

***Sabbaticals for Clergy and Church Workers
staying with the Community of the Resurrection,
Mirfield.***



The Community of the Resurrection is an Anglican monastic community situated in Mirfield, West Yorkshire. The Community welcomes both men and women and of any denomination, on sabbatical for short and long term stays.

The Community is situated in a mixed urban-rural area. Its buildings are set in 19 acres of grounds with gardens, parkland and woodland. The Community runs a retreat house which receives individual guests and groups, who worship and eat with the Community. It also frequently receives long-term guests from the UK and abroad.

Other organisations on site include the College of the Resurrection, an independent Anglican theological college, the part-residential Yorkshire Ministry Course, and the Mirfield Centre which arranges day and residential events. Participants in these organisations have separate accommodation and dining facilities but regularly attend worship with the Community.

For general information on the Community and its activities, visit the Community's website:

www.mirfield.org.uk

This booklet explains how to apply for a sabbatical, and what facilities and conditions may be expected.

Who may apply

Short Stay: Those who wish to stay for a period not exceeding two weeks may write directly to the Guestbrother CR: guests@mirfield.org.uk

‘Mirfield Sabbaticals’: These are available for a longer stay, primarily for clergy and other church workers on sabbatical. Application is by Application Form (attached) with a supporting letter from their Bishop, Continuing Education Officer or Employer. The sabbatical will normally be agreed after a preliminary visit.

Mirfield Sabbaticals offer the opportunity to live alongside a religious community combining study with daily offices and liturgy and time for personal prayer and reflection.

Other Long-term Stays: Those wishing to stay long-term outside the provision for sabbaticals should write to the Prior CR, giving reasons for the request.

What the Applicant may expect from the Community

A brother will be available to help those coming for sabbatical to settle in, and for questions and advice after this.

Any guest is welcome to approach any brother to ask for occasional guidance, spiritual direction and sacramental help.

Guests are welcome to seek occasional informal assistance for their studies from any brother who may have the expertise. In some cases, a more regular tutorial assistance may be able to be agreed before the sabbatical begins. It is helpful to discuss any needs of this kind on the preliminary visit.

Brethren understand that guests will have needs for times apart.

Brethren will respect a proper confidentiality towards guests.

What the Community may expect of the Applicant

- ***Willing to live according to the rhythms of the monastery:***

This does not mean attendance at all services and meals, but willingness usually to worship and eat with the Community and to keep the times and places of silence. This is important not only for the brethren and their other guests, but also to enable those on sabbatical to make the most of their stay in a religious house.

- ***Respect for the boundaries necessary in communal living:***

This includes recognising that the brethren will have need for time apart and time to complete their tasks, as well as respecting the quiet that monastery guests frequently seek. It also includes recognising a proper confidentiality owed to brethren and guests.

- ***Regular but limited help in the grounds and house:***

e.g. to be on the washing-up rota, to give one afternoon a week to gardening such as clearing leaves.

Facilities

- ***Liturgy and Offices:***

The Community celebrates Mass daily and prays four daily offices. The style is an uncomplicated monastic one, with regular singing of plainsong. Guests are welcome to all of these services and usually sit in choir. Priests on sabbatical are able to celebrate Mass privately on request. The Church and oratory are always available for prayer.

- ***Study Facilities:***

Those staying on sabbatical will have the use of the Community's library on request. This has some 80,000 books, mainly theological and devotional works but with a range of other subjects represented. There is a part-time librarian. Study space and on-line facilities are available.

- ***Accommodation:***

will be in a medium-sized, simply-furnished but pleasant room. The Community provides and arranges for the laundering of bed linen. Washing machine and tumble drier are available for use. Those staying on sabbatical will be expected to clean their own bedroom. Tea and coffee making facilities are available.

- ***Transport:***

For guests bringing their own cars, parking is available in a secured, well-lit area, but not garaging. The Community is not able to be responsible for guests' cars.

There is a good bus service from the Community's gate, with buses to Huddersfield and Leeds every 15 minutes.

Mirfield has a railway station with connections to Huddersfield, Leeds, Wakefield and London.

- ***Meals:***

Meals are provided three times a day, and are eaten with the brothers of the Community and their guests. Special diets can be catered for by arrangement. Breakfast and week-day evening meals are normally silent. Guests will be asked to let the Community know beforehand of any meals for which they intend to be absent.

- ***Telephone and Post:***

Those staying on sabbatical may be able to have a telephone provided in their room for outside calls. These will be billed separately.

There is a postal collection box on site and a Post Office ten minutes walk away.

- ***Accommodation for Personal Guests:***

Can be arranged in the Community's retreat house from time to time on request to the Guestbrother.

- ***Recreation:***

There are gymnasias and swimming-baths close to Mirfield.

Leeds, Wakefield and Bradford are about half-an-hour's drive away, and offer a wide-range of arts and leisure pursuits.

The walking country of the Pennines is within easy reach by car and public transport.

There are a lounge and occasional TV room for the use of guests.

Attendance at lectures and other on-site events

Those staying on sabbatical with the Community are not normally able to attend the lectures given by the College or Ordination Course. Events at the Mirfield Centre are open to all guests and are charged separately.

Health, Safety and Security

Guests have a key to their own room and the outer door is locked at night. There are gates and fences securing the Community's grounds.

Guests are not permitted to smoke in the Community's buildings.

Guests are required to inform the Community Guestbrother of any serious medical condition.

Conditions of Stay

Cost:

The Community of the Resurrection is a registered charitable company (No. 232670).

Normal charges for a sabbatical stay which includes all meals and facilities are as follows for the financial year 2015-16:

3 weeks £900

Each week thereafter £315

Daily rate £48

Charges are payable monthly in advance.

In case of financial need, please ask the guestbrother if a CR bursary is available.

Closed times:

Sabbatical stays will not normally be considered for periods over Christmas/New Year; Holy Week/Easter or in July.

Review of Stay:

Times for a simple review of the benefits of a sabbatical stay will be agreed at the preliminary visit. This will usually be with one brother and is aimed at improving the guest's experience while on sabbatical. However, the Community reserves the right to end any sabbatical stay.

All guests on sabbatical must agree to abide by the Community's safeguarding policy, and other safety policies.



To: The GuestBrother CR
House of the Resurrection, Stocksbank Road, Mirfield, West Yorkshire WF14 0BN.
Tel.: 01924 483348
e-mail guests@mirfield.org.uk

APPLICATION FOR A “MIRFIELD SABBATICAL”

SURNAME (please print clearly)

FIRST NAME(S) (please print clearly)

TITLE (Mr, Mrs, Revd. etc.)

ADDRESS

TEL. NUMBER

E-MAIL ADDRESS

CURRENT POSITION OF RESPONSIBILITY

INTENDED DATES

ANY SERIOUS MEDICAL CONDITION/SPECIAL DIET?

REASONS FOR THE APPLICATION

CONTACT DETAILS OF A RELATIVE OR FRIEND (for emergency use only)

SIGNED

DATE

Please enclose a letter of support from your Bishop, Continuing Education Officer or Employer.