

expect

a wide variety of work (and plenty of it) with opportunities to learn new skills.

expect

to dig deep and grow through the tough times (yes there will be those as well).

expect

to be part of the team that makes the cream for guests to enjoy (not eating it all yourself).

expect

to take responsibility for making the most of the experience (we don't do spoon-feeding).



Roles and responsibilities on offer vary widely according to needs of the charity, balance of the team, and your skill, aptitude and length of commitment.

"I have been glad to be involved in putting meals together for guests because people are so appreciative, although I don't actually enjoy being stuck in the kitchen!"

"I wanted to offer some volunteer service because God has been very good to me and I wanted to give something back. Deep down I guess I also needed time to find out about my future direction and what God wants me to do with the next stage of my life. As well as the peace and quiet and solitude here, I was deeply touched by the whole experience..."

"It was good to work alongside the community, to feel we could give something back and to share in the fellowship of work, recreation and worship."

"What keeps bringing me back to Sheldon is the peace and quiet and the feel of the presence of God."

"I came as a volunteer then joined the community. It's so much more than just a job - it's a way of life that challenges and inspires - makes, breaks and remakes you. It expects a great deal but the rewards (apart from financial!) are amazing."

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are you wondering whether you might be part of Sheldon's future?

ENQUIRERS' WEEKEND

25th - 27th February 2011



who we are

We share in the ministry of running Sheldon to serve the several thousand guests who stay here every year.

Our specialist work is caring for people in ministry. At the heart of that care is creating an environment that is conducive to rest, healing and recuperation. We have high standards and the core of the work is very practical with careful attention to detail in the housekeeping, hospitality, administration and care of the site.

community

Sheldon Community members have a long term vocational commitment to stability, stewardship and servanthood. Sheldon is our home and our workplace. We are currently five members.

alongsiders

People living alongside the Community share in many aspects of our life and work for a period of 6 - 18 months. It may be a period of transition, a Grey Gap Year, giving a year to God, etc.

volunteers

Volunteers stay at Sheldon for one to three weeks at a time as part of workparty or hospitality teams. Many volunteers regularly offer time every year, sometimes several times a year.

staff

Local salaried staff make a valuable contribution supplementing resident members across all the Sheldon teams.

growing Sheldon

Sheldon has been home to the Society of Mary and Martha for over 20 years. We are in an exciting time of growth.

The rebuilding of the Long Barn opens up new possibilities for developing our ministry based on improved quality accommodation.

The building of the Hen Runs (small residential units replacing derelict mobile homes) offers new possibilities for growing community at Sheldon. We are interested in exploring with potential Volunteers, Alongsiders and longer term Community members.

These two factors combine from autumn 2011 onwards and we are keen to grasp the opportunities. Buildings and people go hand in hand with a residential ministry. The last major step of growth came with the opening of the Courtyard in 2003. We perceive our ministry to be on the threshold of a similarly large step over the next few years.

The process is one of discernment and we generally like to take time over the exploration process.

We look forward to journeying together.

the next step?

If you would like to be considered for an invitation to the Enquirers' weekend, we'd like to start by getting to know more about you.

Please write an introductory letter including things like ...

your past

CV, work experience and skills, passions and pastimes, physical and mental health, spiritual journey ...

practical stuff

age, driving licence, family circumstances, dependants, current work, financial circumstances, church affiliation, referees ...

your future

what direction you'd like to go in, why you'd like to be part of Sheldon, what you'd like to learn, how you'd like to grow, what you'd like to offer and for how long ...

We need to hear from you by 15th January and invitations will be made by the end of January.

