.8 To explore opportunities for a discipleship pathway for young people.
- 2.9 To join the pre-existing All Age team helping to plan and deliver our monthly service.

2.10 To support the lunch time club that meets in the heart centre at Trinity Academy.

2.11 To become part of the church community, helping to build intergenerational relationships and encourage people of all ages to serve.

2.12 To recruit, nurture, and develop a group of dedicated volunteers co-ordinating communication, rota management and support.

2.13 To comply with relevant safeguarding and health and safety guidelines, including ensuring compliance by volunteers and completing appropriate risk assessments.

2.14 To meet monthly with other Children's Workers in the Centenary Project Network for learning and support.

2.15 To work towards and set achievable objectives and record measured outcomes.

2.16 To record and submit quarterly statistics on group attendance using the Centenary Project statistics system.

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

Person Specification

Attributes	Essential	Desireable	Method of Assessment
Education and Training	• 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.	• 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	• 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.	• 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	• 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.	• Specific gift(s) or interest(s) that could be a focus for attracting children and families.	Application documentation, interview and practical exercise

Qualities	• 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.	• 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	• Satisfactory Enhanced DBS disclosure. • Commitment to engage in professional and spiritual development. • Have access to appropriate transport for travel within the area.	• 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*