# Advert

Title: Youth and Children’s Missioner

Full Time.

£26-27.5k pa.

Applications close: 16th July 2024 5pm

Shortlisting: 18th July

Interviews: 30 July/1 Aug

## Context

St John’s Church, in the Parish of Wortley and Farnley, is a warm, welcoming and growing community where we’re trying our best to follow Jesus. There are people of all ages and stages who are part of the church, from 6 months to 100 years old, people who have been Christians for a very long time, and those who have just started exploring faith.

Our hope, prayer, and vision as a church is this:

We want to **WELCOME** everyone in our parish into their church by offering a variety of ways to encounter, experience, and respond in **WORSHIP** to Jesus' death-defying love. We want to grow in love and understanding of the **WORD** of God, by reading and learning from the Bible and applying it to our lives. We want to see the **WONDERS** of God happen in us and through us by the power of prayer and the Holy Spirit as we go about being a **WITNESS** to Jesus' love and telling the story of God in Wortley and Farnley.

The church in Wortley and Farnley for a long time had been in decline, but COVID was our saving grace. It encouraged us to take risks, try new things, attempt some big things with and for God. A new worshipping community was planted as we emerged from the various lockdowns and has grown from a handful of people gathering each Sunday, to there being well over 40 people each week with at least a dozen children and young people. God continues to surprise and bless us with new people regularly turning up and become part of the church family.

We have great connections with a number of the local schools, run a monthly messy church, host termly community parties, biannual fayres, biweekly toddler groups, and so much besides.

We have been fortunate enough to have been awarded some funding by the Strategic Development Fund, which coupled with a significant investment from church reserves has created the funding for this post. We are committed to investing in and growing our work among children and young people, as we believe these are the church of today, not tomorrow.

We are looking for a passionate and dynamic Youth and Children’s Missioner to join the team to oversee and develop our ministry with children and young people and in time to plant a new mid-week worshipping community aimed at school aged children.

## Headlines

Hours: This is a full time post (37.5hrs/week). The post holder must be able to work on Sundays. The post will require availability and attendance at some evening and weekend meetings and events. Overtime is not paid but time off in lieu is provided.

Salary: £26-27.5k pa depending on experience

Initial Contract: Fixed term 3-year contract

Employer: Wortley and Farnley PCC

Line Manager: The Incumbent – Rev’d Chris Balding

Holiday: 28 days plus bank holidays to be arranged in advance bearing in mind the particular demands of major church events and festivals, especially those with a prominent children’s element.

Pension: A workplace pension is available.

Place of Work: Mainly based at St John’s Church, Dixon Lane Road, but flexible working options can be discussed.

Start Date: To be negotiated but hopefully as soon after 1st Sept as possible.

Review: There will be a six-month probationary period and annual appraisals.

Training: There is a training and development budget to build up skills and competencies identified through discussion with the Line Manager

DBS: The post requires an enhanced DBS disclosure and relevant Church of England Safeguarding training.

*All appointments are subject to acceptable pre-appointment checks, including a satisfactory Enhanced DBS Check*

*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.*

## Main Purposes and Milestones

The funding secured comes with an agreed strategy and proposed timeline, that can be summarised as ‘grow and plant’. We’d be seeking to grow our community of children and young people based in the Wortley part of the parish in the first year, and then pray and plan where to plant into Farnley in the following years.

Year 1

Establish role and develop relationships with people in church and schools in area.

Develop the children’s and youth team.

Develop relationships with neighbouring churches.

Discern and launch a place to explore faith for toddler parents.

Year 2

Begin to discern what a new worshipping community might look like in Farnley.

Seek to partner with other local churches on mission in Farnley.

Year 3

Establish a regular worshipping community in Farnley.

## Current Activities and Outreach for Children and Young People

Toddler Groups. Monday and Thursdays

Messy Church. Second Saturday of the month

West Leeds United Youth Group. Third Sunday of the month in partnership with other local churches.

Termly Community Parties. (Pancake Party, Lightstop, etc)

School Festival Services. Eg Christmas/ Harvest services

Relaxed Service. Intergenerational Sunday service.

School visits.

Regular assemblies in the schools in the parish

## Job Description

The following areas will be within the scope of the post, which focuses on children and young people from 0-18 years of age.

The Children and Youth Missioner will be responsible for deciding with their line manager the prioritisation of these.

1. **Vision and Values**
	1. To review, develop and communicate the vision and strategy for working with children and young people from 0-18 in line with the overall vision and values of St John’s Church.
	2. To work with the clergy to develop and deliver all-age church services & assemblies.
	3. To seek to engage the wider church community in prayerful and practical support.
2. **Discipling children & young people**
	1. To be responsible for the work with children & young people at St John’s, including oversight of all St John’s children and youth groups and other 0-18 focussed activities.
	2. To encourage children and young people in their faith, including ensuring they are taught the basics of the Christian faith and given the means to explore it.
	3. To engage in regular and frequent hands-on teaching and session-leading within a team framework
	4. To pray for and support the discipleship of children and young people, linking in with their parents, including preparing them for baptism, communion and confirmation, with the clergy team.
	5. To exercise active and prayerful pastoral concern and care of children and young people, including the building of good relationships with parents and leaders.
	6. To be a positive and appropriate role-model to children, young people and their leaders.
3. **Building up and supporting leaders**
	1. To recruit, train and develop leaders to work with children and young people in each of the groups and activities.
	2. To support and equip and enable leaders in developing their skills and gifting.
	3. To plan, co-ordinate and supervise groups and activities to ensure:
		1. that they are adequately resourced;
		2. the appointment of suitable groups leaders and helpers;
		3. the selection of suitable teaching materials and appropriate activities; and
		4. there is a planned programme for each group, with a mixture of spiritual, emotional, biblical and social development.
4. **Developing links with schools in the local area**
	1. To build on existing and develop new links with the schools in the parish, including inviting children, young people, and families to appropriate church events as well as exploring what might be done within school hours.
	2. To plan and carry out school assemblies, launching lunchtime clubs, and other appropriate activities.
	3. To support the planning & delivery of festival school services at church and providing an excellent welcome.
5. **Reaching out**
	1. To develop new and alternative opportunities for children to learn about and experience the love of God (e.g.after school clubs, activities at different times of the weekend)
	2. To have oversight of the Toddler Group.
	3. To oversee appropriate events and activities to strengthen links with the community (e.g. Pancake Party, Light Stop, etc)
	4. To oversee Messy Church alongside the established team
	5. To prayerfully discern where and when to plant a new mid-week worshipping community in Farnley.
6. **Safeguarding**
	1. To be fully up to date with relevant safeguarding training, to complete an enhanced DBS on a three-year basis, and to complete an annual Self-Declaration form
	2. To work with the Parish Safeguarding Officer, incumbent and others to ensure that St John’s meets the requirement of relevant legislation, Church of England Requirements and general good practice regarding the safeguarding of children.
7. **General duties**
	1. To play a full role as a member of the staff team taking part in staff meetings, retreats etc
	2. To develop a database of contacts in line with GDPR, and maintain regular communication via a newsletter
	3. To manage the children and youth budget.
	4. To provide reports of work as requested.
	5. To continue personal development through reading, appropriate training events and suitable courses of study; to keep abreast of developments relevant to children’s work in churches.
	6. To maintain and develop the children’s space in church.
	7. To undertake any other duties that may reasonably be required of this post holder.

## Person Specification

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| Skills, Knowledge and Aptitudes | 1. Experience leading non-churched people to faith.
2. Experience of establishing good working relationships with community stakeholders
3. Good understanding of safe practice with children and young people.
4. Good IT skills and the ability to organise your work and working environment.
5. Ability to communicate with children & young people, parents and church members, including in a public and leadership role
6. Previous safeguarding training and a willingness to undergo, and regularly up date, such training.
7. Able to initiate and develop projects.
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| Qualifications, Training and Experience | 1. Relevant training/qualification in children’s work (Eg. Youth Work Degree)
2. Experience of youth or children’s ministry in a church setting
3. Demonstrable Biblical knowledge and the ability to share it with children and young people
4. Proven ability to teach, train and disciple children and young people with a wide range of backgrounds and church experiences.
5. Proven ability to lead, build and equip effective volunteer teams.
6. Proven ability to engage and enthuse the 0-18 age group and to gain the confidence of their parents
7. Experience of managing a budget
8. Experience of planting a new worshipping community
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| Personal Attributes | 1. Committed and baptised Christian involved in church activities
2. A Christian who is prayerful and open to the renewing work of the Holy Spirit and one who holds to central church beliefs and teaching in matters of faith and conduct
3. A heart for children & youth and a vision for Christian children & youth ministry
4. Able to handle, with competence, a demanding and varied workload
5. Well-motivated, able to take initiative, to plan and carry out work without close supervision
6. Good inter-personal and communication skills: able to work with a diverse range of people
7. Positive team member and team leader
8. Excellent self-management, time management and prioritisation skills
9. A heart for bringing unchurched people to faith, and developing them into wholehearted disciples of Christ
10. Complete confidentiality and trustworthiness
11. Ability to persevere and show resilience
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| Disposition and Attitude | 1. Willingness to work within the authority structures of the Church of England and St John’s.
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| Special Requirements | 1. Willing to undergo enhanced DBS disclosure
2. Physically ability to carry out the demands of the job
3. Currently eligible to work in the UK
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