

St Chad's College, Durham University

Chaplain/Doctoral Fellow

Job Description

St Chad's College is looking for an ordained Anglican priest interested in combining College chaplaincy with doctoral studies at the University of Durham. We would like to appoint an energetic, outgoing priest who will relate easily to young adults and college staff. The successful candidate will have an exciting and compelling vision for chaplaincy that extends well beyond the Chapel. He or she will be demonstrably committed to exploring links between faith, justice and society.

About St Chad's

St Chad's is a distinctive, independent college within Durham University. A separate registered charity with its own governing body, its origins date back to 1904 when it was created as a Church of England foundation to enable the ordination of clergy. Today it is a vibrant progressive academic community, home to 550 students, including 150 postgraduates, reading for virtually every degree offered in the University. With its foundation rooted in the Anglican tradition, St Chad's today welcomes students of all faiths, cultures, nationalities and backgrounds and students of no faith. Its current Fellows and staff are an eclectic group, some religious and some not, and among those who are religious, a number of denominations are represented. St Chad's historic college buildings are situated on a World Heritage Site, adjacent to Durham Cathedral. Outside undergraduate term-time, St Chad's successfully runs commercial events, conferences and pilgrimages.

Our culture is friendly, inclusive, with respect for our traditions whilst also aiming to be reflectively contemporary. Students and staff live and work side by side, sharing the life of a multigenerational and interdisciplinary scholarly community. St Chad's has a strong tutorial system and is one of very few colleges to have academic research staff based within its community. St Chad's students are high achievers, regularly securing the highest academic results among the Durham colleges. We also have a lively, evolving, extra-curricular programme including regular College Conversations, Questions Times, a new interdisciplinary college module, *Perspectives*, as well as a range of events focusing on personal development and engaging with the North East. The College is committed to diversity and widening access and the chaplain would be expected to support our Widening Participation Programme involving partnerships with schools to encourage aspiration.

St Chad's is one of the most popular colleges in Durham University. Most of our students choose St Chad's not because of its religious roots but because they are attracted by the small size of the College, its emphasis on community, the importance we place on the intellectual life, our beautiful location, and our values, including our commitment to hospitality, generosity, beauty and social justice.

The Chapel

The liturgical style of the Chapel is modern Catholic, and we are open to exploring how that style can be developed with and for young adults. We have an excellent College Choir and Music Director and are committed to nurturing this tradition within classical Anglicanism, but we are also keen to develop other services reflecting the sensitivities and preferences of those from other denominations and traditions represented in the College. We would also expect our Chaplain to work cooperatively and imaginatively with students and staff of other faiths and no faith. As well as a regular pattern of weekly services (the details of which are open to re-negotiation), we have two major College services each year in Durham Cathedral - our Advent Procession and our Chad's Day Service - which are both very well attended.

The Chapel building is a temporary structure, built after the First World War; it is quite possible in the next five years that the College will begin to explore the possibility of imagining a new building on this site.

Person Specification

The College needs a Chaplain with the imagination and energy to re-invigorate worship in the Chapel, and who is committed to a ministry of presence, friendship and witness far beyond the bounds of the chapel and its services.

The Chaplain will need to enjoy the company of young people and support them in extra-curricular activities: being visible, for instance, at College sports matches, the College Bar, and supporting the students' artistic, music and other endeavors. We would expect the Chaplain to dine regularly with students and normally to attend Formal Hall at least once per week.

The College is committed to exploring the essential links between faith, justice and society; many of our students are very aware of the contemporary demands of justice and would welcome a chaplain who could help us embed and realise these aspirations.

We are looking for an ordained Anglican woman or man, who is warm and approachable, creative and hard-working, collaborative and consultative, and willing to work beyond his or her job description.

Although we anticipate that the Chaplain will enrol in a PhD in Theology, the precise discipline is open to negotiation. In any event, we should expect the Chaplain to be theologically alive, to be able to preach the Gospel with passion, and to share a prophetic commitment to integrating faith and justice. We are looking for a community-enabler, committed to working with our students and staff.

With regard to Churchship, the College aims at being generously Catholic, open to other flavours of Anglicanism and to other expressions of church.

The Chaplain will have to be tolerant of others and of the lifestyles of younger people in a

collegiate environment. Such tolerance does not, of course, imply endorsement, and the Chaplain will need to maintain appropriate boundaries that enable him or her to live and proclaim the Gospel with integrity and to challenge the prevailing sorts of relativism and unconscious injustice that characterizes our society.

Even though the University has counselling and other professional services, chaplains inevitably play a non-professional counselling role. A commitment to providing pastoral care is essential.

Obviously, the Chaplain will share the College's commitment to the value of academic pursuits and be convinced of the need to marshal the resources of universities in addressing the problems and celebrating the joys of our time.

The Chaplain's Accommodation

The Chaplain will also be expected to be Warden of Trinity Hall, our main post-graduate residence. Trinity is located on a quiet street, just across the river from Durham Cathedral (a 10-minute walk to Main College). An ample en-suite bed-sit room will be provided free of charge. Parking is available on site. The room has broadband internet access.

The Chaplain has an office in College, a computer and printer, and he or she is responsible for a modest chaplaincy budget, which is currently £2,500 plus music per year. He or she may be assisted by a Support Secretary, who is shared by other members of staff.

Governance

St Chad's College and its neighbouring college, St John's, are unique in Durham in terms of their being independent colleges while at the same time being constituent colleges of the University. This means that St Chad's is independently managed, governed and financed. Students and staff of St Chad's are thus members of two institutions. This contrasts with the rest of the Durham Colleges, which are all owned, managed, governed and financed by the University itself.

St Chad's is an exempt charity. It is governed by its own set of trustees (the Governing Body), which is ultimately responsible for the finance and governance of the College. The College Rector (in the final year of his tenure) is the Revd Michael Sadgrove, Dean Emeritus of Durham. The Governing Body is currently chaired by Professor Jonathan Blackie (also in the last year of his term), and includes, among others, representatives of the Archbishop of York, and the Bishops of Durham, Newcastle and Carlisle.

Terms and Conditions

The Chaplain is expected to be a priest in good standing and a member of the Church of England or of a Church in full-communication with the Church of England. The Governing Body requires the Chaplain to be licensed by the Bishop of Durham.

The Chaplain will also need to be accepted for doctoral studies by an academic department

within the University of Durham before confirmation of appointment.

The Chaplain will be given a fixed-term contract of between three and six years, depending on the length of doctoral studies (a part-time Durham PhD normally requires six years of part-time study). Because the contract is tied to a time-limited study fellowship, the contract is non-renewable.

The starting salary will be up to half the incumbent's level for the Diocese of Durham. Church pension contributions will be made on a *pro rata* basis. During term-time, the Chaplain may eat meals free of charge in College.

Reasonable moving expenses will be paid, and up to £500 will be available as a moving allowance. Approved expenses of office are paid for by the College.

The Chaplain and Principal will negotiate more precise hours and these will fluctuate according to terms and be annualised over the year. Holiday entitlement is 6 weeks *pro rata* per year. Holiday periods must be agreed with the Principal and are normally taken outside of term-time. Work outside the College must also be explicitly agreed with the Principal.

How to apply

Applicants are asked to send their CV (including academic record) and a covering letter outlining their reasons for applying, their relevant experience and their suggestions for doctoral study. The names and contact details of three referees should be provided. A least one referee must be able to provide an academic reference (others may be required).

Applications should be sent to Susan Mather, Academic Office Administrator, St Chad's College, 18 North Bailey, Durham DH1 3RH.

Informal enquiries can be made to the Principal, Dr Margaret Masson, on 0191 334 3354 or via email: m.j.masson@durham.ac.uk

Dates

Closing date for applications is 17th March 2017.

Interviews will be in late April/early May 2017.

The College would expect the Chaplain to take up post on or after 1 September 2017.