

Associate Chaplain for Outreach - 0.5FTE

Applications close - Monday 23rd March 2026 at 6pm

Interviews: Thursday 26th March in Oxford (or online if required).

Duration: 1 year with expectation of extension to 3 years (with 6 month probation). Ideal start date September 2026.

Remuneration: £42,960 (pro rata 0.5 FTE is £21,480) + 16% pension contribution.

Hours: The role is offered as a 20 hour (0.5FTE) position initially on a 1 year fixed term contract but with the expectation of extension to 3 years in total.

Location: Working from home or, potentially from an Oxford based office.

Reporting to: Revd Dr Bethan Willis, The Oxford Pastorate Chaplain

Overview of the Role

The Oxford Pastorate team serves the postgraduate and research community at the University of Oxford. The Associate Chaplain for Outreach will work alongside other members of the Oxford Pastorate team, under the leadership of the Pastorate Chaplain, encouraging and supporting postgraduates and researchers as they: enjoy fellowship and discipleship in vibrant churches; wrestle with the way their academic studies relate to their faith (including through the academic-led Developing a Christian Mind conferences); receive mentoring and challenge in leadership development groups run by the Oxford Pastorate; come together in outreach to the wider university community and the wider world through service-oriented and ideas-oriented apologetic initiatives like Postgraduate Student Welcome (PSW), Veritas Forums and the Stella Aldwinckle series.

Key Responsibilities / Duties

The role is likely to fit well with work in related academic contexts in Oxford. It will require onsite presence in Oxford, especially during term time, in order to build relationships and networks amongst postgraduate students. This is an outreach role so would be ideally suited to those with very recent personal experience of Oxford postgraduate life, including masters and doctoral level study.

The role will be a pioneering one and therefore we expect to see opportunities explored and refined during the period of employment. Areas of work include:

1. Offering welcome and opportunities for connection to all postgraduates at Oxford:
 - i. Through supporting the Postgraduate Student Welcome dinner and leading follow on events.
 - ii. Leading our 121 coffee initiative to offer any postgraduate who wants it a meeting with a chaplain or experienced postgraduate.

- iii. Encouraging and training existing Christian postgraduates to offer 121 welcome coffees and similar initiatives to new or existing postgraduates.
 - iv. Helping to prepare and disseminate welcome information and resources with a goal to reach all postgraduates.
 - v. Initiating and leading activities open to those of all faiths and none e.g. film nights, art retreats or other events.
2. Connecting Christian postgraduate students together in their University contexts.
 - i. With an emphasis on connecting and supporting students in graduate colleges, where there is a lack of a chapel or chaplain. Helping students to lead and build their own networks of Christian community and engagement.
 - ii. Sharing information with and encouraging postgraduate Christian groups (GCF, Thesis, Postgrad small groups etc.) in their outreach activity.
3. Leading and supporting conversation about, and exploration of, Christian faith in an academic context.
 - i. Hosting one 'explainer' series of discussion events each year for those who are interested in Christian faith.
 - ii. Using and producing resources for postgraduates interested in exploring Christian faith.
 - iii. Initiating events and activities which engage a wide range of postgraduates in exploring Christian faith, where appropriate.
 - iv. Contributing to the coordination and success of larger scale events which offer opportunities for broad, open conversation around life and faith in an academic context including: Veritas Forum events, Stella Aldwinckle events and other Oxford Pastorate events.
 - v. Following up with students and groups after events.
4. Enabling Christian students to engage in their own outreach and service activity as appropriate:
 - i. Including potentially contributing to the Oxford Connections programme which serves in Macedonia biannually.
 - ii. Supporting students in their own initiatives and opportunities to serve others in Oxford and beyond.
5. The Outreach Chaplain will attend Oxford Pastorate team meetings each week in term time, in order to pray, plan and integrate their ministry with the other Associate Chaplains and Pastorate team. They will commit to regular prayer for the work of the ministry.

Other:

- There will be a termly review meeting between the Associate Chaplain and the Pastorate Chaplain.



- The Oxford Pastorate's registered address is 33 Jack Straw's Lane, Oxford, OX3 0DL. The Associate Chaplain's ministry will take place around Oxford, often in cooperation with partners. Venues include Churches, Colleges and the University.

Qualities of Ideal Candidate:

Essential:

- A Christian with a living faith rooted in Scripture - *this is a genuine occupational requirement*;
- Has a deep and compelling Christian faith which they are able to share and communicate in contextually appropriate ways;
- Is innovative and strategic, seeing new opportunities and possibilities for engaging postgraduates;
- Is able to plan ahead and take ownership of outreach work within the team;
- Is effective in connecting people and building sustainable networks;
- Has the ability to lead others, to co-ordinate logistics and to craft effective written communication;
- Is pastorally minded - welcoming to all, listens carefully and responds appropriately;
- Is able to lead conversations around faith, scholarship and research;
- Is keen to serve and can train and encourage postgraduates in service;
- Is passionate and informed about our purpose as a Christian chaplaincy serving the academic and postgraduate community at Oxford;
- Has the right to work in the UK;
- Is resident in Oxford and able to work occasional evenings and weekends.

Highly Desirable:

- Has an excellent, up-to date knowledge of the Oxford Masters and DPhil experience and of the college system in Oxford;
- Has obtained, or is studying towards, a DPhil (PhD).

How to Apply: Applicants should submit a CV and cover letter to office@oxfordpastorate.org by Monday 23rd March at 6pm. Candidates are welcome to ask questions in advance or to contact the Chaplain via email bethan.willis@oxfordpastorate.org for further information or a conversation before application.