

Appendix II

OLD ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPLAIN

Congregational view

The Old Royal Naval College Chapel has been a place of worship for three centuries, providing support and enrichment to what for most of that time was a largely naval community. In recent years and especially since the closure of the Royal Naval College the Chapel has served a broader community and the congregation has become more diverse. The Chapel lies within the Parish of St Alfege and there is a close and fruitful complementary relationship between the clergy teams of both places of worship.

Prior to the pandemic the average congregation for Sunday worship was of the order of 100, mainly adults, of whom the majority took communion. After a period of closure during the pandemic the size of the congregation has been slowly rising towards that level again. The congregation is not confined to local residents: members come from far and wide in South East London and from a variety of backgrounds. They are attracted variously by the use of the Book of Common Prayer as the basis for the liturgy, by the high quality of the music provided by Trinity Laban Conservatoire, by the quality of the Chaplain's spiritual leadership, by the physical beauty and tranquillity of the Chapel and its environment, by the Chapel's maritime background, or by a combination of these factors. In summary, those who worship in the Chapel do so because what it offers is liturgically distinctive, musically impressive, spiritually valuable and personally enriching.

The core requirement for the congregation is the provision of a morning service every Sunday based on the Book of Common Prayer (Order Two), though Order One may be used on selected occasions. Usually this will be a Choral Eucharist (Sung or Said Eucharist during Trinity Laban vacations), but occasionally Matins may be substituted. In addition it is the practice to hold Evensong (with the Choir) on Mondays during termtime. Services are also held to celebrate the major Christian festivals. Members of the congregation also look to the Chaplain for pastoral care and to conduct weddings, baptisms and funeral or memorial services.

The congregation are looking for a Chaplain who is an enthusiast for (or at least comfortable with) the Book of Common Prayer, takes a keen interest in Church music, is a sympathetic pastor and an accomplished spiritual teacher, whose preaching both comforts and challenges the congregation, and respects the maritime tradition of the Chapel. The congregation take pride in ensuring that the Chapel is a welcoming, friendly and inclusive place. It is important that the Chaplain can reach out to people of all generations and backgrounds and particularly that he/she can bring young people into the Chapel community, for example from the University of Greenwich and Trinity Laban Conservatoire. Given the diverse nature of the Chaplain's role and the many relationships which need to be maintained in good repair, the congregation also recognise the importance of him/her possessing organisational and administrative skills and being a team player. We shall hope to find a Chaplain who is personally mature, is a good listener, shows understanding of the concerns of members of the congregation and possesses a good sense of humour.