



THE DIOCESE OF
SHEFFIELD



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES' WORKER

25

Hours per week

£18,214

£25,500 (FTE)
£14.01 per hour

5

Year fixed
term contract

ST MARY'S, SPROTROUGH



St Mary's Sprotbrough is an exciting place to be! There is a lot going on and we are driven by a vision to reach further and go deeper as Christian disciples.

Our Vision as a church is:

- Bring the light of Christ to others in the community.
- Be a church where all ages are visible and valued.
- Deepen our faith through prayer, study and discipleship.

This is embedded into our life as a church and we have been intentional in ensuring our energies are used to see this vision realised.

We have seen real growth and encouragement in the launch in January 2025 of 'Families, Faith and Fun', an after-school gathering with crafts, music, activity and prayer, focussed around a Bible theme, and now completely lay-led.

We are blessed to have a great Ministry Team, made up of the Rector, Associate Priest, retired priest with PTO, Diocesan Reader, Lay Pastoral Worker and a number of others. We anticipate the team broadening in the coming year. So the right candidate would join a collaborative team, who share strategic leadership and support one another in the joys (and mess!) which ministry can be. A strong and supportive lay team enables us to have a full calendar of social activities, with Coffee, Cake & Chat, and Forget-me-Not Dementia Café, as well as a Craft and Jigsaw club.

The parish serves a population of roughly 8500 in the relatively affluent village of Sprotbrough, the rural hamlet of Cadeby and the wider (less affluent) Sprotbrough area, which stretches towards the city centre, and incorporates HMP Doncaster.

We would like to deepen our engagement with this area of the parish, and our links with the schools and nurseries there is a step towards that ambition.



We have just seen a major redevelopment of the worship space in our Grade I listed building, and are excited to explore the possibilities of using the flexible space in create ways for the blessing of the whole community.

The huge potential of this makes this an exciting time to be joining the team and helping us maximise the opportunities this has to engage in new ways with children and families.

We have built strong and mutual relationships with the schools, private nurseries and wider community over the last decade, and have built many warm contacts.

There is rich potential to develop these further and build a broader offering as the relationships grow, and we hope that the right candidate will enable us to build on this further.

For a more information about the Church, visit our website www.stmarys-sprotbrough.co.uk or contact Rev. Amanda Barraclough for a conversation or to arrange a visit at: amanda.barraclough1@btinternet.com



Employment Details:

- The post covers the parish of St Mary's Sprotbrough 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 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 Families' Worker
EMPLOYER	Sheffield Diocesan Board of Finance
RESPONSIBLE TO	Rev. Amanda Baraclough and Centenary Project Pastoral Manager
REPORTING TO	Rev. Amanda Barraclough and Centenary Project Pastoral Manager

1 GENERAL SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES -

The key responsibilities of the role are:

- 1.1 To enhance and uphold our values in our work with children and families, ensuring that *'all ages are visible and valued'*.
- 1.2 To work alongside the existing team to coordinate and develop lively and engaging ministries for the children, and families within the parish of Sprotbrough; giving the opportunity to explore and grow in their own personal faith.
- 1.3 To be part of the Centenary Project Network, an initiative of the Diocese of Sheffield.

2 KEY TASKS

- 2.1 To be part of the team delivering the current 'Families, Faith and Fun' style service with a focus on developing this into a more established congregation and a stronger, sustainable tool for family discipleship.
- 2.2 To develop the 5 session 'Starting Rite' programme into a sustainable weekly Baby and Toddler group with sensory spiritually focus, growing and coordinating a team to support delivery.
- 2.3 To explore opportunities for spiritual conversations with parents and carers leading to a separate group focussing on discipleship.
- 2.4 To build on existing relationships with staff and pupils at the local nurseries and primary schools. Growing our delivery and offering exploring opportunities such as Open the Book, Explore Christmas and Explore Easter.
- 2.5 To grow and more regular pattern of one off events for the community with a focus on children and families with a view to increasing our capacity for engagement with annual community initiatives.
- 2.6 To recruit, nurture and develop a group of dedicated volunteers coordinating communication, rota management and support.
- 2.7 To comply with relevant safeguarding and health and safety guidelines, including ensuring compliance by volunteers and completing appropriate risk assessments.
- 2.8 To meet monthly with other Children's Workers in the Centenary Project Network for learning and support.

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

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

2.11 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: 25 January 2026 (midnight)

Interview Date: Monday 23 February 2026

For a more information about the Church, visit our website www.stmarys-sprotbrough.co.uk or contact Rev. Amanda Barraclough for a conversation or to arrange a visit at: amanda.barraclough1@btinternet.com

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

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*