

Chaplain to the Old Royal Naval College

Job Description

Additional Information

The Greenwich Foundation for the Old Royal Naval College (ORNC)

The Greenwich Foundation is the charity responsible for the conservation and upkeep of the ORNC with the remit to promote public access, benefit and enjoyment of the site. The Foundation has over 70 staff, many part time, and more than 100 volunteers. The ORNC is one of the most popular free visitor attractions in the country and currently attracts in excess of 1m visitors each year. Many of these enjoy the main public areas of the site, namely the Painted Hall, the Chapel, the Visitor Centre and the extensive grounds. A visit to the Chapel is part of the daily guided site tour and it is open daily from 10.00am to 5.00pm.

The ORNC is also home to the University of Greenwich (Maritime Campus) and Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance.

The Chapel is first and foremost a working church with a regular and dedicated congregation for the 11.00am Sunday service and Monday Choral Evensong at 5.30pm. As the spiritual heart of the site weddings, funerals, memorials and baptisms take place for the community within ORNC and those who attend the Chapel services regularly. The Chapel is also the focus for special services that might be welcomed as part of the naval connection, such as the annual service to commemorate the "Immortal Memory of Admiral Lord Nelson" who lay in state in the Painted Hall, in early January each year.

The Chapel also hosts a range of daily events, which can include recitals, concerts, graduations, student open days and citizenship ceremonies. The Foundation employs a Chapel Manager to manage these events and the busy Chapel diary. Visitor assistants and volunteers engage with visitors to the Chapel so that their visit is as enjoyable and informative as it can be. The present Chaplain has been proactive in running briefing sessions for staff and volunteers to enrich the visitor experience with a sense of what it means to be a working church at the heart of a place of visit.

Qualified conservation staff and consultants, including a retained Surveyor of the Fabric, take care of the repairs to the Chapel. Contributions to the cost of particular projects are made by the Chapel Fund Trustees and other benefactors, otherwise the cost falls to the Foundation. Most recently there was a collaboration to raise funds to install a lift to the Chapel to provide access for those unable to scale the impressive but steep steps into the Chapel space. Current fundraising is focused on the restoration of the Benjamin West Altarpiece and looking forward there will need to be a major fundraising campaign for the 1789 Samuel Green organ.

The Chaplain is responsible for all religious services in the Chapel and how the spiritual capital and purpose work with the needs of being open to the public, hosting events and filming. The Chaplain is employed by the Greenwich Foundation and a member of the Senior Management Team, reporting directly to the Chief Executive. The Chaplain has line management responsibility for the Chapel Manager with whom they work as a close team. The Director of Chapel Music and Chapel organist are employed by Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance but are responsible to the Chaplain for matters of music supplied for Chapel services. The Chaplain offers pastoral care to the staff and volunteers of the Greenwich Foundation.

The Diocese of Southwark, through the Archdeacon of Lewisham and Greenwich, will provide ministerial support and guidance, with a regular MDR (Ministerial Development Review) and access to Continuing Ministerial Education, and other training and development opportunities available to clergy within the Diocese. The post of Chaplain to the Old Royal Naval College is of Incumbent status and the postholder will also be licensed as an Assistant Priest at St Alfege, Greenwich, the parish in which ORNC sits. The Chaplain is a member of the local Deanery Chapter, meeting regularly with clergy colleagues and attending Diocesan Synod/Forum.

Outline Description of the role

The role of Chaplain is to provide organised worship and pastoral care for all the communities involved in the site of the Old Royal Naval College; principally the congregation of the chapel the students and staff of the University of Greenwich (Maritime Campus) and Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, staff and volunteers of the Greenwich Foundation and the many visitors to the site.

Old Royal Naval College Chapel and Congregation

The focus of worship is the Chapel of the Old Royal Naval College. The congregation averages about one hundred on a Sunday morning and includes both those who have been attached to the Chapel since before the Navy left in 1999 and those who have joined since. The core requirement for the congregation is the provision of a morning service every Sunday (Eucharist with occasional Matins) and to celebrate the major Christian festivals. The standard liturgies are based on the Book of Common Prayer although Common Worship traditional formats may be used where the BCP does not fully recognise a festival.

The high standard of Chapel music is a draw for many that attend services. The choir currently numbers 28 young singers, many of whom are music students at the Conservatoire. The music for regular services is planned a term in advance by the Director of Music and the Chapel organist and usually published as a Term programme. Advice on the music for special services such as the dedication of the Chapel lift or the Solemn Choral Evensong on the eve of the Funeral of HRH Prince Philip is given to assist the Chaplain in putting together special liturgies. Music for weddings and funerals/memorials is also given, with the Chapel organist taking the lead for these.

There is a particular pastoral role to the Chapel Choir (The Old Royal Naval College Trinity Laban Chapel Choir). These young people are balancing full study or work commitments with a heavy singing and rehearsing schedule as part of the chapel choir. Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance sponsor a number of choral scholars, as do Morden College and the Chapel Fund. The Chaplain may accompany the choir on tour overseas or in the UK.

The congregation will also look to the Chaplain for pastoral and spiritual care and to conduct baptism, marriage and funeral services. This post requires someone who has strong preaching and teaching skills and who is able to relate to people of all generations and backgrounds. The Chaplain chairs the Chaplaincy Council and sits on the board of the Chapel Fund Trustees, both *ex officio*. (These two bodies form the PCC equivalent with the Chairman of Chapel Fund Trustees and the Vice-Chair of the Chaplaincy Council standing as the two senior members of the congregation and to whom the Chaplain may look for support and guidance as they might from Church Wardens.)

The Chaplain is the Safeguarding Officer for the Chapel in regard to all services and activities involving the worshipping community and part of the senior Safeguarding Team at the Greenwich Foundation.

Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance

The Chaplain will offer pastoral and spiritual care to the staff and students of Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. The Chaplain is part of the Student Services team and has a close working relationship with the Head of Student Services. The Chaplain is invited to attend the bimonthly meeting of the Safeguarding Working Group. It is also important to maintain key relationships such as with the Senior Counsellor and the Head of Music. The Director of Chapel Music reports to the latter.

Chaplain to the University of Greenwich

The Chaplain is expected to offer spiritual and pastoral support to the students and staff of the University of Greenwich who are studying or working on the Maritime Campus. There are also two free church volunteer Chaplains at the University's other sites with whom the ORNC Chaplain is expected to work closely. There is a colleague, also an incumbent in the Diocese of Southwark, who works at the Avery Hill Campus two days per week and a full time Anglican Chaplain working across all institutions on the Medway Campus.

The Chaplains meet formally each term, convened by the Deputy Director of Students Services, and informally as needed.

The Chaplaincy offers support to those of faith and none, works ecumenically and across faiths. Chaplains are members of the Welfare and Student Support team in the Office of Student Affairs and play an important role in providing support and comfort to students and staff in the event of a critical incident or death and assisting if required with any

services of remembrance. The Chaplains advise and support as necessary and might be invited to take part in inductions, freshers' week or attend welfare and other meetings. There is a Faith Room in the Dreadnought Building on the Greenwich site. This is open for use by all faiths and managed by the Student's Union. The Chaplaincy signposts students to local churches, organises social events and offers support to students who may be residential over periods such as Christmas and Easter when the University is closed.

Working with chaplaincy colleagues and the Director of the University choir, the site Chaplain organises the University Carol Service which is held in the Chapel.

Associate Minister in the parish of Greenwich, St Alfege

The chapel is within the boundaries of the parish of Greenwich, St. Alfege, the post holder will be licensed as an Associate Minister in the parish. The Chaplain is a member of the ministry team at the parish church. Joint services are held on Ash Wednesday (alternating venues) and Good Friday (starting with the Liturgy of the Cross at the Chapel and finishing with the Three Hours' Mediation at St Alfege). Midnight Mass is held at St Alfege and at the Chapel congregation have their own Eucharist in the Chapel on Christmas morning. The Chaplain and the Vicar may collaborate on other services such as an evening service for All Souls. Joint courses are held at Lent and on other occasions such as the recent Living in Love and Faith course. The Chaplain and the Vicar currently meet each morning at St Alfege to share morning prayer. They meet informally as needed and offer pastoral support when the other is on leave.

Terms and Conditions

The Chaplain will be a Church of England priest and will be employed by the Greenwich Foundation. The salary will be based on the clergy stipend rate for clergy in the Diocese of Southwark, with membership of the Clergy Pension Scheme. The Foundation will also cover the cost of the Chaplain's accommodation, either by arranging it directly or paying an appropriate allowance.