



JOIN OUR TEAM!

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORKER

For the Parish of Swarcliffe and Whinmoor, Leeds

www.stlukescommunity.church

Full time 37.5 hours

Salary: £27 - 30,000 based on

qualifications and experience

5 weeks of annual leave plus bank holidays.

Pension Provision



Hi, I'm Hannah Jones, the Vicar of the new Parish of Swarcliffe and Whinmoor.

We are at the beginning of an exciting new chapter for St Luke's and St Paul's Community Churches. We are building two welcoming worshipping communities where people can meet Jesus, find genuine community and grow in faith.

This role is a real opportunity to help shape the youth and children's ministry across our new parish. You would join a committed team passionate about following Jesus, loving people, and serving the communities of Swarcliffe and Whinmoor.

We are looking for someone with experience working with children and young people, with a passion for building creative ministries to help children and young people encounter faith, engage with church community, and flourish as children of God.

If this role interests you, I would be very happy to arrange an informal discovery call or a visit to meet the team, see the churches and get a feel for what God is doing here. I look forward to meeting you and praying for you as you consider this role.

Rev Hannah Jones

Vicar, Parish of Swarcliffe and Whinmoor



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We are excited to offer this opportunity to join our planting team in the new Parish of Swarcliffe and Whinmoor in East Leeds. The role is a key senior leadership position, working alongside the Vicar, Wardens, and Children's and Youth Worker to establish the Parish of Swarcliffe and Whinmoor, with two churches re-established in the area. We are looking for someone who could bring creativity, energy and vision, alongside strong organisational and administrative skills. This is a role you have the opportunity to shape and develop at the very outset of our journey.

Please get in contact for a conversation, hannah.jones@stlukescommunity.church, or come and meet us to get a sense of all St Luke's and St Paul's have to offer

Background

PARISH OF SWARCLIFFE AND WHINMOOR

The Parish of Swarcliffe and Whinmoor is brand-new and came into being on 14th May 2026. Worship began at St Luke's Community Church on Sunday 6 September 2026, led by a church planting team, headed by our Vicar, Rev. Hannah Jones. The planting team was sent by St George's', a resource church based in the centre of Leeds committed to church planting. The vision for the parish is that, over the next two years, we will have planted two churches that are vibrant, multi-generational congregations, actively serving their communities.

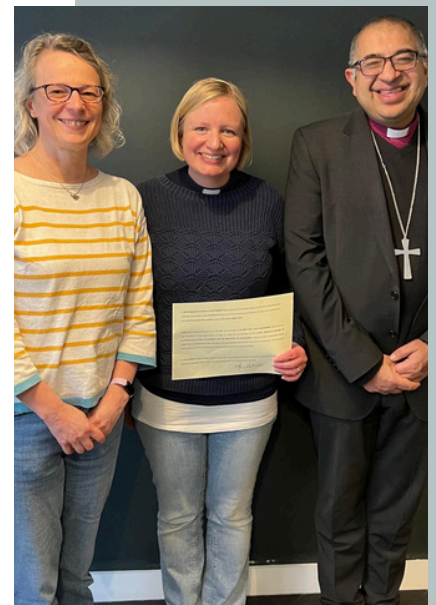
ST. LUKE'S COMMUNITY CHURCH BACKGROUND

St. Luke's was originally planted in 1961, and worship continued until December 2011. Since then, the building has been used as a community space and rented by local groups. At the heart of re-establishing St. Luke's as a worshipping community is seeing new people come to know Christ. The calling of St. Luke's is to be a blessing to the parish, with a particular call to the poor and the young.

WHINMOOR ST PAUL'S CHURCH BACKGROUND

St Paul's Community Church Background

St Paul's C of E Primary School, a dual site established as both a school and a church, is also in our parish (in Whinmoor). There has not been regular worship here since 2020 (though links with the previous parish of Seacroft have been maintained). Over the next two years, we will build a strong presence within the school, forming relationships with families and the wider community. This will enable us to re-establish Sunday worship in 2028.





Part of the Diocese of Leeds Strategic Mission initiative.

The Diocese of Leeds has successfully secured national funding (SMMIB bid) for church planting and revitalization and the church plant in Swarcliffe and Whinmoor has been awarded money from the SMMIB. This will help revitalise the church building of St Luke's, re-establish the church, cover initial running costs, and fund two paid roles: an Operations and Ministry Co-ordinator and a Children's and Youth Worker.



Our vision is: Follow Jesus, love people

We gather together to create a church where people can meet Jesus, find genuine community and grow in faith. We want to build a place that feels like home – centred on 'Following Jesus and Loving People' – where families and individuals of every age can belong, encounter God, and flourish together. (Matthew 22: 37-38)

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Leeds



Together

We are gathered into a new family to share life around Tables – through communion, sharing food, and community together.



Accepted

All are welcomed and accepted by God, forgiven, and renewed to live lives free from sin and shame.



Blessed

We receive God's blessing through a relationship with Him – peace beyond understanding, joy in adversity, and hope in Jesus.



Loved

Our identity is rooted in being God's beloved children, called to live out His love in how we treat others.



Empowered

We are empowered by the Holy Spirit through encounter, worship and prayer, sent to serve with confidence and generosity.

Buildings:

St Luke's Community Church is a 1960s building with striking architecture, a main sanctuary, a community hall and some offices and meeting rooms. It has a large garden to the rear of the church. The building is a very usable space and a considerable asset to the local area. The building needs substantial investment. With the money from the SMIBB bid, we will be able to make the building watertight, warm, and welcoming to all. We have two phases of building works:

Phase 1

Prepare the community hall for worship in September, install heating, add some decorations, and refresh the kitchen, toilets, and offices.

Phase 2

Under the direction of an appointed architect, we will make major repairs to the roof, replace all the windows and install heating. We hope to be worshipping in the main sanctuary by Easter 2027.

The garden: we are trying to secure local investment and funding to make it a beautiful, inviting space for the community and nature.

People:

We have a strong planting team, with a PCC and wardens. Many of the team have been on the journey for the last two years and are very committed to the vision of seeing the Parish of Swarcliffe and Whinmoor become known as a community where Jesus shines, where there is pride and identity in where we live.

We will have two paid roles that work alongside the Vicar, Wardens, and PCC: Operations and Ministry Coordinator, and a Children's and Youth worker.

Finance:

Finances are overseen by our volunteer Treasurer, and we hope to recruit a Trainee Treasurer over the next year. Our finances currently consist of a gift from St George's, the SMIBB bid, and the regular giving from the planting team.



Children's and youth worker - job description



Main Purpose

To develop our children's and youth ministry across the parish. The role involves leading a team of volunteers to run youth groups, after-school groups, Toddler group, help deliver RE lessons, and collective worship in the schools; helping lead elements of Sunday worship; and helping lead Messy Church and termly events.

Accountability

The Children and Youth Worker will work alongside the vicar, wardens, and Ministry and Operations Coordinator to continue developing St Luke's Community Church and Whinmoor St Paul's Church in the parish of Swarcliffe and Whinmoor. The Children's and Youth Worker would be accountable to the PCC as an employer through their line manager, the vicar.

Key Responsibilities

The Role

- The successful applicant will lead and develop ministry among children, young people and families, helping them to:
- encounter Jesus personally
- grow as disciples
- belong within the life of the church and
- share faith confidently in everyday life.
- The role combines hands-on ministry with leadership and vision. We are looking for someone who can teach God's word to children and youth in an engaging and contemporary way, whilst also building teams, encouraging volunteers and developing strong relationships with families and the wider community.

Volunteer Leadership

- Recruit, train, support, and supervise volunteers involved in children's ministry.
- Build and maintain a healthy volunteer culture that reflects the values and mission of the parish.
- Coordinate volunteer rotas and ensure appropriate staffing of activities.
- Provide regular communication, encouragement, training, and support to volunteers.



Strategic and Missional

- The Children and Youth Worker role is relational. Working collaboratively and prayerfully with an exciting team, including the vicar, Ministry and Operations Coordinator, church wardens, and PCC, to deliver St Luke's and St Paul's vision as community churches, taking the lead in Children's and Youth ministry, helping deliver services and events throughout the year across the 2 sites.
- Attend weekly staff meetings and manage the day-to-day running of the children and youth programme of St Luke's and St Paul's according to the values, standards and budgets agreed by the PCC.
- Assist with sustaining and developing St Luke's and St Paul's relationship with key partners across the parish, including Whinmoor St Paul's C of E Primary School, the diocese and other local churches.

Children's and Families Ministry

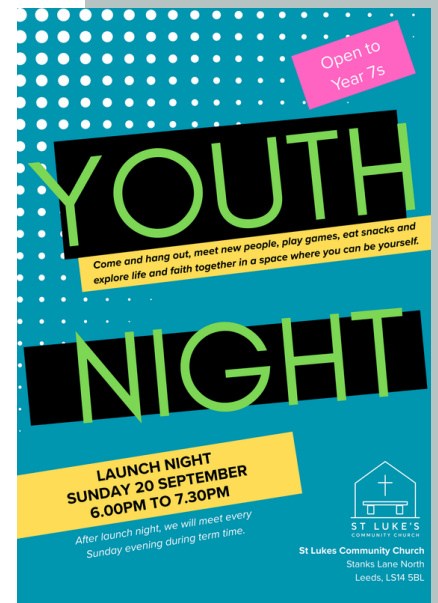
- Provide vision, leadership, and strategic development for children's and families' ministry.
- Build pathways from children's ministry into youth and young adulthood.
- Encourage stronger connections between generations.
- Be part of the team that plans and delivers engaging, intergenerational Sunday services.
- Ensure that children and families are welcomed, supported, and encouraged to participate fully in church life.
- Develop opportunities for discipleship, faith formation, prayer, worship, and fellowship for children and families through messy church, parent and toddler groups and Sunday services.
- Prepare children and young people for baptism and confirmation as required.
- Foster relationships with families who come into regular contact with the church through our children's and youth groups, events, and work with local schools.

General Duties

- Work with clergy and the wider ministry team to integrate children and families into the worshipping life of the church.
- Encourage participation in services, church events, festivals, and special celebrations.

Schools and Community Engagement

- Grow strong working relationships with Whinmoor St Paul's Church of England School. Plan and lead a weekly after-school group, go on school trips, and lead collective worship.
- Visit other local schools, delivering lessons and leading collective worship as needed.
- Represent the church positively within the local community and school networks. Create missional connections with children, young people and their families within the parish.





Team time

- Attend and contribute to the weekly staff prayer meeting.
- Provide reports of work as requested.



Safeguarding and Administration

- Ensure all activities are delivered in accordance with safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Support the administration of volunteer DBS checks alongside other members of the parish team.
- Maintain accurate records, attendance information, and relevant ministry documentation.
- Contribute to parish communications relating to children and families' activities.
- Participate in staff meetings, planning sessions, training, and parish events as required.



Essential qualities, skills & experience required

- A committed and practising Christian able to articulate and model their faith. The successful applicant would be expected to be fully involved in the life of the church and committed to its mission and worship.
- Willing to work within the Church of England's authority structures.
- Able to work with initiative within the vision and values of the Parish of Swarcliffe and Whinmoor.
- An enhanced DBS disclosure is required. Safeguarding training must also be completed online.
- Experience of leading or coordinating children's, families', youth, or church-based ministry.
- Able to teach the Bible to all children and youth in clear, creative, engaging and relevant ways.
- Able to engage effectively with children, parents, volunteers, and church members.
- Have strong organisational and administrative skills.
- Have experience of recruiting, managing, and supporting volunteers.
- Have excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Able to work collaboratively within a team.
- Commit to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.
- Be confident in using modern technology and relevant online platforms.

Desirable qualities, skills and experience

- Relevant theological, educational, children's work, or youth work qualification.
- To hold a valid driving licence.
- Experience of working within the Church of England or a similar church context.
- Experience of working with schools.
- Experience of planning and managing events and activities.

What we offer

- A supportive and encouraging church family.
- An opportunity to shape and grow ministry at a significant moment in the new parish of Swarcliffe and Whinmoor.
- Close support from the Vicar and Leadership Team. A healthy team culture with a strong commitment to prayer, discipleship, and mission.
- Opportunities for ministry development through attendance at relevant conferences, training, spiritual direction (provided by the diocese) and internal mentoring.
- Your welfare is important to us, and we will provide healthy working patterns, a generous holiday allowance, and opportunities for retreats.





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OPERATIONS AND MINISTRY CO-ORDINATOR

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Terms and Conditions

- Full-time, 37.5 hours per week, predominantly within normal office hours, but does require regular flexible working on evenings and weekends, including Sundays, with time in lieu assured. The post is office-based at St Luke's Church. Some negotiation is possible.
- Salary: £27 - 30,000 based on qualifications and experience, plus a contributory pension scheme.
- 5 weeks' annual leave, plus bank holidays (The successful applicant may be required to work some bank holidays, such as Good Friday and Easter Day, but you will receive the days back in lieu).
- There will be a 6-month probationary period.
- Any job offer will be subject to two satisfactory references and an enhanced DBS check. The Parish of Swarcliffe and Whinmoor is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

APPLICATION PROCESS

For an informal conversation about the role, please contact the vicar, Rev. Hannah Jones: hannah.jones@stlukescommunity.church

To apply for the role, please send a CV and a personal statement by Thursday 26th November at 12 pm. Shortlisting will take place on Friday 27th November. Interviews will take place on Sunday 6th December.

YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT SHOULD INCLUDE:

- Why you have applied for this position
- How you fulfil the criteria for the job
- What excites you about the vision and values of the Parish of Swarcliffe and Whinmoor.

You will be asked to include the contact details for two references, to be contacted following an offer of employment:

- Professional reference from current or most recent employer.
- Character reference from your church leader or another suitable person of responsibility.

If shortlisted, you will receive an invitation to interview on Sunday 6th December at St Luke's Community Church, Swarcliffe, Leeds LS14 5BL

