



Parish of Newport and Carisbrooke with Gatcombe

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Role Description

Children's Worker

Part of the Growing Hope project

August 2026

Role Summary

Role title	Children's Worker
Employer	The Parochial Church Council of Newport and Carisbrooke with Gatcombe
Responsible to	The Team Rector, working closely with the clergy team, Creative Worship Lead and the Growing Hope team
Location	Newport Minster, the Hope Centre, parish groups and community settings (including two church primary schools)
Hours	20 hours per week, worked flexibly across Sunday afternoons, weekday mornings and school-term weekdays; flexing in school holidays towards holiday programmes and family events.
Salary	£15,000
Expenses	Paid in accordance with the Parish's Expenses Policy
Term	12-month fixed-term contract, with a hoped-for extension, subject to funding.
Start date	October 2026 (or as soon as possible thereafter)
Requirements	Genuine Occupational Requirement to be a practising Christian (Equality Act 2010, Sch. 9); enhanced DBS, child workforce, with barred-list check; safer recruitment; domestic abuse, safer recruitment and safeguarding training (to Local Leadership/PTO level).

The Context

Growing Hope is a three-year missional project of Newport Minster, supported by a number of strategic partners, including the Diocese of Portsmouth and Benefact Trust. Among other things, it redeploys the Minster's Parish Centre as the Hope Centre.

This post is the strand of Growing Hope that closes the gap which so often sees children's and youth ministry develop in parallel tracks rather than as a coherent strategy.

Purpose of the Role

To help children and families across Newport encounter Jesus — through the new Family Service, a re-launched toddler café, and warm, faithful presence in community settings (including our two church primary schools) — and to build links enabling children to move confidently into the youth ministry of the Hope Centre. Alongside - to resource, bless, encourage and support parents in their role of bringing children up in the christian faith.

Key Responsibilities

1. Children's ministry at the Minster Family Service (Sunday afternoons)

- Provide dedicated leadership of children's ministry at the new Minster Family Service: age-appropriate groups, creative activities and all-age moments through which children genuinely worship rather than merely attend.
- Work closely with the Creative Worship Lead, who plays a leading role in the service's worship, so that children's provision and worship form one whole.
- Recruit, train and encourage a team of volunteers, and build warm relationships with parents, carers and whole families — the Family Service is a front door for households, not children alone.

2. The toddler play-and-stay café (timing tbc)

- Re-launch and lead the Minster's toddler play-and-stay café: a welcoming, unhurried space of play, coffee and friendship for babies, toddlers and their grown-ups.
- Build trusted relationships with parents, carers and grandparents — many at risk of isolation — and create gentle, pressure-free pathways from the café into the Family Service and the wider life of the Minster.
- Develop a small hosting team of volunteers so the café is sustainable and does not rest on one person.

3. Wider Parish and Community engagement

- Working with the clergy team, supporting engagement with our two church primary schools, encouraging and strengthening each school's re-launched ethos, rooted in Luke 5 and the miraculous catch of fish.
- Serve through small-group and class-based work and by supporting staff.
- Lead the parishes support of Year 6 transition work: helping children approach the move to secondary school with confidence, and providing a bridge into the Hope Centre — visits, taster sessions and a warm handover into youth provision.
- Support other parish ministries such as 'Chatterbox' - by being part of the team and encouraging the leadership and parents who attend.
- Engage in wider community settings to explore how children's work might be best expressed for this parish in the years to come. Liaising and thinking this through in collaboration with parish leadership, deanery leaders and diocesan CYF team.

4. The bridge, records and safeguarding

- Steward, with the Creative Worship Lead, the Years 5–8 at the heart of the Growing Hope discipleship pathway, meeting regularly to plan and share this together.
- Keep records of participation and pathways in ChurchSuite, and contribute to the shared outcomes framework reported to the PCC, the diocese and funders.
- Work at all times within diocesan and parish safeguarding policies; complete diocesan safeguarding training; play a full part in staff team meetings and prayer rhythms.
- Build bridges across organisations where possible - especially linking in with Island wide children's workers and Portsmouth Diocese CYF team.

The Shape of the Week

An illustrative pattern for the 20 hours in term time; school-facing hours flex in holidays towards holiday clubs, family events and planning.

Rhythm	Illustrative content
Sunday afternoon (c.4 hrs)	Family Service at the Minster: set-up and volunteer briefing, children's groups and activities, welcoming families, pack-down and team debrief.
A weekday morning (c.4 hrs)	Toddler play-and-stay café: set-up, hosting, conversations with parents and carers, follow-up with newcomers.
Community sessions (c.8 hrs)	Working within our wider parish to encourage children's ministry across the parish and wider partners and community (this will likely involve supporting our two primary schools)
Flexible (c.4 hrs)	Preparation and planning; volunteer development; weekly team meeting and prayer; ChurchSuite records; regular planning and collaboration with the Creative Worship Lead; mentoring and supporting parents.

Person Specification

Essential

- A mature and growing personal Christian faith, with a genuine care for the spiritual flourishing of children and families in and around Newport (Genuine Occupational Requirement).
- Experience of children's ministry or children's work — in church, school, early years or community settings — including leading groups and creative activities.
- The relational warmth to win the trust of toddlers' parents, Year 6 pupils and school staff alike, and the maturity and sensitivity to serve credibly in schools.
- Ability to recruit, organise and encourage volunteers, and to manage a part-time role spread across several settings with good planning and communication.
- The highest commitment to excellence in safeguarding, abiding by all church related policies, record keeping and working within clear professional boundaries.
- Highly organised with attention to detail - willing to take responsibility for getting things finished not just started and to helping wherever there is need or as discussed with the Rector.

Desirable

- A relevant qualification in children's or family ministry, education or early years.
- Experience of toddler groups or parent-and-child provision, and of school transition work.
- Familiarity with Church of England school ethos and SIAMS; creative gifts in storytelling, craft or music.
- Knowledge of the Isle of Wight, or readiness to commit to Island life.

Terms and Appointment

- Appointed by the PCC of Newport and Carisbrooke with Gatcombe, following diocesan safer recruitment procedures.
 - Genuine Occupational Requirement: the role involves nurturing children in the Christian faith; the post-holder must be a practising Christian in sympathy with the ethos and teaching of the Church of England (Equality Act 2010, Sch. 9).
 - Subject to an enhanced DBS check with children's barred-list check, satisfactory references, before regulated activity commences. Church of England safeguarding training to be completed within 3 months of appointment.
 - Holiday, pension and probationary arrangements per PCC standard terms; 12-month fixed term with extension anticipated subject to funding.
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