**Parish of St Anne’s, Worksop**

**St Anne’s Church, Newcastle Avenue, Worksop, S80 1NJ**

**Seeking to share God’s love and peace in our community**

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

**TITLE** **Children’s & Family Worker**

**EMPLOYER** St Anne’s Church, Worksop

**RESPONSIBLE TO:** St Anne’s PCC

**REPORTING TO:** Revd David Gough

**HOURS:** 20 hours per week (to include Thursday and Sunday mornings), and other hours to be agreed with the successful applicant. This is a full time post for 3 years.

**STARTING SALARY £10400.00pa**

### The Parish of St Anne’s, Worksop in Southwell and Nottingham Diocese seeks a highly motivated and creative person to take on a new challenge within a diverse and varied community. This will mainly be a church based post with scope to look at new ways of engaging families and children (“family” in its broadest definition) in the context of various suburban housing estates within this busy market town.

### St Anne’s is hoping to make a significant step change in our children’s work over the next year. Our local community has many busy working families and the successful applicant will be encouraged to consider and implement, alongside others, a new and exciting step change in the way we currently undertake children’s work. We hope that by thinking differently about the things we do for children, and for families, we will be able to encourage both established and new families in our local community to develop patterns of worship that fit with modern life at times and days to suit those we serve. We currently offer the traditional children’s Sunday groups, which run alongside the main services, a Messy Church service at various times during the year and since September we have a newly established baby and toddler group, which has proved very popular. We have good links with our local primary school, a church school with good and growing connections to the worshipping community. There is currently a small, but dedicated, team of helpers and the post holder will be expected to develop the team that will work alongside them as well as identifying and releasing others into their own new ministries with children.

In return we offer a vibrant community and church family who are genuinely trying to seek God in their everyday lives. There will be opportunities to further your own experiences in children’s work and through the Diocese network prospects for your own professional development and to meet other similar workers. We have a supportive team of both paid and volunteer workers with times to share together in prayer and worship. The new family and children’s worker will be expected to work within the allocated hours and time will be made available for retreats and study days.

### Context:

The Parish of St Anne’s in Worksop is part of the Bassetlaw and Bawtry Deanery within the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham and has a population of around 6,500. In the past 25 years the parish has grown significantly with the building of new houses on the St Anne’s estate to the west of the parish and also to the Beaumont Rise estate to the north which roughly speaking covers the Worksop South electoral ward. Road links over the past 25 years or so have also changed for the better. When the A57 Worksop By-pass was opened in 1986 it split part of the parish, though this has made Newcastle Avenue, on which the church stands, into one of the main roads to Worksop town centre. As a result the church is easy to find as it stands within a matter of 200 metres from the main A57 by-pass roundabout. Predominantly residential, homes are mostly privately owned housing. There is a mixture of residents who have resided on the Water Meadows estate for many years and the newer St Anne’s estate where good quality housing can be found that is affordable to younger families. There are two local primary schools that serve the parish, St Anne’s CofE Primary School, which is within 50 yards of the church and backs onto the church car park, and Redlands Primary school which is situated at the very northern edge of the parish and within close proximity to St John’s church in our neighbouring parish. There are two secondary schools in Worksop, Portland Outwood Academy, just on the border of our Parish and Valley Outwood Academy which serves the north part of the town.

The parish of St Anne’s Worksop is relatively affluent in comparison to our two neighbouring parishes in the heart of the town which are both in the bottom 10% of social deprivation. Social mix includes a similar group of older people and those under 18 (both about 19% in each category). There are a high number of working families. There is varied employment some locally with the close proximity of both B&Q’s and Wilkinson’s national distribution centres. However, many families take advantage of the relatively cheaper house prices in the area with many who commute to the nearby cities of Sheffield, Doncaster and Nottingham. Ethnicity is predominantly White British (97%) and only 3% of varied ethnicity, although there is a growing Polish and Slovak community.

The town and parish are well served by schools, medical centres, dental surgeries, shopping areas and community resources. Good public transport is provided by frequent bus services in the town and to the nearby cities and good train links from both Worksop to surrounding towns and from Retford to London within an hour and a half.

The parish is served by St Anne’s church, which also has a hall attached. The hall is well used by the community and is the venue for the church’s Light Club on a Sunday morning. The current staff team includes the Priest in Charge, a part time parish clerk, a curate and a part time youth worker alongside 2 Readers and a dedicated team of lay representatives. The Priest in Charge also holds responsibility for two neighbouring rural parishes at St Mary’s, Norton Cuckney and St Winifred’s Holbeck.

**Purpose:**

The Family and Children’s worker will have specific responsibility for ministry among families and children across the parish with a particular focus on re-engaging and attracting new families to St Anne’s. The successful candidate will be given license to rethink the way we undertake our children’s work here at St Anne’s, to look for new and innovative ways in which to engage with families who currently have little or no contact with the church. They will initially have responsibility for leading the Sunday children’s groups, currently called Light Club. In the course of discussions and a prayerful approach we believe there is an opportunity to establish a monthly Messy Church (or an equivalent service for family worship) potentially on a Sunday afternoon, which has so far been held occasionally with good attendance from those who would not normally attend our main church services. Additionally we would want the successful candidate to take over leadership of the newly formed baby and toddler group which is held on a Thursday morning and has seen good attendance in this initial period. The local primary school has also asked if we can provide help and guidance with establishing Godly Play within the school and we see this asmanother opportunity to engage with our local community.

The post holder will share in the church’s overall ministry across the parish to families, which may include liturgy, pastoral and community work, and occasional offices that specifically relates to family services and events and our work in St Anne’s school.

**Responsible to:**

The post holder will be responsible to the Priest In Charge of St Anne’s Parish and the PCC.

**Key working relationships:**

* Priest In Charge
* The Staff Team (Currently Curate, Youth Worker and Administrator)
* Lay children’s volunteers and the current baby and toddler workers
* Church Wardens and PCC
* Schools
* Ecumenical Partners
* Deanery Chapter and Synod
* Local community partners (agencies and individuals)
* Relevant Diocesan staff
* Other relevant networks

1. **GENERAL SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

The key responsibilities of the role are

* 1. to develop and co-ordinate the parish’s ministry among family and children with particular responsibility to building empowering relationships with families in order to provide support and encouragement in their life and faith journeys

1.2 to consider how as a church we can make a step change in our current children’s work and lead a team, alongside the priest in charge, to implement this change within the next year.

1.3 Initially lead the current Light Club workers on a Sunday morning and alongside them encourage greater attendance at these groups from children and families in our wider community

1.4 to begin a monthly Messy Church (or equivalent monthly family worship service), with current and new volunteers, that builds on the engagement and goodwill of families in our community that has been shown in our periodic worship of this nature

1.5 to lead, with volunteers, the weekly baby and toddler group, in the church building on a Thursday morning, with a strong and intentional Christian ethos

1. **KEY TASKS**

2.1 Responsibility for providing a sustainable, varied and quality provision for children and families at St Anne’s and in the community, through training, walking alongside and encouraging volunteers, growing relationships and building a firm foundation of discipleship.

2.2 Develop and deliver programmes that disciple children through sound biblical teaching and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

2.3 Identify skills and talents relevant to children’s work, within the congregation, and to nurture and develop these gifts.

2.4 Working alongside the Vicar develop teaching opportunities in St Anne’s school, particularly with reception and KS1 children – a particular emphasis on Godly play would be welcome but not essential.

2.5 Develop relationships with families through the provision of a baby and toddler group signposting them to baptisms and faith nurture groups

2.6 Comply personally with the church safeguarding policy and ensure compliance by all children’s leaders.

2.7 As a member of the staff team, to play an active part in shaping and implementing the vision of the church.

2.8 In discussion with the Vicar set achievable objectives and record measurable outcomes

1. **PERSON SPECIFICATION**

Applicants will need to demonstrate that they possess knowledge, skills and competencies in the areas below. Evidence of commitment and ability will be essential. Evidence of previous experience in these areas is desirable but not essential.

We are looking for someone who is able to:

* Make and build on links with individuals of all ages, and community organisations, whose involvement with the Church is limited.
* We will give license to the successful candidate to think differently and radically in the way we deliver children’s work at St Anne’s and so a passion, drive and vision for this would be need to be evident in the individual we appoint.
* Work collaboratively – especially with church members, volunteers, colleagues, school staff, ecumenical partners and other agencies.
* Exercise leadership in ways that both inspire and empower people of different ages and backgrounds.
* Develop and co-ordinate projects, events and people that will become sustainable
* Communicate effectively in a variety of styles and formats to a broad range of people with varying outlooks, ages and understanding
* Develop and lead acts and patterns of worship appropriate to diverse groups and situations
* Be self-motivated and prioritise and organise their own work effectively
* Be administratively self-supporting and competent in the use of relevant IT programmes and multi-media equipment
* Demonstrate a willingness to engage in further training where appropriate in areas relevant to the post

**QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

No qualifications are required however relevant experience of working with families and/or children of a younger age would be desirable.

This post is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced DBS disclosure.

This post carries a genuine occupational requirement for a practicing Christian.