



**ST PETER'S  
HOUSE**

CURIOSITY | ENCOUNTER | GIFT

Hello there,

Thank you for requesting information about our new role as a Chaplain at St. Peter's House Chaplaincy. We really hope that you are the perfect person for us! Read on to discover more about us, and who we're looking for.....

St Peter's House is the home of the Christian chaplaincy team for the Manchester Universities, RNCM, the University of Law and UA92, and we constantly challenge ourselves to reflect on the question: 'What does chaplaincy mean to the people around us, and what should it look like in practice?' We view faith as a deep well, and when we drop those questions deep the echoes come back to us that this should be a place where curiosity is encouraged, and where unexpected encounters happen that make life a bit more meaningful. That this place should be like a gift – somewhere that brings something unexpected but that speaks a message of love to the person who receives it.

Responding to these answers we've created a place of curiosity, encounter and gift. Hopefully, by now you'll have investigated us online and found out about some of the things we do – over the past few years we've developed into a unique space, full of life and enriched a wide range of people and activities. When Covid-19 came along, the building closed and once again we needed to reimagine. We transitioned our programme online, developed a project called The Well – providing food and wellbeing resources for students and the local community. We reopened St. Peter's House in September 21 to a radically new landscape and are now looking for a person to join our team.

Read on for more details, and if you decide to apply please send an up-to-date CV and a covering letter (this should not exceed two side of A4) to [jobs@stpeters.org.uk](mailto:jobs@stpeters.org.uk). In the covering letter, please systematically address how you fit the criteria sought in the Person Specification at the end of the Job Description.

We encourage applications from all backgrounds, communities and industries, and are committed to having a team that is made up of diverse skills, experiences and abilities. We actively encourage BAME and disabled applicants and value the positive impact that difference has on our teams. St Peter's House is a **Disability Confident Employer** and we guarantee that we will offer interviews to applicants with disabilities who meet the essential criteria of the role.

The deadline for applications is 12 pm on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January and we will notify all candidates on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February if they have been called to interview. The interviews will take place on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February.

If you'd like an informal conversation, then please email [ben.edson@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:ben.edson@manchester.ac.uk) to arrange a suitable time to speak

It could be you!

Ben Edson

Director, St. Peter's House.

## **Chaplain, St Peter's House Chaplaincy, Manchester.**

Based in St Peter's House (a significant building on Oxford Road in the heart of the University Quarter of Manchester) is the Christian Chaplaincy to the University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University, the Royal Northern College of Music, The University of Law (Manchester Campus) and UA92. The chaplaincy serves the 85,000 staff and students of the Universities, and we are ideally located to work across the institutions to explore what chaplaincy can offer in this diverse context.

### **The Universities**

**The University of Manchester** is the largest single-site university in the UK, with the just over 40,000 students and almost 13,000 members of staff. It is ranked 36th in the world, 8<sup>th</sup> in Europe and 5<sup>th</sup> in the UK.

**Manchester Metropolitan University** is a large and highly popular university. It's history spans over 150 years and the University's combination of the traditional and the contemporary gives it a distinct character. The University has over 37,000 students. There are 3,000 international students from over 130 different countries.

**The Royal Northern College of Music** is a leading international conservatoire located centrally on Oxford Road. It has a reputation for attracting talented students, teachers, conductors and composers from all over the world. The College is thriving with around 320 teaching staff and over 800 students from 60 different countries.

**The University of Law** is the UK's longest-established specialist provider of legal education with eight centres in seven cities around the UK and the University of Law in Manchester is based in the city centre (just off Piccadilly Gardens). There are just over 700 students, of which approximately 100 are undergraduate students and 600 post graduate students with a small cohort of International students across both programmes.

**UA92** is one of the newest Universities in the UK, drawing from the Manchester United Class of 92. Alongside academic studies, their students embark on a personal development journey to prepare them to reach their full potential and for the world of work

### **The Charity**

St. Peter's House Chaplaincy is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered no. 1166935. The sponsoring denominations (Manchester Diocese, Manchester & Stockport Methodist District, North West Baptist Association and the North West United Reform Synod) and the two largest academic institutions (Manchester Metropolitan University and University of Manchester) are responsible for nominating the Trustees.

The CIO employs all staff, including the Chaplains. Staff management and the wider work of the Chaplaincy is overseen and managed by Rev'd Ben Edson, the Director and senior officer of the CIO.

### **St Peter's House**

St Peters House extends over three floors. Opened in 1974, it is characteristic of the modernist, Scandinavian design of the period. The top floor and the basement are tenanted by the DePaul Trust, Greater Manchester Higher and other smaller tenants. The first floor and part of the top floor are the base for which the Chaplaincy operates. On the first floor are the team offices, pastoral rooms, a meeting room, entrance hall, a small chapel and an auditorium that accommodates 250 people. Also on this floor is our very popular social enterprise, not-for-profit, plant based café - Milk & Honey. On the top floor we run our food

response project (The Well), have a Wholeness Studio and our Multi-Faith Quiet Room. Externally we have gardens with raised beds and three Bee hives on our roof.

### **Ministry at St. Peter's House Chaplaincy**

**The Well:** The Covid-19 pandemic caused a radical shift in the way that we operated. We reallocated all of our resources to feed those on and around campus in food crisis, setting up our holistic Covid-19 response project 'The Well'. From Autumn 2020 we offered weekly Well Packs, which combine fresh and dry goods with recipes, menu plans, cooking videos, wellbeing videos and content and one-to-one support. We've provided over 25,000 meals to those who would've otherwise struggled to feed themselves.

In September '21 The Well moved from being a Covid-19 crisis response project into a long-term core piece of work that provides students and local residents with healthy food, cooking tutorials, wellbeing resources, and the wider support of all our chaplaincy resources. For example, we are now providing tailored provision and support through The Well to asylum seeker and refugee scholarship students, and students estranged from their families.

**Milk and Honey Cafe:** We run a not for profit, plant-based, volunteer cafe called Milk & Honey from the front of St. Peter's House. Milk & Honey is a vibrant cafe where various student and staff groups gather for social gatherings and meetings alongside the daily trade of people coming for lunch and coffees.

Perhaps what is most unique about Milk & Honey is the volunteer community that we work alongside to operate the cafe. These are drawn from the university academic community, other charities and the wider city of Manchester. As a chaplaincy team we get alongside our volunteers to support them as they journey through their own life experiences, whether that be through University, gaining skills and employability, breaking cycles of isolation and poor mental health, reconnecting with faith, finding places of connection or finding a safe place after coming to the UK from around the world.

**Volunteering:** Alongside volunteering in Milk & Honey, we have volunteers involved with 'The Well', Beekeeping and Gardening. Just as happens in Milk & Honey, we work alongside a broad group of volunteers to enable them to learn skills in hospitality, gardening and beekeeping so that St. Peter's House becomes a place of belonging for them. Once a term we get our volunteers together to say thank-you and to connect them with the wider volunteer community at St. Peter's House.

**The Wholeness Studio:** Four years ago we received a grant to develop a space within St. Peter's House into a Wholeness Studio. From our studio we run part of our wholeness programme which includes Yoga, Mindfulness and Pilates, we engage with the Sports and Wellbeing Teams at both Universities to ensure that we are activities are integrated into their programme.

**The Spark Rooms:** The Spark Rooms are a hub for social entrepreneurs based at St. Peter's House. Currently we have a theatre company, a homelessness charity and a mentoring organization based in The Spark Rooms, but we are looking to provide space for many other social entrepreneurs. Our hope is develop this space further over the coming years.

**Multi-Faith Work:** On behalf of the Universities, we co-ordinate the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy. In this capacity we work alongside independent Catholic, Jewish and Muslim Chaplains, and with a number of honorary Chaplains at St. Peter's House. Our honorary Chaplains at St. Peter's House are from the reformed Jewish tradition, Sufi Muslim tradition, Quaker tradition and Sikh tradition and bring much wisdom to the team. Our Multi-Faith work often involves advocating on behalf of students of faith, running religious literacy training sessions and

working with the Equalities and Diversity teams at both Universities to ensure that no student is discriminated against because of their religion.

**Mandarin Community:** An important, and long term piece of work is the Chaplaincy to the Mandarin speaking community of the Universities. This is supported by the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan and the URC. Before lockdown this was, amongst much more, a monthly gathering of Mandarin speakers for a community night where mandarin culture was celebrated and Mancunian culture was learnt about! During lockdown this transitioned to an online Pilates session, prayer meetings and social activities.

**Programme:** We run a broad programme of Cooking Lessons, Daily Prayer, Accessible Yoga, Death Café's and much more. Alongside the weekly programme we run a number of special events such as an act of reflection on Transgender Day of Remembrance, a Carol Concert for the University of Manchester and events for welcome week.

### **The Universities**

We are not formally part of any team of either University and so our relationship with both universities depends on good communication, respect and trust. We have worked hard to nurture this over the last four years. At The University of Manchester we relate to the Director of Student Life and the Head of Advice and Response. At Manchester Metropolitan University we relate to the Director of Student Support Service and the Head of Inclusion and Pastoral Support, and at the RNCM we sit under Student Wellbeing.

Alongside this we work closely with the Social Responsibility team at the University of Manchester, in particular the Equalities and Diversity team and Student Volunteering team. We have a good working relationship with both Student Unions.

### **Chaplaincy Team**

The current SPH chaplaincy team is the Revd Ben Edson (Director), and Hannah Skinner (The Director of Engagement and Development). We also employ a Team PA, a Head Chef and a Cafe Manager, Assistant Chef, Chaplaincy Assistant and a Chaplaincy Assistant to the Mandarin speaking community.

There is a wider honorary chaplaincy team that also make an important contribution to SPH.

We are looking for a person to journey with us as we seek to develop our innovative way of understanding and 'doing' chaplaincy at St Peter's House.

## **Chaplain**

Salary: £37,000, with a defined contribution pension scheme.

Holidays: 28 days

Contract Type: Permanent

Hours of work: Full Time — 40 hours per week

Normal place of work: St Peters House, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9GH

There is a probationary period of three months

We encourage applications from all backgrounds, communities and industries, and are committed to having a team that is made up of diverse skills, experiences and abilities. We actively encourage BAME and disabled applicants and value the positive impact that difference has on our teams. St. Peter's House is a disability confident employer.

Candidates invited for interview shall be asked to apply for an enhanced criminal disclosure check through the Disclosure & Barring Procedure (DBS). A conviction (spent or unspent) may not exclude a candidate from this position, but will be considered as part of the recruitment process.

St Peters House confirms its commitment to develop, maintain and support a comprehensive policy of equal opportunities in employment. To assist in this we will actively support job sharing where it is reasonable and practical to do so and where operational needs will not be adversely affected.

## **Purpose**

The Chaplain is to work alongside the existing team with three areas of particular focus:

1 - Developing the 'deep' and contextually appropriate model of Christian Community and Discipleship at St. Peters House. This means that we see ourselves as participating in the existing work of the Spirit, acting with hope that God as Love is already at work in the world around us and not striving to create contextually non-appropriate responses to this.

2 - Leading our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion work, you will champion the voice and visibility of people with protected characteristics and help dismantle any barriers which prevent people engaging with St. Peters House.

3 - Overseeing and developing our programme including our 'Wholeness' work, and innovatively incorporating wellbeing practices within our Chaplaincy context.

## **Accountability & Key Relationships**

The post is line managed by the Director of St. Peter's House Chaplaincy. The post holder has key working relationships with the Director of Engagement and Development, the SPH Team and the Milk & Honey Cafe Team.

## **Key Tasks**

To contribute actively to the work of the chaplaincy team by:

- Contributing to the imaginative development of chaplaincy in the University context.

- Offering pastoral support and guidance to the Staff and Students of the Universities.
- Developing Christian discipleship and community for the University community of Manchester.
- Leading our Diversity, Equality and Inclusion work.
- Overseeing contextually appropriate discipleship within the University community of Manchester.
- Being part of an offer of a 'prophetic' witness within the Universities, encouraging and gently and responsibly challenging them.
- Overseeing and developing our programme alongside the SPH team.
- Engaging with Higher Education issues and reflecting theologically on them.

<b>Person Specification</b>	
<b>Essential Criteria</b>	<b>Desirable Criteria</b>
An authentic understanding of the ministry and values of St. Peter's House Chaplaincy and a willingness to work within our values.	
Experience of faith ministry with pastoral experience	Experience of ministry in an HE Context Experience of Diversity, Equality & Inclusion work.
Experience of developing models of Christian Community and discipleship for young people.	
Commitment to working ecumenically	Significant experience of working ecumenically
In good standing in one of the member denominations of Churches Together.	Ministerial Accreditation.
Demonstrable experience of effective team working.	
Demonstrable ability to think and act creatively on the place of theology and religion in contemporary society	Theological qualification
Demonstrable ability to take the initiative and work independently when required .	
An interest in a particular areas of our programme and a desire to develop the programme further.	Experience in one of our main programme areas.
	Demonstrable ability to develop innovative ways of engaging with students of all faiths and none.
Demonstrable ability to engage systemically with complex institutions	An understanding of the world of Higher Education
Excellent IT skills and engaged with the digital world.	

