

**ST THOMAS IPSWICH**

# COMMUNITY CHAPLAIN

Part-time Job Vacancy

# WHY A COMMUNITY CHAPLAIN?

This role has been created to enable the post-holder to explore their vocation to the priesthood and other vocations. Our aim is to give the right candidate the opportunity to discern the call God has placed upon their life and to follow it faithfully.

We are a parish situated in an estate on the outskirts of Ipswich where there is much need and deprivation. One of our key aims as a church is to show the love of Christ by fulfilling our call to be an incarnational presence within our community. To do this, we run a 'Top Up Shop' (food pantry), Wellbeing Café, and a successful Youth Group, while also inviting all to be aware of God's grace and unending love.

The role of the Community Chaplain would be to enter into the life of this Parish for up to 2 years (subject to funding for the second year) and explore Catholic estate ministry which has a focus on social justice and sacramental, incarnate living. We believe this would be the perfect opportunity for someone who is exploring their call to the priesthood or another ministry. Our hope is also that the variation in the working week will provide a stimulating and challenging post which also allows for time for prayer and individual reflection.

We would hope that the person appointed would feel confident enough in their own faith to lead some of our catechesis with our young people and to help deepen the faith of the more mature within our congregations. Our understanding of ourselves is that we are small but mighty and follow God's call with all our heart. We believe we are the perfect place for someone to explore their call as we are very down to earth and do our best to help all to flourish and grow at their own pace.

We wish to thank The Lady Peel Trust for their assistance in part-funding this post and also the Inspiring Ipswich Project for all their support.





# THE POST

## **Title of Post:**

Community Chaplain (part-time, 20 hours pw)

## **Organisation:**

St Thomas the Apostle and Martyr, Ipswich

## **Salary:**

Starting at £22,672 pro rata (based on 40 hours per week full-time)

## **Length of contract:**

1 year initially, second-year subject to funding

## **Responsible to:**

The Priest-in-Charge

## **Main Purpose of Job:**

- To work with the Priest-in-Charge to continue the development of outreach into the community.
- To give the post-holder space to explore God's call on their life and vocation. Therefore the post holder will be involved in the life and worship of the parish.

## **Main Duties**

- Be involved in the life and worship of the congregations, taking part in welcoming, reading, serving, leading prayers, hospitality, etc
- Helping us to implement our parish plan and contribute towards the goals of Inspiring Ipswich,
- Help in the leading of bible study and other study classes
- Share in the organisation and planning of community outreach
- Support the already-established children and family ministry
- Explore with the incumbent the potential of beginning a toddler group
- Share in youth work including pastoral care and sometimes leading activities
- Assisting with our fundraising and grant writing.
- Administrative duties relevant to the role
- One night a week Mental Health Cafe coordinator
- Undertake additional duties relevant to the role as reasonably required by the employer.



Corpus Christi 2023

# SAFEGUARDING

We are committed to the safeguarding of all children, young people and vulnerable adults within our church and therefore the successful candidate will be subject to an enhanced DBS check and once appointed will have to complete Church of England safeguarding training.

# WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

## Essential

A committed Christian with a lively faith (which is a Genuine Occupational Requirement in terms of the Equality Act 2010).

- Ability to share their faith and deepen the faith of others
- Openness to exploring their call and vocation
- Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues and volunteers and contribute to effective team working
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Awareness of and commitment to upholding professional boundaries
- An appreciation of fun and joy
- Understanding of the need to treat everyone fairly and equally
- Discretion and the ability to keep information confidential where appropriate
- Ability and enthusiasm to engage with people with little or no church connection
- An understanding of the particular challenges for estate communities and their churches.
- Confidence in speaking with a range of people both in groups and individually
- Understanding of and sensitivity towards the strains of the ongoing cost of living crisis
- A commitment to uphold good Safeguarding practices
- Experience in using IT applications (including Word, Excel and PPT) and online communications (including e-mail and social media)

## Desirable

Experience working or volunteering with children or youth

Experience helping a church to grow

Some theological training



All Hallows Eve Tent



Community Concert



Youth Group Shrove Tuesday



# ABOUT US



Haven Advent Youth Worship

We are a welcoming, vibrant, inclusive catholic church with a congregation of all ages. We have a passion to provide more opportunities for our local community to thrive. We love food and eating together and are always looking to meet new people.

## Who We Are

We are an energetic and dynamic, catholic congregation of around 70 people who worship together but are also like one big family, who love to have fun!

Our church building was built in 1937 and is very versatile. We have no fixed pews and the space is large. We would love to see our space used more during the week to better serve our community in the North West of Ipswich.

Everyone is welcome here, we pride ourselves on our inclusivity and diversity and we are working hard on the Diocesan vision to grow in number and grow younger.

Our vision is to develop the Church into a community hub, we have already started a wellbeing café and 'Top Up' shop (foodbank).

St Thomas serves a population of around 11,000 people in the deanery of Ipswich (IMD 2364) and is part of the Inspiring Ipswich initiative across the town which aims to help 7500 people explore faith, 1500 become disciples and see 25 new worshipping communities started.

## What We Do

We worked really hard during the pandemic to remain in contact with our families and young people. We offered Messy church in a bag and offered children's activities at services in a covid friendly way!

As soon as we were able to, we started a Messy Church which has been running every 6 weeks since December 2021. We have seen good attendance at this grow with an average of 50 people joining us at each one.

On Sunday mornings during the main Eucharist service, we run Talk and Toast for U16s where we eat together and talk about Jesus. We are about to launch a Youth Talk and Toast alongside the existing group. We also run a youth group that meets every Thursday and have begun a monthly youth-led worship evening called Haven.

In September 2023, we are starting Flourish which is our next step after Youth Group, a space for anyone between 17-35 to find community, fellowship, and faith.



Pentecost All Age Service

## WHAT CAN WE OFFER YOU?

- A friendly, flexible, and fun team to work alongside
- Space to explore your vocation
- A wonderful congregation with a number of volunteers keen to get involved
- A visionary deanery who will provide support and friendship
- The support of the Inspiring Ipswich team, especially the Pioneer Developers
- A supportive Diocesan Director of Ordinands and wider vocations team
- A monthly 'Missional Leaders' Lunch'
- Regular supervision once every 2 weeks
- Opportunities for Development and Training
- The prayer support of the deanery
- A hot desking space in the church vestry, a laptop, and a phone (if needed)
- The chance to be part of 'Together for Ipswich' (which covers 85+ churches) and an emerging town-wide youth gathering and CYM (Centre for Youth Ministry)
- To be on the edge of a buzzing town with easy access both to London and the coast

As this is a new role, priorities may change and a review of responsibilities will take place after the 3-month probationary period and on an ongoing basis thereafter.

We are hoping to further expand our existing team over the next 12 months as we develop our youth ministry.

# TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Normal hours of work will be 20 hours per week. The nature of the work calls for a degree of flexibility, thus hours of work may vary from day to day, or week to week.
- There will be the opportunity to progress up a salary scale subject to satisfactory performance
- The post holder will be entitled to 36 days of annual leave pro rata which includes statutory bank holidays. However, some bank holiday working will be required e.g. Christians feast days. Each full holiday year runs from 1 January to 31 December. Entitlement is based on full weeks worked.
- The post is church-based but a candidate if they wished could choose to do administrative tasks from home.
- 2 References will be taken up for the successful candidate.

## HOW TO APPLY

Closing Date: 18th August 2023

Interview date: TBC (likely the week commencing the 27th of August)

Applications should be sent by email to [rachel.revely@outlook.com](mailto:rachel.revely@outlook.com) and must be received by 12 noon on the closing date. Please use the application form attached.

For further information or informal inquiries, please contact:

Rev'd Rachel Revely 07429 325559 or [rachel.revely@outlook.com](mailto:rachel.revely@outlook.com)

