



Annual Report 2017/18

CHAPLAINCY

Annual Report of the Universities Chaplaincy in Leeds 2017-18
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Front and Back Cover: Asaph Concert, October 2017.
Members of the public joined Chaplaincy staff and university students in experiencing a concert from the Chinese Christian singer Asaph.

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Introduction

The Chaplaincy provides spiritual support and pastoral care for staff and students of the University of Leeds, Leeds Beckett University, Leeds Arts University, and The University of Law, Leeds. The Chaplaincy works to offer all members of the University communities the opportunities to explore the spiritual aspect of their lives. We lead many services of worship and make facilities available to students and staff groups for worship and prayer.

We aim to deliver services in these areas:

- ❖ Pastoral Care
 - Personal support
 - Crisis and bereavement care
 - International students
- ❖ Spirituality
 - Worship and other religious events
 - Spiritual development
 - Inter-faith work to increase understanding between people of different faiths
- ❖ Ethics
- ❖ Community building
- ❖ Advice on matters of faith to the universities' senior managers



Preface

Robin Fishwick, Coordinating Chaplain

Although I am not a great football fan, I am aware of the curious way a team somehow can play a better game when down to ten players. Losing Matt Ward half way through the year reminds me of this phenomenon as it has, I believe, led our team to focus on what our strengths are and how we can better deploy them in serving our Universities.



Matt has been part of the team for almost 13 years and has acted as lead chaplain to the University of Leeds for the last 10 years. When we learned that Matt was moving to Scotland with Vicky, his wife, we had in the short term decisions to make about how to carry on with some of the activities Matt had led on over the years - in particular the Medics' Module where second and third year medical students have an option of exploring spirituality and health with our team for a fortnight in December. We took the decision to honour all such commitments and reallocated roles within the team, although I was not a little relieved when Anthea Colledge was appointed to Matt's post on an interim basis in the summer of 2018 and she agreed to take up leadership of the Medics' Module. Plugging such potential gaps in our service following Matt's loss, however, does not detract from a general sense of loss and a sense of gratitude for what Matt has achieved in his time at Leeds. In particular I am grateful for the way he focussed his ministry on the whole university and was creative and adaptive when responding to a particular need, whether conducting a vigil or planting a tree to commemorate a student. He always had a sense of what was going on on the campus with an eye to ensuring that the Chaplaincy remains relevant.

In one sense, though, Matt has left us in a healthy state. Following the creative chemistry of Emma Temple and Bethany Polson last year, we have increased Student Outreach Worker provision by replacing Emma's full time post with three part time posts. This has presented challenges, particularly as the appointments could not be made in time for the Freshers' weeks, but has helped foster a sense of vibrancy in the Emmanuel Centre. We have also welcomed to our team Rev. Ryan Lindsey, who has helped us informally in previous years and Rev. Samantha Sheehan who now serves us on a part time basis as URC chaplain. I am also extremely grateful to David Ephrem our Orthodox Associate Chaplain who has brought an extra quality to our ministry in spite of the tragic loss of his beloved wife Janice in December 2017.

Our work at the Chaplaincy would suffer greatly were it not for the seamless way our Chaplaincy Service Managers have taken up the reins one from another. Nerys Notley, who made an invaluable contribution during Katherine Norman's first period of maternity leave, finally left us in the autumn of 2017, by which time Katherine was firmly back in place. However, with Katherine coming back on a part time basis, we needed part time administrative cover and successfully recruited Nikki Barber to that purpose. I think it is fair to say that we got more than we bargained for in Nikki as in the spring of 2018, Katherine took a second period of maternity leave and Nikki began acting as Chaplaincy Service Manager. We have also been assisted in this by Robin Hanford, one of our Student Outreach Workers, agreeing to cover the office as additional hours on Tuesday afternoons. In all of this the show has been kept, well and truly, on the road.

Message from the Chair

Alan Deacon, Chair of the Universities in Leeds Chaplaincy Trust

This Annual Report demonstrates the diverse and innovative ways in which the Chaplaincy Team seeks to fulfill its mission to the staff and students of the Universities in Leeds. Those Universities are now four in number following the Service Level Agreement between the Trust and Leeds Arts University, which took effect in March 2018.



Throughout the year, the Team has been encouraged and supported by the Trust, and I remain very grateful for the continued enthusiasm and commitment of my fellow Trustees. We welcomed two new Trustees this year: Susan Howdle as the Trustee representing the Methodist Church and Rev. Lynne Grey as the Trustee representing the Anglican Church.

There were also important changes within the Management Team. The Chaplaincy Service Manager (CSM) Katherine Norman returned from her maternity leave in July 2017, but chose to do so on a part time basis. For a while, Nerys Notley who had served as Acting CSM in Katherine's absence continued in a part-time role. Nerys, however, left the Team in November 2017 and Nikki Barber became Assistant CSM working in tandem with Katherine. This arrangement worked superbly well, and the whole team came to appreciate the commitment, efficiency and empathy that Nikki brought to her role. We were all delighted, therefore, that Nikki agreed to become Acting CSM in April 2017, when Katherine began a second period of maternity leave.

Finally, this will be my final contribution to an Annual Report as I shall cease to be the Chair of the Trust next year after six years in the post. I have never ceased to be impressed by the collective skills, commitment, and integrity of the Chaplaincy Team, and I remain enormously grateful for the support and guidance of Robin as the Coordinating Chaplain and to Sharon, Katherine, Nerys and Nikki as Chaplaincy Service Managers.



Chaplaincy Team

The Ecumenical Chaplaincy team is united in serving the university communities in Leeds. The Chaplaincy operates in accordance with the ecumenical vision of West Yorkshire Churches Together and the beliefs of its member churches.

Our Chaplaincy team is a mix of volunteer and stipendiary members. Chaplains are drawn from up to nine denominations.

Chaplains

- Robin Fishwick (Quakers), Coordinating Chaplain
- Rev. Melvyn Kelly (Methodist) Lead Chaplain, Leeds Beckett University
- Fr. Peter Kravos (Roman Catholic)
- Laurence Pusey (Baptist)
- Anna Spiegel (Baptist)
- Rev. Ryan Lindsey (Non-Conformist Chaplain)
- Rev. Dr. Matt Ward (Anglican) Lead Chaplain, University of Leeds
- Rev. Anthea Colledge (Anglican) Interim Lead Chaplain, University of Leeds
- Rev. Samantha Sheehan (URC)

Associate Chaplains

- Pastor Kim Chan (Leeds Chinese Christian Church)
- Pastor Johnny Chan (Leeds Chinese Christian Church)
- Intern Eric Suen (Leeds Chinese Christian Church)
- Fr. David Gill (Orthodox)
- David Berryman (Assistant Orthodox Chaplain)
- Richard Levitt (Assistant Quaker Chaplain)

Interns

- Eric Suen (Leeds Chinese Christian Church Assistant Pastor)

Christian Student Outreach Workers

- Robin Hanford
- Karen Fox
- Magda Hernandez

Chaplaincy Trust

Chaplaincy Trust staff

- Katherine Norman - Chaplaincy Services Manager (Maternity Leave)
- Nerys Notley - Chaplaincy Services Manager (Maternity Cover)
- Nikki Barber - Chaplaincy Administrator & Chaplaincy Services Manger (Maternity Cover)

Trustees

- Alan Deacon—Trust Chair
- Ann Dudzinski—Company Secretary

Denominational Trustees

- Richard Whiting (Yorkshire Synod of United Reformed Church)
- Rev. Lynne Grey (Anglican Diocese of Leeds)
- Tom Shaw (Yorkshire Baptist Association)
- Michael Kelly (Roman Catholic Diocese of Leeds)
- Marianna Potterton (Lutheran Church in Great Britain)
- Susan Howdle (Leeds District of the Methodist Church)
- Rachel Muers (Leeds Area Quaker Meeting)
- Vacant (The Yorkshire Division of the Salvation Army)

University Trustees

- Catherine Lorigan (University of Leeds)
- Darron Dixon-Hardy (University of Leeds Staff Representative)
- Stewart Harper (Leeds Beckett University)
- Alison Caswell (Leeds Beckett University Staff Representative)

Report of Lead Chaplain to Leeds Beckett University— Rev. Melvyn Kelly



It has again been a privilege and a pleasure to serve as Lead Chaplain to Leeds Beckett University, the University of Law and within the wider chaplaincy provided by the team.

My model of chaplaincy is based upon a desire to be a good neighbour to all whom I encounter on campus, whoever they may be. That desire is foundational to my life as a Christian and as a Methodist.

My engagement with staff and students has been varied, ranging from my involvement with events arranged by the chaplaincy team, through pastoral conversation to informal conversations in passing. Perhaps the most bizarre was giving away bananas outside Leeds University Union to surprised recipients, to mark Fair Trade Fortnight.

I try to make a point of being visible on the University campuses, chatting with people as I walk or over coffee at a table in the coffee bars - “loitering with intent” has different meaning from the days of my work in criminal justice!

Last year I reported how my interest in Origami, the Japanese art of paper-folding, had become my trademark. My skills in origami continue to have an impact - I seem to leave a trail of folded paper wherever I go, whether that is on my desk at Headingley, in mindfulness sessions, events promoting mental health awareness and encouraging healthy lifestyles, the University of Leeds *Staff Festival of Making*, at Unity brunches and lunches and, in particular, the Unity Winter Starlight event.

I was glad to expand my involvement in the Medics Module by leading a session on the Spirituality of the experience of childbirth as well as repeating my session on Spirituality and the Creative Self.

In December I accepted an invitation to serve as Chaplain to students resident in Devonshire Hall joining them for formal meals at Christmas, and for Burns Night as well as being thoroughly entertained by the Devonshire Hall production of *Legally Blonde*.

It has again been rewarding to be able to provide individual pastoral support to students and staff, including being available on a number of occasions in response to crisis, student death and bereavement. As part of the Leeds Beckett Wellbeing team in Student Services I was able in the early part of the year to assist colleagues in that team by playing a small part in meeting the demand for Wellbeing appointments. From September 2018 it is proposed that I offer specific Chaplain’s appointments to which colleagues in the Wellbeing team might refer students in appropriate circumstances. At the invitation of the Wellbeing Team I propose also to offer from September 2018 regular informal sessions for mindfulness around paper folding and other creative activities. I shall call these sessions “Creative Space”. Another specific request from the Wellbeing team is for chaplaincy to offer a drop-in bereavement peer support group. More about these initiatives in next year’s report.

I continue to find that Leeds Beckett University, whilst an avowedly secular institution, seems genuinely to recognise and value the place of faith in the lives of staff and students and is encouraging, welcoming and respectful of people from all faiths and backgrounds. I shared with University colleagues and a community faith leader on work done this year towards developing a University Code for Faith and Belief on campus. This work will hopefully come to fruition during

the next academic year.

The Faith and Belief Forum continues to seek ways in which interfaith engagement can be encouraged and developed. As a mark of commitment to this we sought permission from the Interfaith Network to use their logo on a University flag which will be flown above the James Graham Building in November during Interfaith Week 2018 just as there is a Poppy flag flown there in the week leading up to Remembrance Sunday.

Building on my desire to help the University explore how it can accommodate festival celebrations of the faith traditions of staff and students without compromise to the institution's secular self-understanding, I worked with colleagues in the Faith and Belief Forum to organise a carol singing event. A good number of people joined us in the Concourse of the Portland Building and gave hearty renditions of traditional Christmas carols whilst tucking into seasonal favourites like mince pies and stollen. Those who came along are determined that the tradition be repeated every year and extended to Headingley campus too.

It has been good to have had the support of Robin Hanford as the Student Outreach Worker focussed on Leeds Beckett and to have been able to encourage him in setting up his *Queer Space* group. Colleagues in Equality and Diversity network at Leeds Beckett were especially interested to hear that the chaplaincy were providing such a group.



I was delighted to represent the Chaplaincy as the guest of the Leeds Beckett Vice Chancellor at the 2018 Graduation Dinner joining the Dean of the Law School and his guests in a delightful evening to celebrate the University's successes.

During the year I took over from Robin Fishwick as lead chaplain to the Leeds branch of the University of Law. As an alumnus of the College of Law, a previous incarnation of the University, I have welcomed this appointment with pleasure. This is a smaller institution and there are fewer opportunities for engagement with the staff and students there. In addition to having a stall at the Freshers' Fair I have tried to ensure that the University wellbeing team know they may call upon the Chaplaincy at any time, that staff and students are aware of and know that they are welcome at all events organised at the Emmanuel Centre.

Unity events have richly encouraged me and affirmed my commitment to promoting mutual respect and understanding and sharing between people of all faiths and none. My excitement at being able to replicate the Unity Canvas Roadshow at Leeds Beckett was thwarted by a family bereavement but plans are in hand to achieve this in the autumn of 2018.

My second year in post has allowed me to embed myself further as a valued associate member of staff at Leeds Beckett, and a valued member of the Chaplaincy team. Karen, Naomi and I were pleased to open our home for a Team Social Evening and to welcome some of the trustees as well as colleagues from the team.

All of the above is the exercise of my ministry as a Methodist Presbyterian in the Yorkshire West District of the Methodist Church. The District and its people continue to support me in their prayers and many are keen to hear me speak about the chaplaincy work I do as an outworking of the Church's Mission in Britain. I have responsibilities in the District as Secretary of Presbyteral Session of Synod and all that flows *ex officio* from that role as well as being a member of the District Probationers' Committee encouraging and monitoring the work of new ministers during their probationary period prior to ordination.

I look forward to my third year in the team and to sharing with colleagues, staff and students, and the institutions themselves the shared journey of discovery of how the riches of the varied faith traditions we encounter on campus might be celebrated, nurtured and affirmed with mutual respect and love.

Report of Lead Chaplain to University of Leeds - Rev. Dr. Matt Ward



The start of the academic year presented the Chaplaincy with significant challenges. The lack of a student outreach worker meant that freshers week activity was somewhat limited compared to other years. This slow start has meant that developing links with students has taken longer than some years. Thankfully the appointment of 3 part-time student outreach workers later in the term saw a significant injection of energy, activity and fun around the Emmanuel Centre and beyond.

The annual Biomedical memorial service was again attended by large numbers of family members whose loved ones had donated their bodies to medical education at the University. The service was designed and led in large part by the medical students who had been involved in anatomy classes using those donations. One of the highlights of the service was the premier of a piece of music composed specially for it by local composer Tim Knight who beautifully set the poignant words of a poem 'When I touched your hand'.

This year the chaplaincy offered a service of remembering and thanksgiving for All Souls day (2nd November). This responded to pastoral needs - the 10th Anniversary of a student death that had been very significant, and a number of more recent bereavements that the chaplains had helped support people through. The service provided a valuable space for those who attended and the opportunity for members of the chaplaincy team to continue offering pastoral support.

The term finished with the University Carol service, which once again involved a large number of different staff and students - music from LUUMS Brass Band and the Staff Centre Choir as well as students from a range of Christian societies reading. The offertory from the service was given to support the work that Simon on the Street do with the homeless in Leeds and was great to have students who had worked with SOTS talking about the valuable work that they do.

Caféchurch has had a positive year with a mixture of new students joining and others continuing to be part of the community. A weekend

away in the Yorkshire Dales helped to form a really strong sense of community. Leadership of Café Church has now been passed to Rev. Samantha Sheehan, our new URC colleague who has a particular role to explore how the church connects with the student age group. Her fresh perspectives and new energy will undoubtedly help Café Church move on to the next stage of its life.

Events at a National level have had impact here in Leeds. The dispute between Universities UK (UUK) and the University and College Union (UCU) about the future of pension provision for university staff led to a significant period of industrial action. The result of this was the chaplains working to support those who were on strike and often on the picket lines in appalling weather. Being able to work to support all members of our university community is one of the most valuable things the chaplaincy can do. The uncertainty that industrial action brought - both for staff on strike and suffering financially because of that, and students who were increasingly stressed because of disruption to teaching, meant we had to ensure our response as a chaplaincy team was to open doors and keep offering support to all university members.

Robin Fishwick. Acting Lead Chaplain. University of Leeds

Here Matt's report ends as in the spring term we learned that Matt was leaving Leeds. I briefly stepped in as Lead to the University and was primarily involved in ensuring all of the ventures started by Matt continued and that other team members could step into the various roles. I was particularly pleased to be able to assure the School of Medicine that we would continue to run our "Spirituality and Health" module. I am grateful to Rev Heston Groenewald for being on hand in case anyone needed to speak to an Anglican. This included organising a baptism in the Claire Chapel, the first in several decades! I was also very pleased to learn that Anthea Colledge would be temporarily appointed to serve as Anglican Chaplain and Lead to the University of Leeds with effect from August. I am glad to welcome Anthea to our team. Anthea is no stranger to the University nor the Chaplaincy and I look forward to working with her in the coming year. I am also not a little relieved that she has experience in teaching on the Medics' Module and has agreed to share the lead on this with me.



Report from Assistant Orthodox Chaplain - David Ephrem Berryman

In words some Anglicans might recognise, early in the Divine Liturgy, the Priest prays; 'You that have graced our shared and harmonious prayers, and who promised when two or three are united in your Name...'. This prayer, translated by the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies, Cambridge, from the pen of St John Chrysostom, reflects those who gathered twice a week in the Claire Chapel for the Jesus Prayer - the Payer of the Heart. This book-ends the week on Mondays and Fridays. It was good to welcome people from outside our Tradition and to hear the Jesus Payer and the Our Father in a number of languages as this opening of the heart to Christ united a small group of us from different countries and disciplines.



The way we work together was illustrated by colleagues stepping in when I was on 'compassionate leave'. Some momentum was inevitably lost, however. My prayer and hope is that the Orthodox witness may grow this coming academic year, with more contact, by the end of this year, with relevant student societies representing Orthodox majority countries. (Publicity seems to have been an issue). We were pleased to welcome some new students at the monthly Divine Liturgy when it is always so good to meet with Fr David and to hear his wisdom. There is a warm, caring gathering on these occasions which offers prayerful, loving friendship.

I have appreciated the chance to meet students and staff, especially one-to-one. I can take no credit as it is our Faith which channels any divine grace received from these encounters.

In many ways, this has been a time of getting to know the ropes and to pray through the opportunities which might present themselves this coming year. I have been able to develop a good relationship with Fr Stavros and members of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Three Hierarchs in addition to my original Church family of St Makarios, the Romanian Church and the Priest, Fr Ciprian. I am very grateful to Trustee Marianna for agreeing to be 'my' Trustee - I hope she doesn't come to regret it! As a part-timer, along with all the team, I am, perhaps especially, grateful for Nikki's patience and help when I must have been demanding and frustrating.

I hope we shall see growth and more open doors. I hope we may organise a visit to our Monastery in Essex before long. Nearer Leeds, is the Monastery of the Coptic Orthodox Church. They are very welcoming and I hope it might be the context of working more closely with members of this often-persecuted Church who are at the University.

Many thanks are due Fr David for putting trust in me and giving me the opportunity for much Christian fulfillment.

Finally...Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

Events at the Catholic Chaplaincy

Fr. Peter Kravos



The Catholic Chaplaincy is based on St Marks Avenue, and consists of a residence for 6 students, along with the priest-chaplain, Peter Kravos, and a centre which has a common room, library and chapel and which is open each day during university term-time. Peter is also the priest-chaplain at Leeds Trinity University (LTU) in Horsforth, and commits to supporting the Chaplaincy team up there by dedicating Wednesdays and Saturday evenings for Mass, meetings with students, and other activities. The past year has seen some good efforts to coordinate some social events with LTU and the Leeds University Catholic Chaplaincy.

The Catholic Chaplaincy is open to all who want to share the intensive rhythm of the year in a safe, supporting, charitable and prayerful community of mainly university students. During university term-time there is worship in our beautiful chapel on most days in the celebration of Mass, which is the central event of the week on Sundays at 5pm. The worshipping community averages about 100, but this is always a bit higher in the first term, and lower in the final one! The worshipping community is almost entirely made up of university students, and is a good even mix of international & British, male & female, under-graduate & post-graduate. Students organise & lead the music, readings, welcoming, etc, and the student-run “CathSoc” organise a social event after the Sunday evening Mass.

CathSoc is at the heart of the Catholic Chaplaincy’s life, and along with the resident chaplain, organises a variety of social events and faith-sharing events, but generally cultivates friendship & mutual support. There are nine “officers” in CathSoc, each with a role or responsibility at the chaplaincy. We were extremely proud that CathSoc won “Best Faith Society of the Year” award at the Leeds University Union “Rileys” in April 2018, the second time in four years.

The Catholic Chaplaincy organises a weekend away retreat in February, and the “Retreat in Daily Life” in November, where prayer-guides offer one-to-one and group spiritual direction open to all Christians. In 2017, 25 participants from across Christian denominations took part. It is one of the highlights of the year, alongside our annual “Interfaith Pancake Party” on Shrove Tuesday, organised alongside the “Team Unity” group of interfaith chaplains, when people and societies of all faiths & none are invited to fry their own! We were completely overrun with numbers this year, and were delighted by the warm-spirit shared by everyone. We have also been delighted to host a Christmas concert in our chapel by the university-based Clothworkers Consort.

The coming academic year will be a time of discernment about the future of the Catholic Chaplaincy. Opportunities to relocate and change our way of operating are being considered by the chaplain, Bishop of Leeds, and a team of officers from the Diocese of Leeds. At the moment, it is likely these changes will take place in the summer of 2019, but there is much still to evaluate.

Student Outreach Workers

Robin Hanford, Karen Fox, and Magda Hernandez

The Student Outreach Workers have had a fantastic year in post. We were very excited to work together in the chaplaincy and to also develop our own projects over the course of the year. Robin worked within the capacity of Leeds Beckett, Karen within the University of Leeds and Magda worked closely within the international community across the universities.

All three of the Student Outreach Workers came to work together for the first time at the University of Leeds Christmas Service. The Chaplaincy held an amazing carol service, in the Great Hall, that we were all proud to be a part of. Following this, term was about to start again and clubs and projects began to develop within our team. Queer Space was developed to provide a place for people of the LGBTQ+ community to worship and pray. Beyond the Book was initiated in order to discuss Christian 'self-help' books over a spot of brunch. International Student Club also continued in its successes as seen in previous years.

Leeds Arts' University (LAU) joined the Chaplaincy this year and welcomed us to set up a stall in their cafeteria which enabled us to meet a few of their students. Unlike other universities in Leeds, the Arts University holds no exams for its students but an exhibition at the end of year, making it unique in its outreach requirements. LAU cares extensively about its students' mental health, as the pressure of exhibition is a prolonged experience, and this was evident in the presence of therapy dogs at the same time as the chaplaincy stall.

The University of Leeds Healthy week was an incredible experience. As a cathartic exercise, students and staff were asked to write their fears, worries and doubts onto a piece of wood, which was then put into a fire pit. This was very popular and it led to a lot of conversations about spirituality. The Christian Union of the University also held their bible study and leaders' meeting on a Monday evening at the Chaplaincy. They enjoyed the atmosphere and the people present so much that they have asked to repeat the experience.

The International Students Club has continued to see a steady rise in numbers within the year and is predicted to be bigger than ever in the following academic year. This shows a real community being developed with new international students finding a safe and comfortable place with other like-minded people.

The Chaplaincy supported the Big Breakfast during Christian Aid week. This saw the outreach workers providing breakfast snacks to people passing by the Quaker house. The well-travelled road sees a vast amount of foot traffic regularly and as such, this event was a big success.

Based on this year's events, the Student Outreach Workers are optimistic about the continued development of chaplaincy work and can see there is room to develop even further than what has already achieved this year.

International Student Club

Anna Spiegel

We are grateful for the continued prospering and success of the Leeds Universities International Students Club (ISC) and the large numbers of students that have been attending and enjoying meeting and making new friends from a wide range of countries round the world. The Club has continued to operate weekly on Wednesdays from 6-8pm, (as in previous years), meeting every week of the year during both terms and vacations except the one date between Christmas and New



Year. The ISC programme through the year has included welcome events, quizzes, a folk songs concert, barn dancing, karaoke, juggling, Christian art, live birds of prey demonstration, trips to Leeds parks (Meanwood, Roundhay and Golden Acre) and to Kirkstall Abbey, Christmas and Easter celebrations and a BBQ in a volunteer's garden in Oakwood which had a record attendance of about 100 this year. Increasing

emphasis is being put on events in which the students can individually participate such as them talking about their own countries, discussions contrasting their cultures, learning to juggle, singing in the Karaoke, barn dancing and competing in small groups for prizes in the quizzes.

The ISC Culture Shock Comedy Drama: For many years, the Culture Shock Comedy Drama has enjoyed great audiences but this year, more than 2,500 students saw the play about culture shock and homesickness over 15 performances in 10 days. This was such a great blessing to the actors, but more so, the student response was amazing this year, with students attending additional inductions just to see it again. This is such a great tool for us to build relationships throughout the year, as the students recognize each of the actors wherever we go on campus. We are very grateful to both of the major universities for their continued support of the play.



Statistics of student numbers and countries of origin: The club continues to grow year on year. Throughout the year, the numbers remained higher than previous years, even averaging 50-60 during the summer. Then the first week of term boasted a crowd of 200 students, a club record! While we continue to have huge crowds from China and Japan, we have seen an increase in students from the Middle East, particularly Saudi Arabia and Iraq. And unlike years past, we have enjoyed many more students from across Europe and North Africa.

The ISC English Classes: Wow! The English class has really grown over the past year. Under the direction of Steph Macwilliam, the class really saw a surge with many weeks seeing up to twenty students. Steph is no longer working in Leeds now and is unable to take this class this year. The students are enjoying these classes and we continue to look for additional support by way of extra teachers to ensure that the class is continuous and that the students get a variety of teaching methods and skills.

Bible Ministry. There is an opportunity after the club finishes at 8 pm to join an optional small group discussing a passage from the bible or watching a short Christian video followed by a discussion. The bible study saw very good numbers at different points last academic year - it seems that once a few students come, the momentum builds and many more students join. Interestingly, the majority of students coming this year seemed to be from Muslim majority countries and great conversations were had. This academic year has been slow to start: some weeks have seen no student interest. We are working to strategize better ways to engage students in these discussions, including starting the program a bit earlier in the



evening, in order to finish earlier and start the bible discussion at 7:45 instead of 8pm. We remain prayerful that this time will lead to great spiritual conversations. The Gideons kindly supply us with New Testaments for any students who would like one and we can also give away free the *Jesus* film on DVD in a version which gives a choice of 8 different spoken languages.

Volunteers. We are very grateful for the service to the Club put in by our great volunteers who serve at the club each week. Through their great commitment and efforts, we continue to be able to offer students studying here from around the globe a great welcome at the Emmanuel Centre on the Wednesday Club nights. An increasing proportion of the helpers are themselves from abroad and sadly, many of these must leave us when their terms in the UK are completed. Consequently, the number of helpers has decreased and we would now be very grateful for some new recruits and would also like to enlist the help of other churches in this recruitment. We remain grateful to the universities for advertising our Club through many avenues and continue to look for ways to increasing our relevance and reach to internationals in Leeds. We are so thankful to everyone involved, from the tireless efforts of the volunteers and the partnership we have with local churches, to the organizations that support us. As the club has now entered its 33rd year, we are grateful for all we have been able to achieve in welcoming and befriending students at the two Leeds Universities for these many years and thank you all so very much for all your support then as now.

Chinese Church

Kim Chan



October is a busy time to welcome new and old students. They came to the Chaplaincy to find out about our welcome activities on Friday nights.

This welcome night we had about 70-80 students. They are from Malaysia, Hong Kong, China, Singapore, Korea, Indonesia etc.



Celebrating Christmas with friends away from home



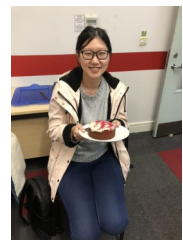
We had a Gospel Concert with our guest singer who came from a faraway land, the students found him refreshing.



We worked with other chaplains to present the Culture Shock Comedy Drama, we lost count of how many times we did it last year! The productions help to ease the students' cultural shock and introduce the Chaplaincy to them, so that they are more confident to approach us during their time at Leeds.



English speaking group



This is Lucia

As well as studying the Bible, our different groups have fun together and encourage one another, for example, with celebrating birthdays.

This year we have had a small increase in the number of staff coming to our Mandarin activities, and some mature students joined us too. We recently also started a weekly conversational English class for mature students.

Crisis and Out of Hours Support



A significant part of our work as chaplains is about responding to crises. Part of that response is the Out of Hours phone that is held by several of our team on a rota basis. The chaplain on out of hours duty may occasionally have to switch the phone to silent but will always aim to respond to a call within the hour. Sometimes the call is from a worried parent and although we would not

approach the student concerned without permission, we will seek to support and reassure the parent and encourage them to ask the student to contact us directly.

During office hours we have at least one chaplain on duty who can see anyone who comes to the office or, failing that, contact them by phone. This ease of access is a major factor in the willingness of staff or students to contact us - if a chaplain “happens to be around anyway”, they are less likely to feel that the issue troubling them is too trivial to talk about. This, in turn, means that we can be seen before the problem becomes a major crisis.

Our crisis and out of hours support complements other services available to students and staff and we stay in touch with those other providers in order to facilitate mutual signposting and offer mutual support. Lead chaplains are also usually directly available on an out of hours basis.

From a faith standpoint, it is often at the time of a crisis that we exercise our ministry towards the less religious (the “nons” as they are sometimes called). People who are not generally in the habit of thinking about the big questions of life and death suddenly find themselves confronted by them, often in a way that is traumatic. Our job is not to take advantage of this by “peddling” our own brand of faith, but rather to be alongside our students, staff and parents in their own efforts to find meaning.

Leeds Arts University

We are pleased to have been approached by Leeds Arts University to provide our Chaplaincy service to staff and students on their Blenheim walk campus. Originally Leeds School of Art, Leeds Arts University gained university status in 2017 and wasted no time in ensuring it had a access to chaplaincy services. We have therefore negotiated a Service Level Agreement (SLA) similar to that negotiated with The University of Law (Leeds). Although the numbers are comparable to the University of Law (Leeds), our ministry to Leeds Arts University is already visibly different. In particular, Leeds Arts University students tend to be younger and are more likely to have less life experience.

The geographical proximity to the Emmanuel Centre also makes it more accessible to Leeds Arts University students than to The University of Law students based in the City Centre. Despite this, Melvyn Kelly, Lead chaplain to University of Law and himself an alumnus, has actively promoted our service and we have had University of Law students attend International Students Club. Leeds Arts University, however is within sight of the Emmanuel Centre and our Student Outreach Workers (SOWs) and other members of the chaplaincy team have been able to walk over to do well being events and promotions at Blenheim Walk.

We have already had Leeds Arts University students at at least one Unity event and have been developing our relationships with staff and students, partly through the Students Union. Our own artist and Baptist chaplain, Laurence Pusey, has also been over to get to know students.



Staffing and Professional Development

During 2017-18 there were some notable staff changes:

- Nikki Barber joined as administrator in November 2017, Nikki came from a Yorkshire charity, supporting the education of street children in Uganda. Nikki took over from Nerys Notley who left in December 17.
- Rev. Ryan Lindsey has long been associated with the chaplaincy. He became official and joined the team in January 2018. Ryan hails from a southern Baptist Church in USA, is a non-Conformist Chaplain and has an interest in discipleship and sports ministry.
- Rev Dr Matt Ward left us in April 18, after 12 years at the Chaplaincy. Matt went to minister at the Church in Scotland, and together with his wife Vicky, will be much missed on campus.
- Rev. Samantha Sheehan joined the team in April 2018 as the new URC chaplain. This is part of her Generation Y role in the Church.
- Katherine Norman, Chaplaincy Services Manager, left to go on maternity leave in April 18 and will return in May 2019. Nikki Barber is covering her maternity leave. Congratulations to Katherine and her family on the safe arrival of their baby.

THE STAFF DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES THIS YEAR

November 2017	Team Away Day	A facilitated day exploring our mission within the universities as individuals and members of the chaplaincy team. A special visitor from Night Line was able to highlight the work of this important university service
January 2018	Robin Fishwick Melvyn Kelly	Chaplaincy in Higher Education Learning Group (CHELG) national conference
April 2018	Kim Chan Ryan Lindsey	Supporting victims of sexual assault
April 2018	Karen Fox	Outreach Training “ Fusion” at St George’s Leeds
June 2018	Team Away Day	Things of the eternal and a facilitated workshop looking at when we are most authentically ourselves

Worship and Prayer

The chaplaincy is called to work with love and serve with humility. Our model of practice is rooted in the Christian tradition which we uphold in a spirit of mutual reflection, openness, exploration and prayer.

Students and staff can make appointments to see a chaplain, or we have a drop in five days per week. We also have a chaplain led out of hours support line which can be phoned at any time.

The Chaplaincy offers different styles of worship, and offers rooms and the Chapel to students and staff groups. Events range from weekly to monthly and annually. Retired members of staff also enjoy returning to us regularly as we have become part of their weekly routine.

SUNDAYS

Orthodox Divine Liturgy - monthly

Café Church - weekly in term time

Catholic Mass - weekly in term time

MONDAYS

We host the Student Christian Movement

TUESDAYS

Breathe Quaker style worship - all year round

WEDNESDAYS

Mid Week communion - all year round ecumenical service

International Students Club meet for social and cultural activities all year round

THURSDAYS

Chinese Christian church - weekly all year round. Mandarin speakers.

FRIDAYS

Chinese Christian Church - weekly all year round , for speakers of English or Cantonese.

CLAIRE CHAPEL

There is an active prayer life within the Chapel. We have a popular prayer board anyone can post prayers and thanks giving on. At least once per week different chaplains and members of the team get together to uphold these requests in prayer together and to thank God for answered prayer.

There is always an opportunity to seek quiet and peace in the Chapel individually and this was particularly encouraged in University of Leeds Healthy Week. Prayer cards and bibles in English and Chinese are available, as are free candles if people wish to light a candle and offer a prayer up.

We keep a special Memorial Book at the door to the Chapel with the names of all students who have lost their lives over the year. We record staff here too. This enables their friends and families to be held in prayer on an annual basis at our Remembrance Service.

Activities & Statistics

During 2017-8 chaplains kept a record of events they ran and of the numbers of staff and students attending. These were both regular events like Mid-Week Communion in the Claire Chapel or Orthodox Liturgy, and one off events like the Comedy Shock Culture Drama or the Carol Service.

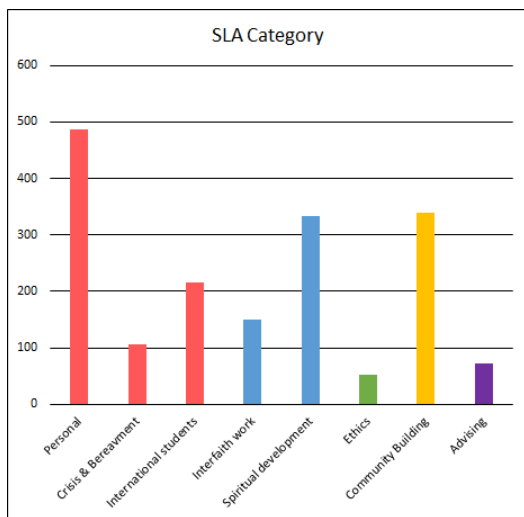
The total number of student and staff encounters this year is in excess of 15,350! This includes chaplaincy run events, counselling and outreach conversations. This is for all four campuses where we have SLAs: Leeds University, Leeds Arts University, Beckett University and The University of Law in Leeds. These events run all year round as we are open for chaplaincy 12 months of the year only closing when the University of Leeds is closed over the Bank Holidays and the Christmas shut down.

The consultations with staff and students are categorised into Personal, Crisis & Bereavement, Crisis and Spiritual, International Students, Interfaith, Ethics, Community Building, Advising on Faith. Personal support is the most popular reason for seeking a chaplain with spiritual development, and community building a close second and third.

There is an even split between people attending regular events versus one off events. Our prayer and worship activities are therefore key to sustaining a mutually supportive community and making sure that staff and students gain familiarity with the role of chaplains so that they are comfortable to come for faith or personal support if they need.

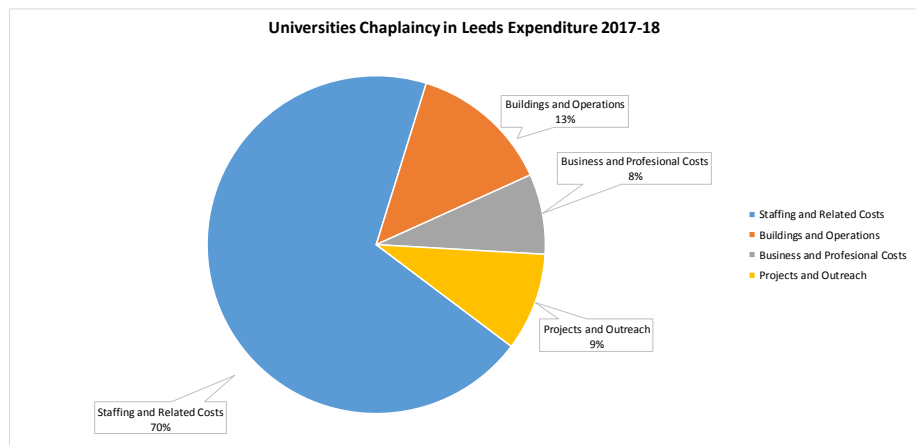
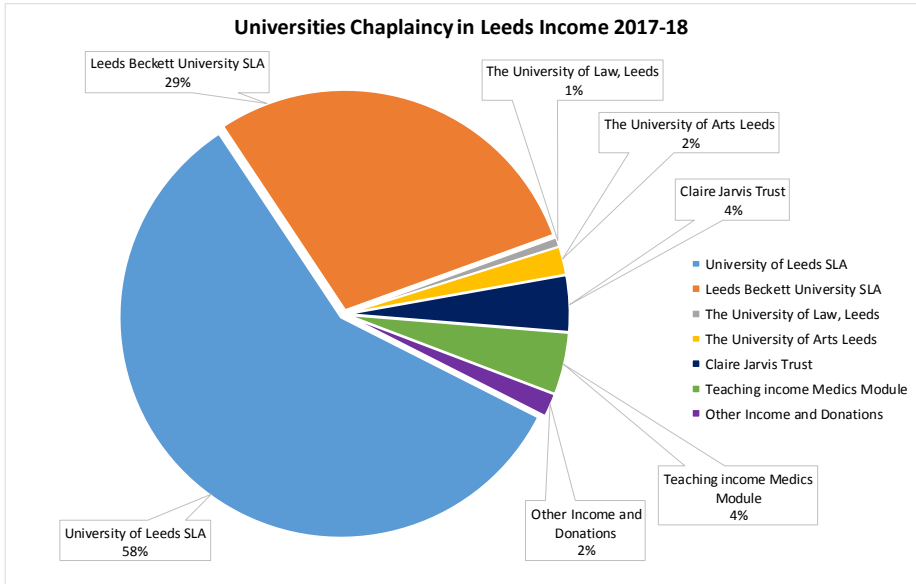
Of the one to one conversations 821 were deep and 893 were lighter. Thus we can show the chaplaincy team is making a substantial impact on supporting staff and student well-being in addition to the universities' own counselling and other support services. There is a peak for consultations in September, when Freshers arrive, and the quietest month is August when the under graduates are not here.

We are pleased and privileged to be able to offer chaplaincy on so many occasions and the data collected gives us insights into the needs of staff and students and the seasonal rhythms of campus.



Financial Overview

The following chart gives an indication of our income streams and areas of expenditure to the end of August 2018. Our thanks go to all those institutions, bodies and individuals who support our work financially.



Unity Events– Robin Fishwick

Unity events are run by the Chaplaincy Team in conjunction with Farhat Yaqoob, the Muslim Student Adviser to the University of Leeds and with other partners. Our aim is to build a sense of unity on our campuses, in particular in overcoming differences of nationality, creed or role within the University.



This year we have stayed with things that have worked well before, whilst trying out one or two new things. One thing I was pleased to start was the Show of Unity, a performance by several cultural societies on the Riley Smith stage in Leeds University Union. We did this

in partnership with the Union as part of their World Unite Festival. I hope in future years to involve more faith and performance societies in the show.

It was an inspired idea for Peter Kravos to open the Catholic Chaplaincy's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Night to students of other faiths by making it a Unity Event. The night was vibrant and lively and I was particularly pleased that Catholic students who had attended in previous years commented that this year was more enjoyable. We are grateful for their hospitality.

Unity planning meetings often seem a matter of our keeping up with Farhat's energy and enthusiasm. Although Farhat is independent of our Chaplaincies Trust she is an ideal partner, not just in the Unity Events but in working alongside our team in promoting chaplaincy on the campus. However, our team is becoming more instrumental in rolling out the Unity programme to the other universities that we alone cover. Students from LAU and LBU have attended Unity meals held at Emmanuel and Melvyn has been working on recreating last year's Unity Canvases at City Campus and Headingley.

Looking Ahead

We aim to hit the ground running in the 2018-9 academic year having already recruited our three Student Outreach Workers - one of whom, Robin Hanford, was a SOW this year so he knows what he's doing! We also have learned how to improve our oversight and co-ordination of the SOWs' work, while David Ephrem will continue to give them pastoral support.

Our team is a more diverse one than I have ever remembered, not just in background and gender, but also theologically. This can be challenging at times, but made less so by a mutual respect and sense of common purpose. We have also been looking this year at our differences in personality and how to cherish those differences.

Our expectation is that our next annual report will include a report from the new Anglican chaplain and I look forward to working alongside the successful candidate in shaping our future ministry. More poignantly, though, this will be our last year with Alan Deacon as Trust Chair. Poor Alan must have thought he had seen the last of me when I graduated in 1981 but still finds himself chasing up my reports to the Trustees as he used to my overdue essays. He also got more than he bargained for when he agreed to chair the Trust as he has guided it through more challenges than we could possibly have imagined. I and the rest of the Team will miss his steady hand.

Robin Fishwick

Coordinating Chaplain





The Universities Chaplaincy is based at:

**Emmanuel Centre at the entrance to the University of Leeds;
Priestley Hall, Leeds Beckett University, Headingley Campus;
5 St Mark's Avenue, near the University of Leeds (Catholic Chaplaincy).**

For more information on the work of the Chaplaincy:

**www.unichaplaincy.org.uk
e: chaplaincy@leeds.ac.uk
e: chaplaincy@leedsbeckett.ac.uk
t: 0113 343 5071**

Find us on Facebook: Universities Chaplaincy in Leeds