

Introducing the County St John Chaplain

The St John Chaplaincy offers pastoral and spiritual support to all St John members, their families, and those in the care of St John. Rooted in Christian tradition, St John traces its origins back over 900 years to a hospital in Jerusalem founded by monks, who cared for all in need—regardless of background.

Today, chaplains are volunteers who uphold these values, providing compassionate support across England and the Islands. They are ordained clergy or qualified laypeople in good standing with their churches and are experienced in pastoral care.

The Chaplaincy's Five Key Roles:

1. **Pastoral:** Offering care for those facing emotional, physical, spiritual, or mental challenges.
2. **Liturgical:** Leading worship and participating in ceremonial events like services, blessings, and dedications.
3. **Spiritual and Religious:** Encouraging personal reflection, prayer for the Order, and understanding the ethical and spiritual dimensions of life.
4. **Representational:** Acting as visible ambassadors of the Christian ethos at the heart of St John, particularly in care settings.
5. **Prophetic:** Guiding the organisation to stay true to its founding Christian principles and values.

Why Chaplaincy Matters

St John operates in high-stress, trauma-prone environments. Chaplains support all members—not just frontline personnel—through listening, counselling, and presence. Their work benefits morale, supports mental and spiritual wellbeing, and reinforces St John's motto: *Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum* (For the Faith and in the Service of Humanity).

Chaplains provide:

- Skilled spiritual and emotional support
- A link between church and community
- Voluntary resources for ceremonies and events
- Collaboration with existing support programmes
- Enhanced morale and unity
- Specialist expertise in education, interfaith, and pastoral care

Expectations of Chaplains

Chaplains must:

- Be in good standing with their religious community
- Show compassion and understanding for all people
- Participate in St John activities and uphold its values
- Maintain confidentiality, neutrality, and high ethical standards

They must also:

- Offer counselling and pastoral support
- Represent the Christian foundation of St John inclusively
- Show respect for people of all faiths and convictions
- Have knowledge of local resources for appropriate referrals
- Understand safeguarding requirements and to a DBS check for St John Ambulance and partake of the basic level of Safeguarding Training as specified for St John

Multi-Faith Inclusion

St John Chaplaincy respects all people as made in the image of God. While grounded in Christianity, chaplains must be able to engage constructively with those of other faiths and convictions. Where suitable, County Chaplains may appoint Spiritual Advisers from other world faiths, with agreement from local leadership. These chaplains must respect the Christian ethos while providing non-judgmental support to all.

Key Chaplaincy Outcomes

Chaplains will:

- Safeguard and develop the Christian ethos alongside the Priory Dean
- Build strong relationships across all levels of the organisation
- Offer a non-judgmental listening ear and referral support
- Encourage personal wellbeing and St John values
- Provide spiritual guidance as requested
- Be available during emergencies and key events
- Collaborate with Regional Chaplains and leadership
- Promote and embody the vision and values of St John

Working Relationships

Chaplains work with:

- **Sub Deans and Regional Chaplains:** For guidance, training, and feedback
- **The Priory Dean:** On chaplaincy matters

- **Other County Chaplains:** For mutual support
- **HR and Managers:** For referrals and staff support
- **Council Committees:** For ceremonial occasions
- **Youth Members and Families:** Through teaching and support
- **Local Clergy:** As needed for broader religious needs

Person Specification

Chaplains should be:

- Accredited clergy or respected lay leaders
- Committed to understanding and engaging with St John's culture
- Capable of ministering across diverse belief systems with respect and sensitivity
- Experienced in collaborative, ethical pastoral care
- Skilled in communication, especially listening and supporting groups
- Committed to ongoing spiritual and professional development
- A role model of personal integrity and the St John ethos

Chaplains must work across complex environments with both staff and volunteers, using sound judgement, flexibility, and professionalism. Their work is to be affirming, supportive, and open to challenge, always placing the wellbeing of individuals and the mission of St John at the centre.