**St Mary’s Parish Church, Portchester: Ministry to Seniors (Anna Chaplain)**

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

**MAIN PURPOSE OF THE POST**

To develop and lead a team of volunteers who, together can offer spiritual and emotional support to older people and their families.

To promote the spiritual welfare and encourage growth in Christian maturity and discipleship of older people in residential care, sheltered housing and in the wider community.

This would primarily be to St Mary’s members and pastoral contacts, and also expanded to outreach in the wider community.

**MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Anna Chaplaincy**

The successful applicant would be part of a growing Anna Chaplaincy network across the UK, to whom there would be some accountability and a willingness to participate in their training and resources.

**Engagement with St Mary’s Church**

Because of the importance of seeing this role as a ministry of St Mary’s, it would be ideal if the post-holder was to be (or become) a member of this church. However, applicants from other churches may apply. We would, however, look for some attendance at services at St Mary’s.

**Study and Training**

The Chaplain would be required to undertake 2 hours per week (or the equivalent) in attending training (probably on-line) provided by the Anna Chaplaincy organisation. In addition would supplement this by attending any other relevant courses, and reading resources on the internet or in books. Training courses if agreed with the line manager, would be paid for by the church.

**Pastoral Assistants Group**

To lead the Pastoral Assistants Team, recruiting new members to the team and providing training on occasion. The Pastoral Team meets monthly and reviews the list of older people, assigning the care of various elderly people to members of the team, and providing updates.

**Pastoral Visiting**

The Chaplain would spend most of their time in pastoral visiting. Most of these visits would be in the person’s home. Some would require more frequent visits while others not so much. Where appropriate, to pray with the person, and to be a link with the church so that the person knows that they are still a valued member of the church.

**Nursing Homes**

We currently have around 10 people in nursing/care homes, and the Chaplain would make regular visits – suggest monthly if possible.

**Hospital visiting**

To be informed of members and others in hospital and to visit.

**A Different Day**

Two or three times a year we have ‘A Different Day’ normally on a Tuesday from 10.30am – 3.00pm when we invite people who might normally be on their own to spend a day with us in the church doing different things and meeting different people. There are various activities such as crafts, card making, cake decorating, board games, sometimes sing-alongs. There is a fish and chip lunch. This ministry could be developed to be more regular.

**Tea & Company**

On the first Sunday of the month from 2.15pm – 3.30pm we have a group of about 12 people who come to the Parish Hall for tea, cake and a chat with each other and with the team who minister there. Initially this was set up as a bereavement care group (and many of those who attend have been bereaved), but it has extended out to people who have not been bereaved, but are often on their own on a Sunday afternoon. The chaplain would not be expected to lead this (as it is well led by others) but would be expected to participate.

**Services at Nursing/Care Homes**

There are two nursing care homes in the parish, Carleen and Woodlands Court. Residents in Woodlands Court are mainly dementia sufferers, while those in Carleen are a mixture of various health and mobility issues. We have a small team who conduct services in both homes once a month. The chaplain would be expected to lead this service or help create a team to do so. After the short service, about 30-60 minutes is spent (especially at Carleen) in talking to residents and staff.

**Alpha for Seniors**

We see the role of the chaplain as developing the spiritual life of elderly people and not assuming that they have no potential for growth or change. Many elderly people who join our congregation do so after a lifetime away from the church in which their faith is very basic. There are therefore, opportunities for gentle evangelism. We have recently held an Alpha for seniors and would like to develop this, as well as encouragement to grow in the faith.

**Home Communion**

The chaplain would be authorised as a Communion Assistant to enable them to hold small services with the Reserved Sacrament in people’s homes or in nursing homes.

**End of Life ministry** There is the potential for preparing some people, should they request it, for ‘a good death’. It is a privilege to accompany people on their last journey, as this will; bring up spiritual issues and questions.

**Funerals and follow up**

Because in some circumstances a relationship will have been built up, the chaplain may be invited to take part in the funeral service, or if appropriate, to conduct the service. They would follow these up with visits to relatives, and also follow up some funerals conducted by the Vicar or other members of the clergy.

**Encourage inter-generational activities**

Elderly people and youngsters often enjoy each other’s company and the chaplaincy gives the opportunity not to always segregate old people off from the rest of the church, but to involve them in inter-generational activities. The Different Day and Tea and Company as well as nursing home services, are good opportunities.

**Line Management**

Ultimately accountable to the PCC with the Vicar (Rev Ian Meredith) as line manager.

**Voluntary Post: ANNA FRIEND**

It may be that you could not commit to the role of Anna Chaplain, but would still like to be involved in this ministry. Alongside the development of Anna Chaplains, another role has emerged: that of an Anna Friend. Such volunteers are proving invaluable as they work alongside the Anna Chaplains, often giving a few hours a week to suit their own circumstances and play to their strengths and gifts. In this way, whether as Anna Chaplains or Anna Friends, the Anna Chaplaincy movement is empowering more lay people to be part of supporting older people and meeting their spiritual needs. The PCC would also provide financial help with expenses and training.