

# Do you feel called to ministry with children, young people & families?



## The Children, Young People and Families Team

# Welcome to this booklet exploring a vocation to children and youth ministry.

The Children, Youth and Families team are here  
to support and encourage you in this calling.



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# What is Children, Youth and Families ministry?

Ministry to children, young people and families can be very varied.

It can include mission and outreach activities such as toddler groups, family fun days, schools work, youth drop in sessions or holiday clubs.

It may look like faith education with Sunday School or afterschool church, Messy Church or Muddy Church.

It can also be family support for life events such as baptism or weddings, and encouraging discipleship at home with Parenting for Faith, for example.

It can be developing worship services to be intergenerational and accessible for all ages and abilities.

At the heart of this ministry, it is about providing space, resources and support for children, young people and their families to come to faith and grow in faith.

# Exploring your calling to children and youth ministry

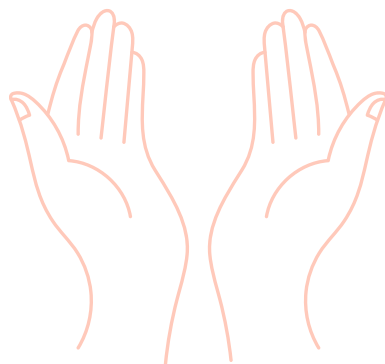
It is an immense privilege to journey with children, young people and their families as they explore faith. Those called to children and youth ministry are passionate about helping them find their place in God's church - is this for you?

A great place to start is to prayerfully consider these questions:

Do you enjoy working with children and young people?

Do you care about their physical, emotional, mental and spiritual wellbeing?

Do you want to support them and their families coming to faith in Jesus and growing in faith?





Do you want to find different ways for them to engage with their faith and discover a living relationship with Jesus?

Do you want to empower children to find their purpose and identity in Jesus?

Do you want to advocate for the needs of children and young people to be met in church?

Is it important to you that children's voices are heard and listened to in church?



**If the answer is YES to all of these questions then the next step is to get some experience and develop your skills.**

# What skills do I need to be involved in children and youth ministry?

It helps to have the following:

- A passion for faith in Jesus, an openness to developing your own discipleship and a willingness to learn.
- An understanding of the culture and influences on families, children and young people and awareness of potential pastoral issues that may arise.
- The ability to develop and nurture relationships of trust and respect with children, young people and their parents.
- Good listening skills, patience, and the ability to stay calm under pressure
- Teamwork
- An ability to communicate theological ideas and concepts in simple, creative, understandable ways.

- An understanding of safe practice when working with children and young people
- Experience in planning and preparing resources and materials or organising events

The best way to explore a calling to this ministry is to give it a try.

A good place to start is talking to your vicar about what is already happening at your church with children and young people and how you might get involved.

If there aren't any activities happening and you and your vicar would like to explore what is possible, please do contact our team as we would be delighted to help you discuss this and inspire you:  
[childrenyouth@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:childrenyouth@leeds.anglican.org)

Before you begin working with children and young people, there are a few practical things which you will need to do before you start.

**1**

**Firstly talk to your vicar/church leader about what you're interested in and what opportunities there might be.**

**2**

**Once you've identified what you'd like to try, there are some safer recruitment procedures to follow for everyone who volunteers with children and young people. Speak with your Parish Safeguarding Officer who will help you with these.**

**3**

**Next, you will need to do the online Basic and Foundation Safeguarding training courses.**

**We also recommend that you complete our 'Ministry with Children and Young People' course.**

**4**

**In your parish you should have a volunteer role description and agreement form to help you know what your role entails and also where your support will come from.**

*Details of the safeguarding training and how to access it can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/SGLeeds>*



# How we can help with your

## **Ministry with Children and Young People course**

Three hours of input, discussion and reflection, designed to help you develop/refresh the essential skills and knowledge needed for children's and youth ministry

## **Visits/conversations**

Speak to a member of the team about how we can help to support you in your ministry

## **Learning Communities**

Gather with others involved with similar ministries from across the diocese to share ideas and wisdom and pray for one another: Messy Church, Employed Workers, Additional Needs, Toddler Groups and Growing Faith

**Diocese  
Children,  
& Families**



# training and development

**of Leeds**

**Young People**

**Team**

## **Annual TEND event:**

An opportunity to worship, to learn, to be equipped and affirmed and to network with others from across the diocese who are involved in children, youth and families ministry

## **Courses**

We run a variety of in-depth courses throughout the year, such as Youthscape Essentials

## **Workshops**

The team offer a range of workshops on topics such as intergenerational prayer/worship, toddler group storytelling and faith sharing, handling challenging behaviour and engaging with schools. We also can facilitate PCC vision sessions or church away days focusing on children and youth ministry

# What about becoming an employed children, youth and families minister?

If you are thinking about applying for a job as an employed children's or youth worker, here are some important considerations:

## **Spiritual development, character, integrity**

- Can you demonstrate how you are growing in your own discipleship, developing your theological understanding?
- Are you willing to pray for the children you serve and seek God's guidance for the ministry you do with them?
- Are you aware that you are a role model to families and their kids and how you live your life matters?
- Have you thought about how children's faith develops and what church can do best to support this?

## **Leadership skills**

- Do you have opportunities to lead activities?
- Are you willing to take on more responsibility to recruit and manage volunteers?

- Can you help the team you work with reflect on what God is doing, what is working and what might need to change?
- Can you mentor and coach other volunteers?

### **Communication skills**

- Can you set a vision for children/youth ministry and articulate this to clergy, PCC or parents?
- What could you do to build links with local schools and community organisations?
- Do you use social media to promote events to families?

### **Administration skills**

- Can you plan a curriculum or organise rotas?
- Can you keep all the necessary paperwork up to date and stored safely?

### **Safeguarding**

- Have you done the Safeguarding Leadership training?
- Do you know what will be required of you as a leader to organise activities?

**What experience do you bring from your life so far  
- working, studying, social?**

# Ideas to develop the skills and abilities of an employed children and youth minister

- Children's Ministry Essentials and/or Youthscape Essentials training courses.
- Degree courses in youth work or children's ministry
- The Church of England's Safeguarding leadership course
- Shadow an employed worker in another church to see what they do.
- Keep up to date with developments in children and youth ministry by following the organisations such as the Growing Faith Foundation
- Explore being a Mission Apprentice or Intern in the Diocese with a specific focus on youth and children's work.



# Where to find jobs/support as an Employed Children, Youth and Families Worker

## Job sites:

- Diocese of Leeds  
<https://www.leeds.anglican.org/vacancies/nonclergy-vacancies/>
- Leeds Children and Youth Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LeedsCandY>
- Church of England Pathways  
<https://pathways.churchofengland.org/en/jobs>
- Premier Jobsearch <https://premierjobsearch.co.uk/>
- Church Drum <https://www.churchdrum.co.uk/>

What support is available for employed children and youth workers from the Diocese?

- Employed Worker Learning Community
- Annual retreat day
- Goal-setting day with line manager

For more information about any of the above, please contact [childrenyouth@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:childrenyouth@leeds.anglican.org) to arrange a conversation.

**For more information:**

**[childrenyouth@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:childrenyouth@leeds.anglican.org)**

**[www.leeds.anglican.org/children-and-youth-work/](http://www.leeds.anglican.org/children-and-youth-work/)**

**You can arrange to receive the Children, Young People and Family Team newsletter by subscribing to the Digital Learning Platform at <https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/register/> and then ticking the ‘Children & Youth’ and ‘Sign me up’ boxes!**