

Master of St John's Lichfield

An Almshouse Chaplaincy and Ministry

0.5 post

A new and exciting
mission opportunity!



Welcome to St. John's

A prayer for our new incumbent

Heavenly Father we come before you seeking your guidance and wisdom as we search for a priest to be Chaplain of St John's. Help us to trust in your plan and to listen carefully for your direction. Guide us who are part of this process granting us clarity, patience and unity in our decisions. Bless the person you are calling to this role, preparing their heart and mind to respond to your call with faith and joy. May our new priest be a faithful shepherd who will guide us with wisdom and walk alongside us with love and humility.

Help us to be supportive and welcoming, ready to work together for your kingdom.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

This prayer was collated by two of St. John's Trustees and is being used during the vacancy to guide our work

A word of welcome to St. John's

We are delighted that you are exploring the opportunity to join us as our new priest for this exciting and visionary role.

We hope that this Profile gives you a feel for what we are about, who we are, what we do and, most importantly, how we want to develop our faith and our fellowship within the whole community we serve.

We hope and pray that you might decide that this opportunity will be part of our shared journey of faith in which your gifts and skills can complement ours for God's Glory and His work within our community.

We are looking for someone who can cherish and nurture the spiritual life of our community, work collaboratively with us and be a visible presence in the city of Lichfield.

We are praying for the right person to join us. Is this new opportunity for you?

About Staffordshire:

If you know Staffordshire already you will be aware of its many hidden gems, if not, then you have a great deal to discover.

Staffordshire prides itself on being called 'The Creative County' and contains everything you could wish for, by way of large conurbations Stoke on Trent and the potteries that lie in the north, Stafford and Cannock in the middle, and Tamworth and Burton upon Trent in the south of the county. There are wonderful landscapes, stately homes and most sports. The Peak District and Alton Towers Theme Park are only a 40-minute drive away. Drayton Manor Theme Park is some 7 miles to the south.

Then, of course, Lichfield - the real jewel in Staffordshire's crown - a lovely Cathedral City full of history.

About the City of Lichfield

Lichfield is where this new post is located. At one time it was a small rural cathedral city but it has grown into a thriving, diverse place to live and work. There's the Garrick Theatre that offers a wide range of productions, along with many restaurants and tea shops. The award-winning Beacon Park lies close to St John's, where, through the summer months, many festivals e.g. Bower Event, Cars in the Park, music festivals etc. are hosted. In winter months events such as the food and literary festivals are held within Lichfield City itself. Regarding shopping, there is a range of options, from the chic boutiques and supermarkets within the city to larger shopping malls in Tamworth, Burton, Walsall and Cannock. Nearby you will find an extensive network of canals, Cannock Chase, the National Forest and the National Arboretum. Our local schools all have a good reputation.

From Lichfield we have great transport links in all directions: Rail links from Lichfield Trent Valley and Lichfield City offer good services to London and Birmingham and the bus station offers good bus services. There are good road links in all directions: The M6/M6Toll to the north-west; the A5/M54 to North Wales; the M6Toll/M42/M5 to the south-west; the M6Toll/M42/M40 (or M6Toll/M6/M1) to London and the south-east and the A38/M1 to the north-east.

Lichfield is truly in the middle of everything and the job on offer is in the middle of Lichfield, what could be better than that!

Background information about the role

St. John's is a charity administered by a board of trustees. One of the two sites owned by St John's lies opposite Lichfield City station; a smaller site lies within the Cathedral Close.

We are seeking a warm-hearted spiritually mature and pastorally-gifted priest to serve in a role that combines traditional ministry with dedicated chaplaincy to a vibrant almshouse community.

This combined role could provide a very exciting opportunity for the new post holder to grow God's kingdom here in the community of St. John's and in the City of Lichfield.

Going forward

We see the challenge of the role as

- Promoting growth in faith and spirituality for both communities
- Encouraging collaborative activities and a culture of hospitality

Person specification

We are looking for someone who

- Is a visionary and forward-thinking Priest in the Church of England with skills in both pastoral care and ministry
- Is a person of prayer, grounded in faith who is able to nurture spiritual growth
- Works collaboratively and relates well to people of all ages and backgrounds
- Has an ability to develop mission and ministry to enable both communities to flourish and encourage them to be fully involved in the life of St. John's
- This is a 0.5 post

About St John's

St John's is one of many historic almshouses in the cities, towns and villages of Britain, which nationally provide accommodation for more than 36,000 people.

St John's draws on its rich inheritance from the past and continues to move into the future providing modern apartments designed for independent living and neighbourly support. Its residents may come from all parts of the large diocese of Lichfield, which spans Staffordshire, North Shropshire and parts of the West Midlands.

The Almshouses at St John's are in two locations: St John's without the Barrs; 30 flats and up to 42 residents, which is in the town close to the City Railway Station at the junction of St John Street and Birmingham Road, and St John's within the Close, where there are 12 flats accommodating 14 residents, which is situated in the Cathedral Close.

The chapel is Gothic in style, significantly restored in the 18th Century. It is Grade 1 listed and set in the beautiful enclosed, carefully-tended courtyard surroundings. The chapel is warm and welcoming.

Role description....St John's

The role of Master includes the spiritual and pastoral care of residents, staff and trustees whilst respecting that they may come from varying backgrounds and faith traditions.

It includes.....

- overseeing all matters concerning the Chapel and in particular the holding of at least one service on every Sunday of the year and at least one service on Christmas Day, Good Friday, Easter Day and the Day of the Patronal Festival and other occasional offices
- promoting the Chapel in a positive manner to ensure that it provides (and is seen as providing) an inclusive, friendly and wholesome environment
- having principal responsibility for the wellbeing of all Residents of the Almshouses
- welcoming new Residents or those who apply to become Residents and overseeing their reception and integration into the life of the Almshouses, and, in particular showing them the Chapel and explaining its place in the community at St. John's
- making regular individual contact with each resident
- fostering and maintaining a friendly and neighbourly atmosphere at St. John's
- encouraging Residents to participate in the life of St. John's, including by promoting the use of communal facilities and helping to organize and participating in social activities and events for Residents
- encourage the use of the Chapel by external agencies and organisations for the benefit of the community
- attending meetings of the Trustees, having provided in advance of the meeting a formal written report on any matters of concern, initiative or interest

At St John's Common Worship Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday. The congregation comprises residents and people from the wider community.

There are, of course, special services on Holy Days and the Patronal Festival (St John Baptist – 24th June) usually followed by generous hospitality.

Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals have also taken place in the Chapel.

The Trustees would encourage the Master to say Morning Prayer in the Chapel regularly, and encourage a midweek service of Holy Communion.

Governance, Finances and Safeguarding

St. John's Governance and Finance

St. John's is a registered charity administered by a Board of Trustees, with its administration and finances regulated by the Charity Commission, and to whom our accounts are submitted annually.

Safeguarding

St John's is committed to safeguarding vulnerable adults and children and have adopted the national and diocesan policies in all respects. Safeguarding policies are regularly reviewed by the Trustees of St John's.

The Safeguarding Officer for St John's is Nigel Argust

About our buildings and facilities

St John's is blessed with superb facilities

In addition to the Chapel there is the accommodation for residents, originally provided in the 15th Century, along with further accommodation built in 1966/67 all of which has been fully modernised to current expectations. In addition there are further apartments built in 2017 to *Passivhaus* standards. There are also twelve apartments in the Cathedral Close built in the 1980s on the site of the former Theological College. There are Common Rooms (on both sites) for use by residents and extensive landscaped gardens.

Our lovely Chapel is open every day for private prayer and reflection by the residents and visitors, or simply to experience its calm and tranquillity of the beautiful surroundings. The chapel is Gothic in style, significantly restored in the 19th Century and has a beautiful East window by John Piper and Patrick Reyntiens installed in 1984.



About the Accommodation offered with this position

The accommodation offered with this position is a Grade 1 listed three storey building at the heart of St. John's which was extensively refurbished some three years ago. The accommodation is a spacious first floor flat with additional accommodation available on the second floor above if required, offering up to four bedrooms. It is located in beautifully maintained grounds. There is a private, enclosed garden.

Additionally, there is a large Conference Room and Master's Office on the ground floor.

Private parking is available for two cars.



Thank you for taking the time to consider our vacancy.
We hope you feel inspired by reading about the opportunities that this role offers, and you feel that this is the place for you to further your ministry with us.

If you would like to find out more about St John's, please visit our website www.stjohnslichfield.org and if you would like to discuss the opportunity informally please contact the Office on officemanager@stjohnslichfield.org or call 01543 251884

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