

Job Title: Children & Families Lead

Location: St. Mary's Church, Ambleside

Salary: £32-34k pa depending on experience
plus 8% employers pension contribution

Job Type: Full-time, 37.5 hours per week, including Sunday morning,
with some evening work expected



Overview

St. Mary's Church, Ambleside, is seeking a Spirit-filled Children & Families Lead with a passion for seeing children and families encounter Jesus and grow as lifelong disciples. This is a key role in our newly forming team, with a strong emphasis on pioneering fresh initiatives that connect with children and families inside and beyond the church.

With a new Team Rector and a fresh vision, we are seeking to engage people of all ages across the Central Lakes. Our congregational plant, launched in late 2024, is centred around encountering Jesus through worship, ministry, and shared meals, creating a deep sense of community and discipleship. We believe Jesus makes himself known among us as we eat together, pray, and minister to one another. This vision extends to children and families, ensuring they are fully integrated into the life of the church, belonging as part of the whole people of God.

The role will entail many new and emerging opportunities to extend our reach to children and families. Alongside this role, we are also recruiting a Worship Leader and an Operations Director, forming a dynamic new ministry team to drive forward our mission and ministry. We are investing in 'growing younger and more diverse'; this is an evolving picture as we respond to the contextual missional opportunities. For example, we have begun by supporting young leaders through the intern programme as part of our growing ministry team.

We work closely with the Ambleside Parish Centre, a separate charity closely connected to St Marys. The Parish Centre serves as a church and community engagement hub, offering vital services such as a lunch club, food club, bereavement support, and youth club. We are also committed to ecumenical partnerships, with the Methodist Superintendent playing an integral role in our wider team.

We are looking for a leader who will facilitate the engagement and discipleship of children on Sunday mornings and midweek, supporting parents in nurturing their children's faith. This role will also establish new outreach events, such as holiday clubs, after-school clubs, and community-wide family gatherings (e.g. Christmas Light Switch-On Helter-Skelter Party).

This is an exciting opportunity to pioneer and build a children's ministry from the ground up, creating something fresh and vibrant, ensuring that children are not just seen as the church of tomorrow, but the church of today. Their spirituality should inspire and shape the wider church community, encouraging intergenerational faith development.

The role also carries a significant safeguarding responsibility, ensuring that children and families are safe, flourishing, and free from harm. You will work closely with the Parish Safeguarding Officer to create and maintain a best-practice safeguarding culture.

This role has a genuine occupational requirement for the post-holder to be a practising Christian, in accordance with the Equality Act 2010, Schedule 9, Part 1.

Key Responsibilities

- Within the first six months, develop a comprehensive plan for missional opportunities to be presented to the PCC, outlining strategies for engaging children and families in both church and community contexts.

Children's Ministry Development

- Pioneer and grow the church's children and families ministry, ensuring it is vibrant, engaging and sustainable.
- Lead Sunday morning and midweek activities for children, creating a fun and spiritually enriching environment.
- Use the planned Prayer Room, inspired by the 24/7 Prayer movement, as a space for children to develop in prayer, listen for His voice, and be led by the Spirit in prayer.
- Support and equip parents in faith development for children at home.

Community & Outreach

- Plan and run key children's outreach events, such as the Christmas Light Switch-On Helter-Skelter Party, family fun days, and seasonal celebrations.
- Develop holiday clubs and after-school clubs to create regular touch points for children and families.
- Be a visible presence in Ambleside and Langdale, engaging with children and families in the local community.

Volunteer Development & Leadership

- Envision, recruit, and train volunteers to develop a strong children's ministry team.
- Foster a culture where children's faith is recognised as vibrant and powerful, encouraging them to be a full part of church life, including leading in age appropriate ways.
- Work alongside the wider church leadership to integrate children's ministry into the life of the church.

Safeguarding & Best Practice

- Ensure that safeguarding is at the heart of all children's ministry, maintaining best practices to create a safe and thriving environment.
- Work with the Parish Safeguarding Officer to implement Safer Recruitment practices.
- Develop and maintain clear safeguarding policies and ensure all team members receive appropriate training.

Person Specification

| Criteria | Essential | Desirable |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| A committed Christian faith aligning with St. Mary's vision | ✓ | |
| Experience in pioneering and developing children's ministry | ✓ | |
| A passion for evangelism | ✓ | |
| A passion for helping children and families encounter Jesus, be filled with the Spirit, and grow as lifelong disciples. | ✓ | |
| Strong ability to engage children and families in creative ways | ✓ | |
| Experience working within schools and community settings | ✓ | |
| Highly self-motivated, a self-starter who gets things done | ✓ | |

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| Resourceful and able to make creative use of available resources | ✓ | |
| Emotionally intelligent and aware of own strengths and limitations | ✓ | |
| Ability to train and develop volunteers | ✓ | |
| Experience in organising outreach events (e.g., holiday clubs, community parties) | ✓ | |
| Understanding and experience of safeguarding policies and best practice | ✓ | |
| Knowledge of charismatic and contemporary expressions of worship | | ✓ |
| Experience leading prayer spaces or worship for children | ✓ | |

Supporting You

As a church and team, we are committed to supporting you by:

- Praying regularly with and for you and your work.
- Providing a supportive and collaborative staff team to work alongside.
- Encouraging spiritual growth, including regular time for prayer, retreat, and training.
- Ensuring long-term investment and support for this role.
- Exploring opportunities for further training and development, including funding.

Application Process

You can request an Application Form from hello@stmarysambleside.org.uk

Please submit an application form and a current CV by 29 June 2025. The provisional interview date is 18 July 2025.

For an informal conversation with the Team Rector, Rev Andy Smith please call 07584 684310.

Any offer of employment is subject to:

- Two references (one must be current employer)
- Health Check
- Right to work check
- Enhanced DBS check and Church of England Declaration form if applicable (if the DBS or declaration form are not completed the offer of employment will be rescinded)

Join Us!

This is an exciting opportunity to be a key part of a new leadership team, pioneering new ways of engaging children and families with Jesus. If you are open to an adventure, creative, and ready to grow something new, we would love to hear from you!