



ANNUAL REPORT

UNIVERSITIES CHAPLAINCY IN LEEDS

2018-19



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INTRODUCTION

The Universities' Chaplaincy in Leeds serves the University of Leeds, Leeds Beckett University, Leeds Arts University and the University of Law, supporting the spiritual and pastoral welfare of students and staff, of all faiths and none.

The key aspects of our day to day commitments are: pastoral care, spirituality, worship and prayer ministry, ethics and values, community building, crisis and bereavement care, community cohesion and advising on matters of faith where it is requested by the Universities.

PREFACE- Robin Fishwick (Co-ordinating Chaplain)

I realise that I am now nearing my tenth year as a chaplain to our universities and am now one of the oldest members of the team. I still don't feel like it, despite the fact that when I chair our team meetings I see fewer and fewer faces of those who were around when I started in my ministry here. I think that is because one of the privileges of being a university chaplain is that you are in a world that is forever changing, so scarcely a week goes by without the opportunity to do something you have never done before. And yet the life of a chaplain is by nature rooted in a reality that transcends what the old Prayer Book describes as "the changes and chances of this fleeting world". I once described our role as being "ambassadors of eternity" and I still find that a fair description, for while we enter lovingly and enthusiastically into the lives of those we serve - the staff and students of four Leeds universities - we represent to them a reality that is infinitely wider and deeper than the day-to-day challenges and pleasures of University life.

And yet changes there have been and this year has had more than its fair share. It has been Anthea's first year in post as Anglican Chaplain and Lead Chaplain to the University of Leeds, for the first few months of which we were not sure whether we would be able to keep her on a permanent basis. I was overjoyed to learn that she would be staying with us (I can say that - I wasn't involved in the selection process!) and she has been an absolute pleasure to work with this year, showing a great deal of calm, sensitivity, good sense and a great sense of humour. Melvyn has been very helpful in shouldering responsibilities within the Team and not just at the two Universities where he is the Lead Chaplain. He took over the team away day in November at very short notice when I was prevented from facilitating it and has made a significant contribution to the Unity programme, including rolling it out to Leeds Beckett University. I was also very grateful that Melvyn chose to time his sabbatical this year for a time when his absence would have minimal impact on our work and that he chose to spend the time exploring Luke/Acts with a view to seeing how these scriptures might inform our ministry as chaplains. Melvyn, Anthea and Anna have also each acted as mentor for our three Student Outreach Workers (SOWs) this year. Although having three SOWs does entail more work for the Chaplaincy Service Managers than when we just had one, we continue to use this model, not least for the wider skills base we have to the team as a result. This year, Robin Hanford has continued to give us the benefit of his IT skills and provided admin cover when needed, Juanma Robles has maintained a welcoming presence at the International Students Club and the Emmanuel common room and Laura Palmer has augmented our presence at Leeds Arts University and engaged with students via her henna outreaches.

Our year drew to a close with the prospect of Fr Peter Kravos leaving our team to move to a parish in Pudsey. His departure means that of the team I started working with in 2010, the only “survivors” are Kim and Johnny from the Chinese Church and Laurence, the longest serving Baptist, all of whom continue to make a huge contribution to our work. Peter has nurtured the Roman Catholic community while working alongside colleagues of various Christian hues. He has also been prepared to step outside his comfort zone and try something new - perhaps most notably in his leading role in the Culture Shock Comedy Drama, working brilliantly alongside Anna for many of the set pieces, as well as being part of a human fruit machine for a staff festival. He has also supported the Unity programme and encouraged Cathsoc to engage with other faith societies. When the Unity programme was in its early days it was Peter who succinctly summarised what it was all about, “It’s about shared heart” he said. I am so grateful that Peter has shared his generous heart with us for so many years.

Finally, one more major departure this year has been of Alan Deacon, the retiring Trust Chair. Alan has seen the Chaplaincy through some particularly challenging and turbulent times. He has successfully re-negotiated our Service Level Agreements with The University of Leeds and Leeds Beckett University, even when there was the possibility of our service being caught up in major structural changes. He has also brought staff and students from Leeds Arts University and The University of Law (Leeds) into our care via an SLA with each institution. I know from my involvement with The Churches’ Higher Education Liaison Group (CHELG) that this model, the Leeds Model as it is known, is looked on with interest and sometimes envy by university chaplaincies elsewhere - where each university has its own chaplaincy despite the fact that students from one university might be sharing accommodation with students from another. Alan took on the role of Chair of the Trust in the belief that the work it entailed was significantly less than it turned out to be. He also stayed on in post longer than he planned as he was determined to take us to calmer waters before leaving the helm. I have mentioned in earlier reports how Alan was one of my lecturers in my own student days and being chased up for a late report to the Trust could bring back old feelings of being late with my essays, but although he has from time to time had to have difficult conversations with me, he has always been someone with whom I could be frank and honest and I believe that has helped us maintain the health and viability of our service.

Robin Fishwick
Co-ordinating Chaplain

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Peter Howdle

As the new chair of the Universities' Chaplaincy in Leeds Trust I am grateful for this opportunity to contribute to the Annual Report. First I want to thank Alan Deacon who ceased to be the chair at the end of August (2019). Alan has obviously been an excellent chair of the trust but also an enthusiastic and committed colleague of the chaplaincy team, the trust staff and the trustees. He will be greatly missed and has left the chaplaincy in good shape. We wish him well as he continues to be busy with his many other commitments and thank him most sincerely for all he has done.



West Yorkshire Churches Together appointed me as the new chair of the trust from September 1st 2019 but I am not new to higher education in Leeds since I first came as a medical student to the University of Leeds, School of Medicine in 1966! Before retirement I was Professor of Clinical Medicine and Consultant Gastroenterologist at St James's University Hospital. I am a member of the Methodist Church and for 11 years (2003-14) was co-chair of the national Anglican-Methodist Covenant Commission, so I have some ecumenical experience to bring to this ecumenical chaplaincy!

I am looking forward to learning more about the work of the chaplaincy and in getting to know the team better and am very grateful for the helpful welcome I have received from Katherine and Nikki. I have already met representatives of all four universities which the chaplaincy serves. The universities clearly have a high regard for the chaplains and are very grateful for the contributions they make, particularly for the support they give to the students and staff in time of crisis.

So, in these times where there is increasing intolerance and the need for reconciliation and for the celebration of diversity, I hope that the chaplaincy trust will continue to contribute to the common good and that the chaplaincy will be ever more relevant to the needs of our universities in Leeds.



WHO WE ARE

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 paid, voluntary and stipendiary members. Chaplains are drawn from up to nine denominations. We are based at the Emmanuel Centre, University of Leeds campus.

Chaplaincy Team

Chaplains

Rev. Anthea Colledge (Anglican) Lead Chaplain, University of Leeds
 Anna Spiegel (Baptist)
 Laurence Pusey (Baptist)
 Rev. Melvyn Kelly (Methodist) Lead Chaplain, Leeds Beckett University
 Rev. Ryan Lindsey (Non-Conformist Chaplain)
 Robin Fishwick (Quakers), Coordinating Chaplain
 Fr. Marc Homsey (Roman Catholic) (From 1st September 2019)
 Fr. Peter Kravos (Roman Catholic) (Until 31st August 2019)
 Rev. Samantha Sheehan (URC)

Associate Chaplains

Pastor Kim Chan (Leeds Chinese Christian Church)
 Pastor Johnny Chan (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)
 Natalie Yong (Leeds Chinese Christian Church)

Christian Student Outreach Workers

Robin Hanford
 Laura Palmer
 Juanma Jimenez Robles

Chaplaincy Service Managers

Nikki Barber - Chaplaincy Services Manager (Tue AM, Thu, Fri)
 Katherine Norman - Chaplaincy Services Manager (Mon, Tue, Wed)

Chaplaincy Trust

Trustees

Alan Deacon—Trust Chair (Until 31st August 2019)
 Peter Howdle—Trust Chair (From 1st September 2019)

Denominational Trustees

Rev. Lynne Grey (Anglican Diocese of Leeds)
 Marianna Potterton (Lutheran Church in Great Britain) (Until June 2019)
 Rachel Muers (Leeds Area Quaker Meeting)
 Susan Howdle (Leeds District of the Methodist Church) (Until June 2019)
 Michael Kelly (Roman Catholic Diocese of Leeds)
 Tom Shaw (Yorkshire Baptist Association)
 Richard Whiting (Yorkshire Synod of United Reformed Church)
 Vacant (The Yorkshire Division of the Salvation Army)

University Trustees

Alison Caswell (Leeds Beckett University Staff Representative)
 Phil Cardew (Leeds Beckett University) (From Jan 19)
 Stewart Harper (Leeds Beckett University) (Until Dec 18)
 Darron Dixon-Hardy (University of Leeds Staff Representative)
 Catherine Lorigan (University of Leeds)

Company Secretary

Ann Dudzinski

A WEEK IN THE CHAPLAINCY

The Chaplaincy is called to love and serve with humility. Our model of practice is rooted in Christian tradition upheld in a spirit of mutual reflection, openness and prayer. Students and staff can make appointments to see a chaplain, or we have a drop in five days per week. We have a chaplain led out of hours support line which can be phoned any time. This can be for faith or pastoral support.

Sundays

Café Church - 5 - 7 pm weekly in term time

Catholic Mass - 5-7 pm - weekly in term time

Orthodox Divine Liturgy - 10.30 am - second Sunday of every month

Mondays

Student Christian Movement 6 - 7 pm

Tuesdays

Breathe Worship in the Quaker style at 1.10 pm followed by fellowship lunch - all year round

Queer Space 6pm - term time

Wednesdays

Lunch time Communion - all year round ecumenical service 1.10 pm

International Students Club meet for social and cultural activities 6 - 8 pm

Thursdays

Breathe Worship in the Quaker Style 8.30 - 8.55 am

Chinese Church - 6.30 pm all year round for Mandarin speakers

Fridays

Prayers of the Heart 3.30 pm weekly

Chinese Church 6.30 pm -all year round, for speakers of English and Cantonese.

Claire Chapel - open Monday - Friday 9 - 5 pm

There is an active prayer life within the Chapel. We have a popular prayer board permanently outside the Claire Chapel. Anyone can post prayers or thanks giving here. Over the week these are gathered together, and offered up in prayer for those who have written them. There is space for quiet reflection in the Chapel. This is an essential sanctuary for many on campus and visitors are often grateful for this oasis of peace too.

WORSHIP AT THE CHAPLAINCY

Rev. Samantha Sheehan

At the Chaplaincy we have a regular rhythm of worship beginning with Breathe from the Quaker tradition on Tuesday, mid-week communion on Wednesday, Chinese Church on Thursday and Friday, Prayer of the Heart from the Orthodox tradition on Friday and ending with monthly Orthodox service and weekly Café Church and Catholic Mass (at the Catholic Chaplaincy, St Mark's Avenue) on a Sunday. You might have guessed that I am not involved with all of these activities, but it is fair to say that worship is an integral part to who we are as Christians and what we do as Christian chaplains.



For me, mid-week is a bit like an anchor, each week can look quite different and we never know who might come through the door seeking help.

These regular moments of worship and prayer allow us, as well as staff and students across the campuses, to pause and gather in the presence of God. It has been a privilege to preside at the weekly communion service, offering a short reflection, often on the Gospel, and breaking bread with those who work across the Universities.

We have welcomed staff and students from across our Universities throughout the year.

Since the departure of Rev. Matt Ward, Anthea and I have been blessed with overseeing and encouraging the continuation of Café Church on a Sunday evening during term time.



The Claire Chapel is a place of rest for many on campus, a peaceful place to drop in, either intentionally (attending a service or seeking out the space for personal prayer), or by chance when passing the building or after a seminar or lecture in the building. Throughout the year the Claire Chapel has also been host to memorial and thanksgiving services following the death of a student or staff member as well as a place of celebration and welcome, most recently in hosting Anthea's Licensing Service.

BEREAVEMENT AND CRISIS SUPPORT



Rev. Anthea Colledge

Since moving to Leeds my impression has been that the Chaplaincy is well embedded and well regarded within the Universities we serve. Students and staff feel able to drop-in to the building to seek support, I hear from students that staff members have recommended the Chaplaincy as a source of support, and the chaplains receive a steady stream of requests for pastoral support or spiritual guidance and accompaniment. One significant aspect of the pastoral care that we offer is bereavement and crisis support, and the Chaplaincy interacts with bereavement and crisis in a number of different areas.

The first area is responding to critical incidents affecting University members. With such a large student population, these critical incidents are often related to a sudden student death. When requested, chaplains are part of the immediate response to these traumatic and distressing events. This may include providing support to flatmates and friends, attending departmental meetings where the news is shared, liaising with parents, attending the funeral, and supporting University staff.

A second area of interaction often follows the first. This is the provision of memorial events in honour of particular University members. Memorials may be requested by staff or students, and their format is led by the needs of the situation. Memorial events this year have included services, a vigil and a tree dedication. We also maintain a Memorial Book, just outside the Claire Chapel.

The third major area of interaction are vigils to mark world events and remembrance events. Chaplains work in collaboration with University student services and the Unions to arrange public vigils for peace. These are provided in response to student requests to respond to specific global events, such as the 2018 earthquake in Indonesia, or the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting. We also facilitate remembrance events; this year a memorial service for anyone who wished to remember someone, and the Biomedical Memorial Service (for those who have donated their bodies to medical science), both in the autumn.

It is notable that bereavement is one of the areas in which chaplains may have particular expertise compared to other student support services (e.g. we may be familiar with the processes for registering a death or with the cultural needs of a particular community), and so is a distinctive contribution that the Chaplaincy makes to the life of the Universities.

LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY



Rev. Melvyn Kelly

I have offered “Creative Space” sessions throughout the year at Headingley and City campuses. These are regular informal sessions for mindfulness around paper-folding (you knew origami would get a mention again) and other creative activities. Whilst the response from staff and students has been small this year it is an initiative that is valued and the sessions will continue to run next year.

With support from Anthea, my Anglican colleague, I began to offer a drop-in bereavement peer support group as requested by the Wellbeing Team. Whilst there was no take up this year of the peer group idea I have nevertheless found myself offering bereavement support in a variety of circumstances to individual staff and students and to cohorts of students. For the most part such support has been offered to individuals and groups having to find ways to deal with the experience of a student having taken his or her own life. Sadly, the Chaplaincy team has had to respond to a number of such incidents this year. I was honoured to be asked by colleagues at Leeds Beckett University to bring my perspective as a chaplain to the Cross-campus Suicide Intervention Group as it seeks to formulate the University’s strategy for prevention of and response to a student death by suicide. The Wellbeing Team have also referred to my care, students experiencing loss or bereavement of any kind. The staff and students have been grateful for the assurance of someone to turn to if they needed to. It has been particularly rewarding for me to have encouraged two students, who in grief were ready before Christmas to drop out of University, to make it through to the point of handing in final pieces of work and to be now looking forward to graduation.

The Faith and Belief Forum which I chair continues to seek ways in which interfaith engagement can be encouraged and developed. There is a rich diversity amongst those who work and study at Leeds Beckett University in terms of culture, ethnicity, race, faith, disability, gender identity, sexuality, etc. Conscious that, all too often, such differences become the focus of negative attention within society, I invited students and colleagues to reach out to one another across those many differences in the hope that they can be seen, not as divisive barriers, but as causes for celebration at the richness of our diverse University community. Beginning deliberately during ‘Inclusion Week’ in September, two ‘Unity pledge’ artworks were created from painted hand prints on special canvasses. The idea was of course borrowed from our Team Unity initiative at Leeds University. Each handprint serves as a symbolic assent to a ‘Unity Pledge’, acknowledging mutual responsibility, respect and concern towards all the people who study or work at, or visit our University. Over 120 students and colleagues left a handprint at the events and further handprints were added to complete the canvasses in the name of staff or students who had not been able to attend on the actual day of painting. Locations have been identified for the display of the canvasses in the James Graham Building at Headingley. In November, the newly commissioned Interfaith flag bearing the logo of the Interfaith Network was flown over the James Graham Building for the first time during Interfaith Week 2018 just as the Poppy flag again flew there the following week leading up to Remembrance Sunday. There was no marking of Remembrance Day on campus this year as the 11th November fell on a Sunday. I was glad though to be invited, for the 100th anniversary of the Armistice, to write a piece for the University bulletin about the significance of Remembrance and through it to encourage students and staff to join in local commemorations.

Having recently called upon staff and students here at Leeds Beckett to a pledge of unity, I saw our November remembrance as part of that commitment to unity and our working together towards a society of reconciliation, peace and justice.

Rev. Melvyn Kelly

University of Leeds and Chaplaincy team: It has been good to share with ecumenical colleagues in providing the daily round of worship opportunities and pastoral support at the Emmanuel Centre and to play my part in Team Unity, in the provision of the Medics Module teaching, presiding at Holy Communion, leading team worship and covering the out of hours phone.

I have continued to serve as Chaplain to students who live in the University of Leeds Devonshire Hall accommodation. I joined the Senior Common Room table for formal meals at the beginning of the academic year and at Christmas. I was honoured to be invited to preach the sermon when the Devonshire Hall choir recently revived a tradition of leading choral evensong at Leeds Minster.

Far and away the greatest privilege of the year was the opportunity to pick up a piece of work that most recently Rev. Matt Ward had done in his time at Leeds. I offered to work in Matt's place with the Department of Biomedical Science as the Chaplaincy lead in the preparation of the annual Memorial Service for those who had donated their bodies to medical research. This is a service to which the families of donors are invited to remember and give thanks for their loved one's life, gift and legacy. Many families bring framed photographs of the donor which form part of a display on the stage of the Great Hall. Everyone is invited to light a candle in remembrance. For me most moving part are the contributions made by students in music, song, art or poetry and the spoken testimony of students addressed to the families of the privilege they have felt in having the donors' bodies to learn from and their deep gratitude for the lasting influence the learning will have on their own medical careers and on the lives of their future patients.

Methodism: 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 we do. 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.

Part of the discipline of being a Methodist Presbyterian is the requirement to take sabbatical leave. It is a treasured gift that my church requires me to take time out after 10, 17 and 24 years of ministry and gives me a wonderful opportunity for "a period of release from ordinary ministerial duties, for the purpose of pursuing an approved programme of study, research, work or experience. It is intended as a time for re-equipping, refreshment and renewal." I am grateful to colleagues who covered for my absence. I look forward to the New Year, much loved colleagues will have moved on by then and new colleagues will have joined the team to share in our continued commitment to four institutions to "be there" for staff and students of all faiths and none.

UNIVERSITY OF LAW Rev. Melvyn Kelly

I have been glad again to serve as lead chaplain to the Leeds branch of the University of Law. I am, after all, a card-carrying alumnus of the College of Law, a previous incarnation of the University. In addition to again having a stall at the Freshers' Fair I have tried to ensure that the University wellbeing team know they may call upon me and 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.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH Rev. Samantha Sheehan



I joined the team in April 2018; during the quieter time of the year, but no less stressful for the staff and students whose time gets taken over with exam prep, assignment/dissertation writing and then marking and celebrations before the summer. It has been a good year, with a steep learning curve; getting to know the lay of the land, both of the university campuses and the unique relationships the chaplaincy has with the different universities and how as a team we serve and minister in these places.

The year started with the whirlwind of fresher's fairs; the calm of the summer campus was well and truly a thing of the past as the students returned and teaching began. The Emmanuel Centre suddenly filled up with students looking for seminar rooms and the Common Room became a hub to grab a cuppa between lectures.



Following a relaxed summer of ad-hoc gatherings, Café Church gather for worship and explore what it is to be a follower of Christ today. We began the year with stories of encounters in the Bible and reflecting on what they tell us about God as well as a trip to York Minister for their Advent Service. The second term we explored images of God through prayer and meditation. Some of these sessions were a challenge as we dipped our toe in the art of silent meditation and prayer. Our final term was with the Fruits of the Spirit.

A highlight from this year has been working with Farhat, University of Leeds Muslim Student Advisor and Chaplain. Team Unity renamed the month of November "Lovember" and challenges folk to share some love and care to others. Farhat and I teamed up, loading the trolley with flasks of tea and coffee and a supply of chocolate biscuits, we went on to campus to share a little joy on a very grey and cold day.

The success of the first trolley run led to a couple more trips out; during the December we estimated to have given out around 250 hot drinks. The trolley has been received with a mix of responses, from confusion as to why, to relief and joy. Plans are afoot to make this a regular event; with funding from the Claire Jarvis Memorial Fund we are able to purchase a new trolley, flasks and consumables. This will keep up the momentum and ministry of presence for the coming year with frequent trolley runs throughout the year and extra ones during crunch times of deadlines and exams. I am looking forward to seeing this ministry continue to develop.

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Rev. Anthea Colledge



Following Rev. Matt Ward's move to Scotland, I started this academic year in a short-term appointment as the interim Anglican and Lead Chaplain to the University of Leeds. However, I am delighted to be able to reflect now on the whole academic year, having first had the interim post extended, and then having been appointed to the permanent post from May 2019.

My main priorities in this first year have been firstly to ensure the Chaplaincy met our on-going and existing commitments to the University communities, and secondly to develop relationships and networks within the University and more broadly within Leeds.

Firstly, on-going work. The two week teaching block informally known as the 'Medics Module' (formally, 'Research Evaluation and Special Studies Project') takes place each year in December. Second and third year medical students choose one project out of around 30 possibilities, with the Chaplaincy offering 'Medicine and Spirituality'. 19 students were allocated to us this year, and participated in a range of workshops, visits and seminars, including communication skills, conflict resolution, creativity, visits to local faith communities, spirituality at the beginning and end of life, and mental health. The students were very engaged in the topic and participated enthusiastically and fully and we received very positive feedback. A couple of representative comments from students:

"Friendly space to discuss our opinions on spirituality and reflect on what it means to us and for our future careers."

"I was pleasantly surprised by the nuanced views of spirituality/religion exhibited by the group. And, the desire for people to find a spiritual path for themselves."

"It was pretty close to perfect."

Robin Fishwick and I took the lead on the module, but we were supported by many chaplaincy colleagues who delivered sessions, helped to make coffee, willingly accommodated the Wilson Room being booked out for two weeks, or who took on extra duties to free up our time. A massive thank you to everyone for the team effort both on this project and other events.

Other on-going work has included the University Carol Service, supporting and participating in Unity Events led by our Muslim colleague Farhat Yaqoob, publicising the chaplaincy at a number of University outreach fairs and events, pastoral and crisis support and Café Church.

Secondly, building relationships and networks. I've been pleased to be able to renew some former relationships (e.g. with SCM Leeds) and to begin new ones, both within the University and outside. A number of new connections have come about as a result of accepting invitations to attend or speak at University events; this has included the PGR Research Nights, a guest lecture on Christianity and mental health, the English Language Teaching Centre's Conversation Club, an interfaith week 'speed

faithing' event at the Union, a staff briefing on religion on campus, and LGBT and faith events. These relationships will hopefully see the beginnings of some new Chaplaincy activities next year.

I'm grateful to my new chaplaincy colleagues for their welcome and help as I navigated this first year and attempted to step into the large gap left by Matt's departure, and also to the Anglican Diocese of Leeds for their ongoing support for Higher Education Chaplaincy. I'm looking forward to discovering all that the next year holds.

LEEDS ARTS UNIVERSITY Robin Fishwick



Leeds Arts University (LAU) is one of the later additions to our service and serving there has a different feel to being at one of our larger universities.

As Lead Chaplain to Leeds Arts University I sit on their Equality Diversity and Inclusion Committee and am in regular contact with Katrina Welsh, the Head of Student Support. Attending the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee enables me to meet with partners in the Student Union, senior managers and other providers of student support. In a smaller organisation it is easier to become a familiar face to a larger proportion of the staff and student body.

LAU does not provide us with any premises but is happy for students to visit us at the Emmanuel Centre which is just a few minutes' walk away (we are nearer to LAU than we are to some parts of the University of Leeds campus) and at events when we are promoting the Chaplaincy service we can usually point to the Emmanuel spire through the nearest window or at least show them the photograph of the Chaplaincy building which is immediately recognised.

For the most part our current provision to LAU is about allowing access to our existing services such as the chaplains on site or available out of hours, or to chaplaincy worship and events, but Laura Palmer and I have maintained a degree of presence on the campus. Laura, an alumnus of LAU, did several of her henna outreaches there, enabling her to promote our services. In the coming year I am planning regular "Chat with a Chaplain" sessions in their main café. I am also hoping to develop closer ties with the student body via the students' union.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 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, 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, quizzes, a Spanish evening and trips to Leeds parks (Meanwood and Golden Acre) and to Kirkstall Abbey in the summer. We also had Christmas and Easter celebrations and a BBQ in a volunteer's garden in Oakwood which had a record attendance of about 200 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: This was again presented a number of times at the beginning of term in different university venues as well as at our ISC Welcome and has been very much appreciated by the new students.

Statistics of students' numbers and countries of origin. We had some very large numbers (100 or more) at some of our events last session. From this September onwards we have had steady numbers of around 50-70 international students per week. The nationalities we see at the Club most often are Chinese, Japanese and Saudi Arabian students.



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 we have been doing this for a year, it's a 30 minutes Bible discussion about something that Jesus did or said about himself. The studies are called "Glimpses of Jesus" and we used to have one or two students attending them. Although there is not much interest at the moment, we still offer them every Wednesday. Gideons kindly supply us with New Testament 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. Unfortunately, the number of helpers has decreased and, although we still receive consistent help from volunteers each week, we would now be very grateful for some new recruits and would also like to enlist the help of other churches in this recruitment. During the last session one of our ISC helpers, David Judson, died and there was a very inspiring memorial service for him, attended by over 200, many flying in from the Middle East. He is seen here with students in the debating chamber at our visit to the Civic Hall.

We are so thankful to everyone involved in the Club. As the Club has now entered its 34th year, we are grateful for all we have been able to achieve in welcoming and befriending students at the four Leeds Universities for these many years. Thank you all so very much for all your support then as now.



LEEDS CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Pastor Kim Chan



This year at our mid- autumn 'Welcome New Students' event we had 87 new students! Over 50 new students came to our Mandarin welcome, and around 27 to our combined Christmas celebration. As for Chinese New Year - about 49 new students came and 30 at Easter.

We continue to provide pastoral support on the campuses, students come on a drop in basis or by appointment. We also visit the departments when requested.

We continue to make our service known to new students and staff through taking part in the Cultural Shock Comedy Drama where we introduced ourselves to nearly 2000 new students last year, as well as through campus contacts from different departments. We believe those we help always find it a positive experience.

The number who attend the regular Thursday and Friday activities weekly is varied, over all, we are in touch with about 40 to 45 people (including staff and students) each month. A few of our Mandarin speaking staff join us at our Thursday activities and a few English-speaking staff join us too on Friday. These students and staff are originally from different parts of S. E. Asia. At these activities, they are able to make new friends or meet old friends, where they can share their life experience as students or staff.



We started a new English conversational class. This came into being following some requests from some mature students. We are able to provide the English Conversation class at the Chaplaincy at the University of Leeds. The class is led by a new volunteer, and supported by others. The attendance is from 5-10. This bridge building activity is very much appreciated by those who attend and who request us to continue in the future.

Overall, we are thankful that this has been a good year for those students whom we are supporting, for they have obtained very good results in their final year.

ORTHODOX CHAPLAINCY

David Ephrem



For me, the ministry of the Orthodox Chaplaincy is centred on prayer in three ways: The Prayer of the Divine Liturgy - so beautifully offered normally each second Sunday in the month by Fr David Gill, assisted by Dr Maria Marples and her faithful choir - my own personal prayer life, both formal and informal - being as silent as possible before the Mystery of God - and the Prayer of the Heart, also known as the Jesus Prayer.

The Prayer of the Heart is offered each Friday from 3.30 - 4.30 pm in the form, 'Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us'. From now on the Monday Prayer of the Heart is reinstated from 8am for an hour. This prayer, coming quite naturally when one is before Christ, may seem simply repetitive from casual observation, but that overlooks the transaction of Prayer in which Christ enters our heart and, if we allow him, transforms us.

This has not been as well attended as sometimes in the past but the few of us, from seven different countries altogether, know something of the peace of Christ in our hearts. The most faithful person is from a Chinese atheist background. Who knows what springs might emerge from this Divine Source?

I am so aware that as part-time, I can only scrape the surface. I hope that my regular contact with three Orthodox Churches and their Clergy will bear fruit. Thank God that students do find their way to the churches of their tradition and language. How to bring that into some kind of focus at the universities is a work in progress. It has been rewarding to see people warming to the Orthodox Christian Tradition, in one case being received into the Church at Divine Liturgy on Holy Saturday, and in another, preparing to be received.

What has been most pleasing this year is contact with the Christian Orthodox Society. This was established by Coptic Orthodox students and their dearest wish is for it to expand into other Orthodox traditions. I have been given a warm welcome at the Coptic Church in Arthington. As a sign of the growing unity between Coptic- Oriental - and Eastern Orthodox, the President of the Bishops' Conference in this country is now Archbishop Angaelos of the Coptic Church - find him on line, for example in conversation with Nicky Gamble of Holy Trinity Brompton. We hope that he will find space in his diary to visit the universities and one possibility under prayer and discussion is a big event to which we could send out a broad invitation. The Society meets most Tuesday evenings for Prayer, Bible-study or presentation and socialising. We may speak of tradition a lot, but it always dynamic and never static, and so we move forward under the Holy Spirit.

As part of the team, I trust that the pastoral issues, opportunities sometimes, which have presented themselves have led to some hearts more at peace. My issue, being part-time, is to balance the prayer-presence with active-presence around the campuses. That creates a tension, but as one Anglican monk said to me, 'It's only when there is tension on the string that you can play a tune on a violin'

I should like to end with one of the prayers from our Tradition which is left for use in the Claire Chapel:

Open, O doors and bolts of my heart that Christ the King of Glory may enter! Enter, O my Light and enlighten my darkness; enter O my Life and resurrect my deadness; enter, O my Physician and heal my wounds; enter O Divine Fire and burn up the thorns of my sins; ignite my inward parts and my heart with the flame of Thy love; enter O my King, and destroy in me the kingdom of sin; sit on the throne of my heart and alone reign in me, O Thou, my King and Lord.

Amen, Lord

(St Dimitri of Rostov)

Such a prayer reminds us all of the dreadful responsibility we have which it is only possible to survive by God's grace and mercy. As one of our saints said, 'Have peace in your heart and thousands will be saved' and all of us are only too aware of how often we shut the door on that peace, whilst hoping to influence others. Pray for us!

Ryan Lindsey Non-Conformist Chaplain



The Chaplaincy is in a new season and we foresee new opportunities on the horizon. As part of the newest wave of chaplains, from my start in January 2018 through to Anthea this year there are many new eyes on the work, services, and outreach that is on offer to our universities. We will bring fresh energy and ideas to not just raise our profile but to become known on the campuses as a place where to come for spiritual nourishment.

These ideas started with our Fresher's Week approach that I facilitated for the autumn term. Reports had shown university students have a significant deficiency in personal touch. This loss effects a student's well-being and mental health so to address this issue some of the Chaplains wore yellow

sashes that said "Hug a Chaplain" to remove some of barriers. While not many people did ask for a hug some chaplains felt that it did invite students into conversation and start a relationship with our Chaplaincy. This is but one example of new ideas that are not conventional but we are willing to try for the sake of engaging the students where some of their basic needs can be met.

As an evangelical Chaplain who attends Mosaic Church, I have been able to engage with students who would not naturally think of Chaplaincy. This has allowed for some new opportunities to engage in this year. For one, the Christian Union of University of Leeds has invited me to speak at both their autumn and spring meetings this past year and booked me for autumn 2019. This contact has also allowed me to speak with some of their leaders regarding evangelism and leadership development among their student volunteers.

The Post-Graduate Christian Fellowship which uses the Emmanuel Centre for their weekly Bible study has come under my supervision and we have discussed ideas for how to increase attendance. This group, though faithful, has generally been short on attendance due to the nature of the various post-graduate studies and lecturing schedules that they hold. However, we know that for many they just do not know the group exists. We would like to change that for the coming year.

Upon Rev.Matt Ward's exit from the Chaplaincy, I have stepped into the Chaplaincy chair to help steer the University of Leeds Staff Healthy Week for the past two years. This has introduced me and the Chaplaincy to the larger campus community and helped others to know about the various

services that staff can receive at the Chaplaincy - many thought we were only here for students. This year we had events run from the Emmanuel Centre every day with multiple Chaplains and a Student Outreach Worker, Juanma, leading sessions. Two highlights would be Juanma hosting a workshop on Forgiveness, the emphasis of his PhD at University of Bradford, to 14 guests and Samantha setting up a Prayer Labyrinth to offer a bit of guided prayer time to regain perspective. The Staff Healthy Week has proven to open doors both for staff to know more about how we can partner and for us to build connection points within the university system.

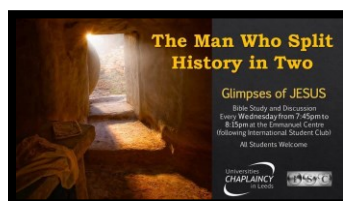
Finally, we have started to look at how to maximize the roles of the Christian Student Outreach Workers (SOWs). Starting with the application process through to interview questions to hiring questions there has been a lot of forethought regarding who we need and specifics about what they could bring to the team. Currently Anthea and I are writing an SOW manual to help lay a unified backdrop on what we are asking of our SOWs.

All this and more is why I believe that there is a fresh wind currently blowing through the Chaplaincy. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve these students on your behalf.

STUDENT OUTREACH WORKERS

Juanma Rimenez Robles

This year at the Chaplaincy has been a learning experience and a fruitful time. Working alongside the other two Student Outreach Workers (SOWs), and chaplains from different Christian traditions has broadened my understanding of other approaches to the Christian faith, helping me to appreciate the richness of an ecumenical context. My main focus was the International Student Club (ISC), which I've really enjoyed, because I love meeting students from around the world. One of my initiatives has been promoting a Bible studies series on Wednesday evening, following the ISC, which I've called "Glimpses of Jesus", where for half an hour we look at something that Jesus did or said about Himself.



I have been in different Christian meetings led by students, like the Leeds Orthodox Christian Society, the Christian Union, and the Postgraduate Christian group. I have been in some Unity events led by the Muslim Student Advisor, and in some Quaker meetings. I have been in a memorial service for the families of those who donated their bodies for the advance of science, led by the Methodist chaplain.

I attended the University of Leeds Christmas service, led by the Baptist and Catholic chaplains, where the Anglican chaplain brought an encouraging message, and where I had the opportunity to

read the Bible for 400 people, including students and staff. I have been praying on Tuesday mornings for the Leeds universities, serving hot drinks outside the chaplaincy, and meeting students and staff in the Common Room, where I have had some amazing conversations.

During Easter I arranged a video forum about the former Archbishop of El Salvador, Oscar Romero, showing the film “The Claim”. Moreover, I had the privilege to lead one worship time for the Chaplaincy Team, where we sang some songs and I shared some thoughts from the Bible. And I had the opportunity to lead a seminar during the Healthy Week in June about the psychology of forgiveness, which has been part of my PhD research.

Altogether, it’s been a great year, and I’m looking forward to the next academic year, working again alongside an amazing chaplaincy team who loves God and people.



Laura Palmer

Henna Stories

This year I have had the privilege to go into Leeds University and Leeds Arts University to do free henna for students. Offering free henna stories in a neutral space on “their turf” allowed me to get to know students at these two universities really well. Each design completed was unique and told a story, sometimes the story of the student, sometimes my story and sometimes a Bible story. These stories opened up the conversation and allowed the student to comfortably share on their terms. This led to having many deep and spiritual conversations with over 160 individuals and groups. I have also started to train other

Christian Artists to use henna to share their testimony and good news of Jesus. As a result of this ministry, students found out more about the services available at the Chaplaincy and local churches.

Church Search Guide

We have created a physical and online guide to help students know their worship options when coming to study in Leeds. This is a comprehensive list where 36 local churches from 15 denominations and traditions have provided a short description of themselves to invite students to join their community.



Common Room Rejuvenation

We have redecorated the Common Room in the Chaplaincy with a bold and welcoming colour scheme creating a noticeable increase in the number of students making use of the space.

CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY

Fr. Peter Kravos

The Catholic Chaplaincy is based on St Mark's Avenue, and consists of a residence for 6 students, along with the priest-chaplain, and a centre which has a lounge, library and chapel and which is open each day during university term-time. I am also the priest-chaplain at Leeds Trinity University (LTU) in Horsforth, and commit to supporting the chaplaincy team up there by dedicating Wednesdays and Saturday evenings for Mass, meetings with students, and other activities.

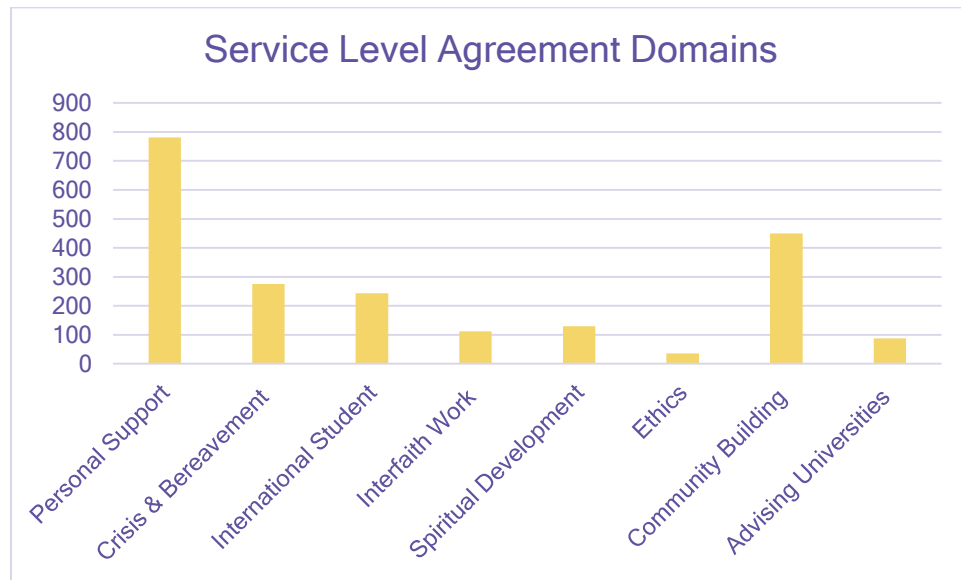
The Catholic Chaplaincy is open to all who want to share the intensive rhythm of the year in a safe, supporting, charitable and prayerful community of mainly university students. During university term-time there is worship in our beautiful chapel on most days in the celebration of Mass, which at 5pm on Sundays is the central event of the week. The worshipping community averages about 100 throughout the year, but this is always a bit higher in the first term, and lower in the final one. Our community is almost entirely made up of university students, and is a good even mix of International & British, male and female, under-graduate and post-graduate. Students organise and 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 Chaplain, organises a variety of social and faith-sharing events, but generally cultivates friendship and mutual support. There are 11 "reps" in CathSoc, each with a role or responsibility at the Chaplaincy, such as leading the music at our liturgies, organising social events, and being responsible for relations with other university faith societies, as well as making connections with Catholic student societies in other universities across England & Wales. The willingness of students to come forward to give their time generously to these roles is always striking.

The Catholic Chaplaincy organises a weekend away retreat in Lent, and the "Retreat in Daily Life" in November/December, where prayer-guides offer one-to-one and group spiritual direction open to all Christians, which in 2018 had about 25 participants from across Christian denominations. 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 again 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 rest of the year has seen a number of talks about a variety of faith-related subjects, a prayer group organised by students, and my regular Saturday hikes into the countryside, which this year has seen numbers into the 30's. In January a group of five, tagged on to a group of a few hundred pilgrims from the UK who travelled to Panama for the international week-long "World Youth Day" event which brings together hundreds of thousands of young people with Pope Francis to celebrate our faith. The timing was during university examinations, which meant it was the smallest group out of the four that we have led from the university chaplaincy to this event.

After 11 years, I will be leaving the Chaplaincy to return to parish ministry. My replacement is Fr. Marc Homsey, who is currently an assistant priest at Leeds Cathedral, and who will continue in his role as Youth Chaplain for the Diocese of Leeds. The discernment about the future of the Catholic Chaplaincy and its location and operation will continue, with the proposal to move from St Mark's Avenue to Cathedral Chambers, next to the cathedral in the city centre, still a serious proposal.

STATISTICS

During 2018-19 the chaplaincy team kept a record of the events we ran and the number of staff and students attending. The events included regular worship events like Breathe and Mid Week Communion, plus one off events such as the Carol Service and the Bio Medical Memorial service.



The difference we make:

Serving **4** Universities

Outreach at **5** campuses

Providing a place of welcome and friendship to all staff and students

Appointments and drop in service **available all year round**

Out of Hours number available **24/7**

Approximately **2000** International Students see the Culture Shock Comedy Drama

Circa **14000** staff and student encounters during 18/19

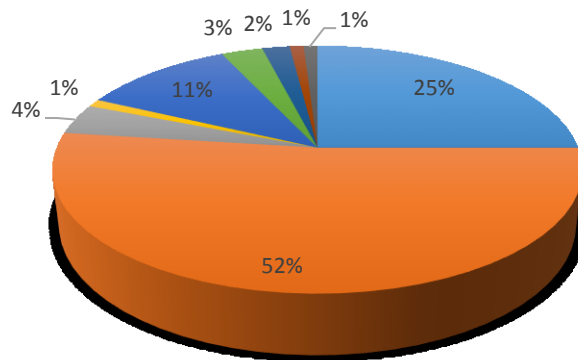
Over **2000** pastoral or emotional support conversations took place.

**Groups, Community building, Regular prayer and
worship sessions.**

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

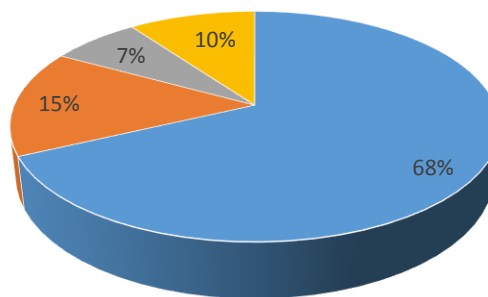
The following information gives an overview of our income streams and areas of expenditure to the end of August 2019. Our thanks go to all those institutions, bodies and individuals who support our work

Chaplaincy Income 18-19



■ Leeds Beckett SLA	■ University of Leeds SLA	■ Leeds Arts University SLA
■ Unviersity of Law SLA	■ Claire Jarvis Trust	■ Teaching Income
■ Room Hire	■ Direct Denominational Contributions	■ Other Donations

Chaplaincy Expenditure 18-19



■ Staffing and Related	■ Building and Operations	■ Business and Professional	■ Projects and Outreach
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LOOKING AHEAD TO 2019-2020

One of our biggest challenges in the coming year is maintaining our ministry towards International Students as we are currently deprived of Anna Spiegel, who has served us as International Students' Chaplain for several years now. We have come to rely on her over those years and it is a salutary lesson when we find a team member missing to notice how much that person does. That is certainly the case with Anna and if anyone underestimated how much she has done whilst in post we are certainly aware of it now! This challenge, however, has provided an opportunity for more of the team to take more responsibility for international students, including maintaining the chaplaincy presence at the International Students Club and that has not been a bad thing. There can be a tendency for one chaplain to get so engrossed in a particular venture that they forget to involve their colleagues or do not set aside sufficient time or energy to join in the activities of their colleagues. I sense that the way in which several team members with little previous involvement with ISC have stepped in is reflective of a growing trend in our team to become more involved in one another's ventures.

The 2019/20 academic year starts with several new faces. We are grateful to retain Juanma as a Student Outreach Worker but we also welcome Joseph Nelson, a recent Leeds Trinity graduate and Lutheran as well as Alice Healey, someone who has previously attended Chaplaincy activities as a student and who maintains our link with Mill Hill Chapel now that Robin Hanford has left to train for ministry in the Unitarian Church. We welcome Fr.Marc Homsey, another Trinity graduate to our team as Catholic Chaplain and he is already showing a keenness to muck in with the rest of us - including a healthy interest in the Culture Shock Comedy Drama! Ryan has spoken in this report about his sense of a freshness within the chaplaincy and he, Samantha and Anthea have in their different ways brought in a sense of vibrancy to the team. Not that freshness is always the reserve of the young; David Ephrem and Richard Levitt, both my seniors in years, have been bringing new ideas and adding theological breadth and depth to the life of the team.

So I am hopeful that in the coming years we get better at sharing our ministry to the Universities we serve, developing partnership within the team and beyond. Melvyn has recently led a team away day, building on his insights from his sabbatical which has, I believe, given us a better sense of shared mission. I am grateful to Melvyn for inspiring us, not only with these insights, but the way he has typified this way of working by his own approach and contribution to our work. Ten years into my ministry here I have a stronger sense than ever of our need to spread hope and our ability to do that.

Robin Fishwick



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