



PARISH OF ST PETER & ST OSWALD



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



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTER

25

Hours per week

ST OSWALD'S, ABBEYDALE



About St Oswald's Church

In January 2026, St Oswald's welcomed a new Priest-in-charge, alongside a graft team of 20 adults and 6 children from All Saints Ecclesall. The church has received generous central funding to enable the revitalization of the church, and a renewed mission to the local community.

Five months into this exciting new chapter in the church, on Sundays we have a traditional service at 9am with 24 adults attending, and our 10:30am contemporary has 45 adults and 8 children, aged 1-6 years old.

About the area

Almost 10,000 people live in the parish. 67% are under the age of 45, and only 8% are over the age of 70. It is an area full of children and young people, with two primary schools on the doorstep of the church, and Mercia High School nearby. We have a good relationship with both primary schools who visit the church for festivals, and a growing connection with one of them. Our parish context is diverse in belief, ethnicity, and socio-economic status. 31% of the parish are British Asian and identify as Muslims, 38% identify with no religion, and only 23% as Christian.

Our vision

Jesus said the greatest commandments are to love God and love our neighbour, and his great commission is to make disciples of all nations. As a church, we want our vision to reflect Jesus' priorities as we love God, love people, and make disciples.

The Children and Families Lead will play an important role in shaping the vision, culture, and mission of our church in this exciting new chapter at St Oswalds.



About the role

The Children and Families Minister will oversee and develop ministry among children and families within the church and parish. The role combines discipleship, leadership, and mission.

The successful applicant will:

- Help children grow in faith through engaging Sunday ministry
- Equip and encourage parents in raising children in the Christian faith
- Develop volunteers and build healthy ministry teams
- Strengthen relationships with local schools
- Explore new ways of engaging families within the wider community

The Centenary Project aims to equip the local church to effectively engage, nurture and disciple a new generation of young people and families.



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 Oswald's Abbeydale, working in partnership with The Centenary Project in the Diocese of Sheffield as a Children & Families Minister.

We are looking for a committed Christian to join our team who has experience in working with children 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 £18,214 (£25,500 FTE)**
- **5 years fixed-term contract**
- **Enrolment into a pension scheme**
- **Generous holiday entitlement**

General responsibilities:

- Lead and model creative biblical teaching that engages children on Sunday's
- 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: Sunday 28th June 2026 (midnight)

Shortlisting date: w/c 29th June 2026

Interviews will be held on: w/c 06th July 2026

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.

For an informal conversation about this post and application form contact Simon Oatridge, Priest-in-Charge: simon.oatridge@stoswaldschurch.co.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	Children and Families Minister
EMPLOYER	St Oswald's, Abbeydale
RESPONSIBLE TO	Simon Oatridge, Priest-in-Charge
REPORTING TO	Priest-in-Charge and Centenary Project Pastoral Manager

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

There are two key aspects to the role, with the focus initially on the first, and then moving towards the second after the first year.

GOAL 1. Discipling Children & Supporting Families

Sunday Ministry

- Lead and model creative biblical teaching that engages children on Sunday's
- Plan activities that help children grow in faith and understanding
- Help shape all-age worship and services

Kids Church Team Development

- Recruit, encourage, train and support the kids church team to deliver a creative and engaging biblical children's ministry
- Build a healthy and sustainable team culture for children's ministry
- Develop a range of kids church groups as the ministry grows

Parent & Family Support

- Encourage and resource parents in nurturing faith at home
- Help create opportunities for families to connect and grow together
- Support occasional family-focused events, celebrations, or courses

GOAL 2. Community & School Engagement

Schools Ministry

- Develop stronger relationships with local primary schools through assemblies and church visits
- Serve schools practically and pastorally where appropriate

Community Outreach

- Help discern and develop effective ways of connecting with local families
- Explore possible initiatives such as toddler groups, after-school activities, holiday events, or family gatherings

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential

- There is a genuine occupational requirement for the post-holder to be a practising Christian.
- A love for Jesus, proven Christian character and a desire to help children and families grow in faith
- Experience of delivering engaging age-appropriate biblical teaching to children, and in all-age worship services
- Ability to work well with both adults and children
- Ability to lead, encourage, and motivate teams
- Confidence to take initiative and develop new ideas
- Ability to work alone and collaboratively within a team
- Commitment to personal, professional, and spiritual development
- a good standard of written English (GCSE grade C or above in English)

Desirable

- Experience working with schools or community outreach
- Experience planning all-age worship
- Relevant training in Christian ministry

What We Offer

- The opportunity to help shape ministry at a key stage of church revitalisation
- Supportive leadership and team culture
- Freedom to develop and pioneer new initiatives
- Ongoing support, training, and professional development
- Connection with the Diocese of Sheffield's wider Centenary Project network

Our Vision for the Future

We long to become a church where:

- Children encounter Jesus and grow as disciples
- Families feel welcomed, supported, and connected
- Schools see the church as a trusted partner
- The wider community to come to know the love and good news of Jesus

We are praying for someone who will help us build a vibrant, outward-looking children and families ministry for the years ahead, as we seek to love God, love people, and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Safer Recruitment

St Oswald's Church is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

The successful applicant will be required to:

- Complete an enhanced DBS check
- Provide references satisfactory to the church
- Adhere to the safeguarding policies and procedures of the Church of England and the Diocese of Sheffield