



COMMUNITY OF THE RESURRECTION

The Community of the Resurrection is one of a small number of men's religious communities in the Church of England. Its way of life follows a broadly Benedictine pattern of monastic living. The brothers take life vows, with a commitment to celibacy, simplicity of life and obedience. They join in communal prayer four times daily in services that are open to the public and currently live-streamed. There are 15 brothers, aged 30-87; most live together at Mirfield. The Community does not undertake parish responsibilities, but seeks to support the wider church through offering retreats and stays for individuals, and ministries of spiritual direction and Christian teaching, occasionally working away from West Yorkshire.

The Community was founded in 1892, and has become known in several different parts of the world, notably Southern Africa where it used to maintain priory houses. Since 1902 the Community has enabled the training and formation of Anglican priests through support of the College of the Resurrection, which has its own charitable status and staff but is also part of the site at Mirfield. In recent years this work has expanded through partnership with St Hild College.

The Community has made a commitment to maintain the life at Mirfield. To this end the site has been undergoing re-development, including a major renovation of the College buildings 25 years ago and a refurbishment of the Church 10 years ago. The current stage is the upgrading of the monastery and guest house. The post-holder will have the opportunity significantly to shape this work and see its successful completion.

The Community is funded by a mixture of investment income, donations, payment for hospitality and the income from a number of small-scale commercial activities. Before the pandemic lockdown changes had been introduced which helped to sustain balanced annual operating accounts. One current challenge is to renew this financial balance while maintaining the site as a place of quiet and spiritual refreshment. The post-holder will have the opportunity to recommend new sources of income-generation as well as to improve those already in place. The Community maintains reserves which offer a measure of financial stability. However the infrastructure is ageing and the planned

renovations to the monastery and guest-house will require a major fund-raising effort. The post-holder will work closely with the Charity's Fundraising Manager, not least in preparing a renewed business plan attractive to potential donors. Two particular areas have been suggested as of interest to potential donors: the development of environmental sustainability and the Community's library of 80,000 volumes.

The day-to-day work of the successful applicant will cover the two-fold needs of financial accounting and overseeing the operations on site. While this covers a wide range of responsibilities, they should be able to be achieved within the working week. Well-established procedures govern the financial operations; the post-holder will have the assistance of the Community's accountant and investment manager. Much of the oversight of operations will be through encouragement of existing staff, some of whom have been in post for many years, and by good communication. The Community employs 25 full and part-time staff, as well as encouraging volunteers in several areas of the site's work. In a recent inspection the Community has been highly commended while also being encouraged to strengthen its current decision-making and compliance procedures; the post-holder will have a significant role in designing and implementing these.

The activities and range of relationships on the site is considerable, co-ordinated by the overarching vision of the Community. This makes for a varied working life; no two days are likely to be the same. The post-holder will be in a position of trust towards all involved in the life and work of the Community, including the visitors to the site. He or she will frequently be the person to whom others turn to solve problems and will have the opportunity to set the tone for the working practices of the staff and to commend innovations. Decision-making in such a multifaceted organisation can be complex, with some decisions reserved to the brothers' Chapter or to the Charity's trustees; the successful applicant will be someone with a fund of patience and a liking for the diversity of human nature. Those who have worked for the Community have frequently expressed the pleasure they derive from the work and the warmth of relationships, not least those with the brethren themselves.

The Community values your interest in this significant post and will welcome your application.