



ST PAUL'S
WORDSWORTH AVENUE



This role is employed locally by the parish, working in partnership with
The Centenary Project an initiative of the Diocese of Sheffield

FAMILIES MINISTER



25

Hours per week

St Paul's, Wordsworth Avenue



Our vision at St Paul's is for the people of Parson Cross to know and experience the love of Jesus and to be welcomed into an enjoyable and vibrant community where we belong and grow together. With God's help, we seek to be:

- Jesus-Centered
- Community
- Real
- Creative
- Generous

Our work with local children, young people and families has grown over the past few years through our JAM Kids Club, JOY Toddler Group, growing Sunday congregation and work with local Schools. The appointment of our Families Minister is a way of trying to meet those growing opportunities, alongside supporting, training and empowering our current volunteers.

It will be an outward focussed ministry to the community, enhancing the programmes we already run plus new and exciting initiatives to engage, nurture and disciple families within our community. As a church we want to provide practical support through mission and to show God's love and grace to the world around us and we feel this role is the next step in our vision for our Church and Community.

The appointment of a Families Minister sits alongside our redevelopment project, which is seeking to redevelop our site over the next few years - including the design and development of a brand-new church hall and redeveloping our church building.



Church Context

St Paul's Church is on Wordsworth Avenue, a road which runs through the Parson Cross estate. We are a small yet growing church congregation. We have grown from a faithful group of 7-8 Sunday worshippers in 2018 to between 40-50 on an average Sunday. Our congregation is diverse, a mixture of young and old, with a growing number of families with young children alongside some more 'mature' members of our congregation - and everything in between. Around 200 people per week engage with St Paul's through our various mid-week groups, and we are engaging more and more with local schools and other community groups.

According to the 2021 Census, 8765 people live within the parish of St Paul's. It is an economically deprived area and is ranked 394 out of 12,239 on the Indices of deprivation. 40.27% of residents own their house with 59.73% renting compared to a national average of 61.31% who own their own house, an indication of the economic deprivation locally. Similar results are shown in the education and health figures, with just over 31% of the local population having no formal qualifications compared to just over 18% nationally. A high proportion of local primary aged children are in receipt of free school meals (34% at Montenevy and 60% at Mansel). At local secondary school Chaucer, 50% of pupils receive free school meals.[1]

The church has recently appointed a Parish Nurse, who started in April 2026. The Families Minister will be able to work alongside them where appropriate, as well as signposting families that they work with to the services that the Families Minister is running. There will be opportunities for the Families Minister to liaise with other local community groups, charities, churches and organisations to find out where the gaps are for families locally and where the church may be able to offer additional support.'

[1] Data taken from the St Paul's Community Audit, November 2024, which is included alongside the Application Pack.



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 Ministers supported?

Support for workers is essential. The help, guidance and encouragement that's continually provided to Centenary Project Ministers 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 our growing team at St Paul's, Wordsworth Avenue, working in partnership with The Centenary Project in the Diocese of Sheffield as the role of Families Minister.

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

- **25 hours per week (flexible terms of working such as term time only can be considered)**
- **Salary £17,500 - £20,714 (£26,250 - £31,071 FTE)**
- **5 years fixed-term contract**
- **Enrolment into a workplace pension scheme**
- **Generous holiday entitlement**

General Responsibilities:

- Lead and model creative biblical teaching that engages children on Sundays
- Build a healthy and sustainable culture within children's ministry
- Help discern and develop effective ways of connecting with local families
- To be part of the Centenary Project Network, an initiative of the Diocese of Sheffield

Closing date for all applications: Tuesday 3rd November 2026 (midnight)

Shortlisting date: Thursday 5th November 2026

Interviews will be held on: Thursday 19th November 2026

This is a post funded by a grant from the National Church currently up to the end of 2028.

For an informal conversation about this post, please contact Rev. Andy Poultney, Priest-in-Charge: rev.andy@stpaulswordsworth.org.uk.

For an Application Pack, please contact the Church Administrator, Becca Gillespie: admin@stpaulswordsworth.org.uk

To find out more about The Centenary Project, visit: www.centenaryproject.org.uk or contact Dave Ludbrook, Pastoral Manager: dave.ludbrook@centenaryproject.org.uk

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 more information about this, contact:

HR@sheffield.anglican.org

JOB DESCRIPTION

TITLE	Families Minister
EMPLOYER	St Paul's, Wordsworth Avenue
RESPONSIBLE TO	St Pauls PCC & Centenary Project Manager
REPORTING TO	Revd. Andy Poultney & Centenary Project Pastoral Manager

1.Key Responsibilities:

- 1.1** To develop strong relationships with families creating opportunities for discipleship.
- 1.2** To develop ministry to families via local schools.
- 1.3** To develop appropriate support for local families who have neurodivergent children or family members.
- 1.4** To work with the current Sunday services team to develop and strengthen the current pattern of All Age and Family Services.
- 1.5** To work with the Leadership team and children's, families and youth team, alongside the Centenary Project team, to discern the priorities for the role.

2.Key Tasks:

- 2.1** To provide leadership and direction for the existing children's church volunteer team, as well as supporting, training and empowering them. Planning and delivering sessions, leading termly meetings and providing opportunities for training.
- 2.2** To make available opportunities for church volunteers to receive one-to-one support and encouragement.
- 2.3** To be part of the Sunday Services team to strengthen and develop our All Age and Family Services.
- 2.4** To explore new opportunities for family discipleship including the potential of development of Messy Church or similar activities.
- 2.5** To support the JAM (Jesus and Me) club team in developing stronger relationships with families intentionally engaging with parents and carers attending the sessions, helping them to become active participants in the life of the Church.
- 2.6** To enable ministry amongst children as they develop into young people (10-13 year olds).
- 2.7** To develop appropriate support for local families who have neurodivergent children or family members.
- 2.8** To provide training, encouragement and practical support to the JOY (Toddler Group) team.
- 2.9** To maintain and develop positive relationships with local primary schools and community partners.

- 2.10** To work with the local schools to identify opportunities for the church to provide pastoral support to children and young people.
- 2.11** To comply with relevant safeguarding and health and safety guidelines, including ensuring compliance by volunteers and completing appropriate risk assessments.
- 2.12** To meet monthly with other Children's, Youth and Families Ministers in the Centenary Project Network for learning and support
- 2.13** To work towards and set achievable objectives and to record and submit quarterly statistics on group attendance using the Centenary Project statistics system
- 2.14** To undertake such other duties and may reasonably require 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 work as part of a team and provide leadership and initiative. • Able to develop and evaluate projects.	• 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*