

Programme Director & Pastoral Support

Purley Chase Centre

Purley Chase Centre is a retreat centre and event venue set in the beautiful North Warwickshire countryside. The Centre offers a range of short courses including Prayer retreats, Spiritual Workshops, Bible study, Arts and Crafts, Sacred Dance, and Singing within a relaxed environment. We also offer Summer Camps for children and teenagers and host Summer Schools for young people who travel to Purley Chase from around the world.

Purley Chase is owned by The General Conference of the New Church whose faith is rooted in an enlightened and balanced approach to Christ-centred spirituality, aided by insights found in the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg. We validate all faiths and welcome people of all religions and none.

Programme Director & Pastoral Support:

Full-time position: Salary £35,000.00 – £39,096.00 (dependant on experience)

Job Description

Main Duties

- To have responsibility for the development and implementation of spiritual education and worship at Purley Chase Centre.
- To provide or organize monthly church services for the congregation at Purley Chase.
- To develop and run discussion groups and promote other activities provided by other areas of the New Church, such as The Swedenborg Open Learning Centre, Swedenborg Society and General Church.
- To prepare and lead events at Purley Chase, and to support and liaise with leaders of other events.
- To check the appropriateness of groups wishing to book events at Purley.
- To provide pastoral and spiritual support to Purley Chase team members, congregation members, visitors and the local community who use Purley Chase regularly.
- To work as part of the Purley Chase Management Team, working collaboratively with the Centre Manager and Media Coordinator.
- To help develop Purley Chase as a resource for the local community.

Required Attributes

- To have a foundation knowledge of the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg and the Bible, with a willingness to develop this knowledge in new ways to supplement this role.
- To embrace a commitment to ongoing personal development and training.
- To feel secure in your own faith, and able to embrace the emerging vision and inclusiveness of The General Conference of the New Church.
- To have experience of retreat centre environments or event management, with a working knowledge of the presentation of spiritual ideas and leading groups.
- To have experience in pastoral support, whatever a person's faith background and even those with no faith.
- To be able to work as a team with colleagues and Purley staff, including volunteers.
- To have an aptitude for networking with spiritual community leaders in the vicinity of Purley Chase and beyond is desirable.

General Information

Relocation grant availability/Accommodation

If the successful candidate is from overseas, a grant to cover relocation is available.

The successful candidate will be able to stay at Purley Chase Centre while looking for accommodation in the local area.

Training opportunities

Training is available from both a theological college, including distance learning, and at the Centre itself. After this training, the successful applicant may feel called to ordination into the ministry of the New Church (Swedenborgian) and subsequently choose to apply for sponsorship as an ordination candidate.

Contracted hours of employment and holiday entitlement

Full time employment is 40 hours per week. Holiday is 6 weeks holiday per year exclusive of public bank holidays.

Information regarding need to be based at Purley Chase Centre

It is essential that the person holding this position is based at the Centre unless required to attend meetings or training elsewhere.

General Information about the location of Purley Chase Centre

By Car – The centre is just over 2 miles south of the A5 near Atherstone. It can be approached from all points of the compass via the motorway network, using M1, M6, M42 or M69 for instance. If travelling along the A5 from the East then just before Atherstone, take the B4111 towards Mancetter.

If you are travelling along the A5 from the West, go past Atherstone on the dual carriageway and when you reach the large roundabout at the end, take the right exit towards Mancetter B4111. After about a quarter of a mile on B4111, just past the church, take a right turn signed Ridge Lane. Over the traffic light controlled bridge, follow the road round to the right and up through the trees, Purley Chase Centre is about a quarter of a mile further on, on the right.

Travelling by rail – The nearest main line railway station is at Nuneaton, about 8 miles away. Nuneaton is a stop on the high-speed main line between London and Lancashire. Slower trains go through Atherstone station which is two miles away from Purley Chase Centre. This is also the Euston Crewe line. Both Nuneaton and Atherstone are served by various bus and coach services. A taxi from Atherstone railway station to the Centre costs roughly £12. Local Taxi companies are:

AAA Taxis: 01827 713637

Atherstone Taxis: 01827 712427

Travelling by air

The nearest airport is **Birmingham (BHX) Airport** which is 12.3 miles away. Other nearby airports include London Luton (LTN) (64.5 miles), Manchester (MAN) (67.6 miles), London Heathrow (LHR) (85 miles) and London Stansted (STN) (85.7 miles).

Local places of interest. Stratford upon Avon 1 hr. Kenilworth Castle 40 minutes. Warwick Castle 40 minutes. Battle of Bosworth 20 minutes.