

A photograph of three lit candles against a black background. The candles are of varying heights and are lit, with bright yellow flames. The image is partially covered by a teal rectangle at the top and a dark blue banner at the bottom.

ANNUAL REPORT

September 2019- August 2020

Universities in Leeds Chaplaincy



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About Us

You will find the Chaplaincy next to the Parkinson Building on the University of Leeds Campus. We are open to staff and students from the University of Leeds, Leeds Beckett University, Leeds Arts University, and the University of Law. University chaplains, from a range of backgrounds, offer a listening ear on any issues you need help with.

The Chaplaincy offers a regular rhythm of Christian worship, prayer, contemplation, and social activities. All activities are open to staff and students of all faiths and all world-views.

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.

Preface

Welcome to our Annual Report, covering the year 2019 to 2020. Unsurprisingly there will be more than a fleeting mention of the Covid-19 pandemic and its effects on how we have continued to deliver our services. It was our first year with Fr Marc Homsey in place as Catholic Chaplain. He has built on Fr Peter Kravos' work as a Catholic Chaplain within our Ecumenical team and within Team Unity. It has also been our first year with Prof Peter Howdle as Trust Chair, and I am only glad that our prior chair Prof Alan Deacon had not downplayed the workload as he handed over the reins. It is clear that the Trust - and through it the Chaplaincy - continues to be in safe hands.

The pandemic has been one major characteristic of the year, as much at the Chaplaincy as anywhere else. Rather than kicking against the goads (Acts 26:14) though, we have looked afresh at how we provide our services. As well as using platforms such as Zoom for online worship and discussion, we have also been looking at how better to use social media generally. One thing I have noted is that we have begun to move from a place where we have been using technology as a way of promoting our services to one where we are using technology as a way of providing them. This will, I believe, shape how we work well beyond the pandemic and its immediate aftermath.

Robin Fishwick

Co-ordinating Chaplain

Chaplaincy Team

Chaplains

- Rev. Anthea Colledge (Anglican), Lead Chaplain to University of Leeds
- Anna Spiegel (Baptist), International Students' Chaplain
- Laurence Pusey (Baptist)
- Rev. Melvyn Kelly (Methodist), Lead Chaplain to Leeds Beckett University, University of Law-Leeds
- Rev. Ryan Lindsey (Non-Conformist Chaplain)
- Robin Fishwick (Quakers), Co-ordinating Chaplain and Lead Chaplain to Leeds Arts University
- Fr. Marc Homsey (Roman Catholic)
- 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 Ephrem (Assistant Orthodox Chaplain)
- Richard Levitt (Assistant Quaker Chaplain)

Interns

- Eric Suen (Leeds Chinese Christian Church)
- Natalie Yong (Leeds Chinese Christian Church)

Student Outreach Workers

- Alice Healey
- Joseph Nelson
- Juanma Jimenez-Robles

Chaplaincy Service Managers

- Katherine Norman (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday)
- Nikki Barber (Tuesday am, Thursday, Friday)



Chaplaincy Trust

- Professor Peter Howdle - Trust Chair
- Ann Dudzinski - Company Secretary

Denominational Trustees

- Rev. Lynne Grey (Anglican Diocese of Leeds)
- Rachel Muers (Leeds Area Quaker Meeting) Until Jan 2020, Co-opted Trustee June 2020 onwards
- Veronica O'Mara (Leeds Area Quaker Meeting) Jan 2020 onwards
- Alasdair Fraser (Leeds District of the Methodist Church)
- Michael Kelly (Roman Catholic Diocese of Leeds)
- Tom Shaw (Yorkshire Baptist Association)
- Richard Whiting (Yorkshire Synod of URC)
- Charles Maluila (Lutheran Trustee) July 2020 onwards
- Vacant (The Yorkshire Division of the Salvation Army)

University Trustees

- Alison Caswell (Leeds Beckett University Staff Representative) until June 2020
- Dr. Adalberto Arrigoni (Leeds Beckett University Staff Representative) August 2020 onwards
- Phil Cardew (Leeds Beckett University)
- Darron Dixon-Hardy (University of Leeds Staff Representative)
- Catherine Lorigan (University of Leeds)



Message from the Chair - Professor Peter Howdle

It is now a year since I became chair of the Universities' Chaplaincy in Leeds Trust, and what a year we have all experienced.

As I settled into my new role as chair last September, I quickly appreciated the wide variety of activities undertaken by the Chaplaincy and the enthusiastic and supportive team of chaplains, student support workers and service managers. The chaplaincy was running smoothly and was in good heart.

It was arranged for me to meet senior leaders of all the four universities we serve. All were very appreciative of the ministry of the chaplaincy and wanted to continue to support it strongly. During the year, three of the service level agreements with the universities were due for review and all have been willingly renewed, a sign of the value placed on the chaplaincy by the universities.

Of course, the year has been unexpectedly and dramatically altered by the Covid pandemic and we have all had to adapt. At an organisational level we are greatly indebted to our chaplaincy service managers, Katherine and Nikki, who quickly and efficiently organised to work from home, as the Emmanuel Centre had to close. We are very grateful to them for how they have adapted and kept the chaplaincy 'open' in so many ways so that our ministry continues.

The chaplains have continued to provide online support and advice and, of course, have kept the emergency phone link available throughout the crisis. I am very grateful to Robin Fishwick, our coordinating chaplain, the lead chaplains and all their colleagues for the gracious and concerned way they have sought to maintain the ministry of the chaplaincy. The chaplains have been available to support students and staff in online appointments and events, as well as offering face to face meetings when this has conformed to guidelines.

One of our student support workers, Alice Healey, has moved on, and we are very grateful for all her contributions which have been much appreciated. Joseph Nelson and Juanma Jiminez-Robles are continuing in post, but with a remit to work on expanding our online endeavors.

So my message is that the chaplaincy is working hard to fulfil its calling and in these difficult times is as necessary as ever.

I finish by thanking Alison Caswell, a trustee who has represented Leeds Beckett University on the trust for several years. She is retiring from the university and the trust and we thank her for her enthusiastic and gracious support of the chaplaincy. We also say farewell to a good friend of the trust, Sir Alan Langlands, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leeds. Alan retired in August 2020 and we wish him well and every blessing for the future. He too has given enthusiastic and gracious support to the chaplaincy for which we are very grateful.

Professor Peter Howdle

University of Leeds - Rev. Anthea Colledge

Looking back at my report from this time last year, it feels a lot like reporting on a whole different world! I'm still delighted to be here as the Anglican and Lead Chaplain to the University of Leeds, but it has been a challenging second year for obvious reasons. Contingency and continuity planning began in earnest at the end of February, and the whole team have worked exceptionally hard to keep providing a full chaplaincy service to the University since the campus (and therefore the Emmanuel Centre and our chaplaincy spaces) closed in March 2020. At the time of writing we are all working blended between home and the Emmanuel Centre.

Looking back further to the period September 2019 – March 2020, our chaplaincy provision for the University of Leeds continued to build on work from previous years. This included:

- The 'Medics Module' (officially known as Spirituality and Healthcare Special Studies Project), which saw the introduction of new workshops, involvement from more team members, and visits to new local places of worship. It continued to attract good feedback from the 24 students allocated to the project.
- The University Carol Service, with around 300 attendees. Thanks as always are due to the University Brass Band and Staff Choir and everyone who participated.
- Remembrance Day, which included a service and wreath-laying on campus, with representatives of the Armed Forces in attendance.
- Many of the Chaplaincy Team are involved with the University of Leeds as well as our other Universities. As in previous years we also had a Student Outreach Worker with specific responsibility for the University; this year Alice Healey has done an excellent job in this role.
- Support for staff and students at times of bereavement. This includes first-line involvement when a death is reported to the University and offering on-campus memorial events, as well as the pastoral support of those affected by a death of a non-University member. Memorial events this year have included a vigil to mark Transgender Day of Remembrance (in collaboration with the staff LGBT+ network), and one held online during the lockdown period, for staff unable to attend the funeral of a colleague.
- As a still relatively new lead chaplain I have personally continued the process of relationship-building with colleagues, including attendance at Student Support Forum and Disability Service open days and new links with the Equality and Policy Unit. I had also agreed to host 3 placements for Anglican Diocese of Leeds curates in this academic year. One was completed successfully, with one curtailed and one cancelled due to Covid-19. I have also given two undergraduate lectures this year about religion and mental health, and spoke at Wakefield Cathedral with my Muslim colleague Farhat Yaqoob, on Women in Chaplaincy.

Leeds Beckett University and University of Law (Leeds)

Rev. Melvyn Kelly

I write this at the end of my fourth year as a member of the Chaplaincy Team. I am writing at home in the strange circumstances that a global pandemic has imposed upon us.

I can affirm that even during lockdown it has 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 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. Lockdown has meant working from the manse and making good use of digital technologies to ensure that my availability for student support was not diminished.

I have again played my part in the community and events centred on the Emmanuel Centre – in particular, worship, pastoral support, Unity initiative, support of ISC, the annual Medics Module teaching and out of hours phone rota. I was very happy to be asked to share some of the insights from my sabbatical study on the book of Luke and Acts, in our Team Away day.

As lead chaplain the bulk of my work is focused at Leeds Beckett University and I have continued to develop initiatives for pastoral support and offering my faith perspective into the wider strategies of the University support for students and staff. It has been good to have had the help of Joseph Nelson, the Student Outreach Worker focused on Leeds Beckett, in profiling the chaplaincy there.

As Co-Chair of the Faith and Belief Equality forum I have shared with colleagues in work to develop and promote the University's response to Equality Diversity and Inclusion and have championed the Unity initiative of building community cohesion across perceived difference.

A steady number of students needing bereavement support have been referred to me by student wellbeing colleagues. This is some of the most rewarding work that I am engaged in. Young people have often little or no experience of the death of someone close to them and no strategies for coping. A ministry of pastoral conversation has helped several students continue with their studies despite coping with grief and loss.

The training offered to me by the Church in Peer Supervision was recognised as a valuable skill by the University Assistant Director of Student Services who asked me to facilitate some peer support within a Student Services team.

Just before lockdown I was looking forward to having a greater presence on campus at the University of Law offering chaplaincy involvement in their student wellbeing programme. I hope that this initiative can be revived as soon as possible in the new academic year. The pandemic outbreak also meant that the postponement of the proposed Memorial Service on which I was working with Biomedical students at Leeds University.

Unity events have richly encouraged me and affirmed my commitment to promoting mutual respect and understanding and sharing between people of all faiths and all world views. This has been even more vital in a year which has included fallout from the killing of George Floyd in America and the long-overdue recognition of the need for an anti-racist shift in society at large. I look forward to my fifth year in the Chaplaincy Team. It is now the final year of my initial appointment but I am delighted that the Yorkshire West Methodist District has agreed to extend my appointment until the end of August 2023.

Whatever shape the post-Covid landscape will take I look forward to sharing with colleagues, staff and students support and encouragement for living our human lives to their fullest potential in the name of Christ.

Leeds Arts University – Robin Fishwick

Although the original institution was established in 1846, Leeds Arts University has the look and feel of a young university. Much of the building is beautifully new, students tend to be younger, they have introduced many new courses and had University status awarded in 2017. Our own partnership with LAU has just completed its third year and our Service Level Agreement has just had its first renewal.

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor Student Experience and Resources, Professor Dave Russell, stated that he particularly valued the pastoral support we have provided to students and our availability, but we continue to look for closer ways to engage with students and to determine how many LAU students are accessing our services.

We have no premises on the LAU campuses and have been working to impress on LAU staff and students that they have access to the Emmanuel Centre which is just a few minutes' walk away. LAU students have attended a Unity lunch at Emmanuel and I hope that in future, we can make the Unity programme more available to LAU staff and students. Before the pandemic I also went over to the cafeteria for Thursday lunch times in order to make myself available.

As Lead Chaplain, I also serve on the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, which enables me to raise faith related matters (such as Muslim prayer facilities) and also to meet with staff and students involved in student support and experience. This also gives me opportunities to let them know what the Chaplaincy has to offer.

Support for International Students

International Students Club – Robin Fishwick

It has been a challenging year for the International Students Club, which has historically met at the Emmanuel Centre on Wednesday evenings for many years. Whilst the International Chaplain Anna was not able to be in attendance, the team took on the running of the club pre-pandemic. This gave us more of an understanding of how the club worked and built up relationships with many of those attending. I am also grateful to the work the SOWs put into helping the club and volunteers such as Sam Huang who along with Juanma took a lead in presenting the evenings and welcoming newcomers.

This year also saw the retirement of Hal Strangeways, a founding member and leader of the ISC, whom we thank for over 30 years of service. I am grateful to the ISC treasurer, Dr. Christopher Gibbs, who stepped up to be the link between the Club and Chaplaincy Trust. The ISC was initially set up by a small number of Leeds churches and is independent of the Chaplaincy, but over the years the relationship between the Chaplaincy and ISC has become very close – not just through the use of Chaplaincy premises, but also with chaplains and student outreach workers helping to run the club as well as liaising with the universities. So despite its independence, it is clear that the ISC has provided the context of much, if not most, of the Chaplaincy's ministry towards international students and staff.

This is illustrated by the ever-popular Culture Shock Comedy Drama, which serves as part of the induction of thousands of International Students as they arrive in Leeds. This drama presentation takes the audience through the stages of culture shock by following the year of an international student befriended by a Leeds local who volunteers at the ISC. The script was originally written by a former chaplain and Katy Manns of the International Students Office of the University of Leeds. The cast is made up of members of the Chaplaincy Team – who often are recognized months later by students who saw them in the play. Kim Chan and Laurence Pusey are the longest-standing members of the cast, but I myself was welcomed to tread the boards along with Eric Suen and Fr Mark Homsey. Changes in the cast have required several alterations to the script in which again we were assisted by Katy Manns. We managed to put on several performances at the University of Leeds, Leeds Beckett University and the ISC itself, reaching over 2,000 students in all.

We were pleased when the International Chaplain Anna was able to return to the Chaplaincy Team in March. Unfortunately, of course that was just as the pandemic began to assert its grip on our activities. The ISC ceased to meet in person and Anna has been working since then to find other ways of supporting the ISC and International students generally. This has not been easy with the loss of those Wednesday meetings, which regularly were attended by over a hundred students. A discussion group of half a dozen people meeting by Zoom is recognizable as equivalent to a discussion group of the same size meeting in the Wilson Room. There is, however, no online experience similar to the buzz of being in the same room as dozens of other International students, sharing food and doing activities together. Anna and the rest of the team are working at ways to overcome this problem, but this is requiring a phenomenal effort and much imagination.

Leeds Chinese Christian Church: Kim Chan

The 2019/20 academic year began with a good start in late September with our Mid-Autumn Festival and our Welcome events. At our Mid-Autumn Festival, we welcomed 87 New Students. We also had about 50 plus new students at our Mandarin welcome event. About 27 new students attended our combined Christmas celebration. Overseas students appreciated being able to gather for this special season. There were 49 new students for our Chinese New Year outreach.

The number who attend the Thursday Mandarin activities weekly varies from 8-19. We have a few staff who join us as well as students. For the Friday English activities we have about 8-12 each week; here most are students, but we have one or two staff who come and join us sometimes. We have a regular attendance of around 12-20 to our Cantonese fellowship. All these students come from different parts of S. E. Asia.



We started an English Conversational Class in the Emmanuel Centre at the request of several mature students. The class has been led by Cady, our new volunteer, assisted by other volunteers. The attendance is from 5-10 and those attending value it as a bridge building activity as well as a way of improving their English. There are requests for us to continue with this class.

Amidst all the activities, some of us also took part in the Cultural Shock drama, where we reached thousands of students. The feedback on the drama has been positive and students tell us that it helps them to adjust to a new life style here at university in the UK.

On the whole it was a good year until Covid 19 came upon the nation, forcing us to switch to on-line. We do, however, continue to provide pastoral support and continue to reach out to those students and staff through campus contacts from different departments, with our online activities and drop-in sessions.



Student Outreach Workers Reports

Juanma: This academic year has been a bit different because of the Covid-19, nevertheless, at the chaplaincy we had the privilege to keep doing what we love the most, looking after people's spiritual wellbeing. In my case, I was involved with the International Student Club (ISC), where every Wednesday evening we offered hospitality at the Emmanuel Centre to an average of 60 international students, with some snacks, games, and an optional Bible study for those interested. In March 2020, sadly we had to suspend the ISC meetings for the first time in 33 years, as happened with all the other regular in person activities of the chaplaincy.



Apart from my involvement at the ISC, I looked after the Common Room, where a free hot drink was always available, and where I had some lovely conversations with different students. Every Tuesday morning, with some other chaplaincy members, we prayed for the needs of students and staff. Joseph Nelson and myself ran the course “Engaging with Theology”, put together by the Logos Institute from the University of St Andrews, where we saw topics such as *Image of God, Creation, God and morality*, etc., plus some other extra topics prepared by us, such as *Why is not God more obvious?* or *Do we need to go to church?*

In December I had the opportunity to do some teaching for the students of 2nd and 3rd year of Medicine about “The psychology of forgiveness”, as part of the *Medics Module* that the chaplaincy runs every year. It was a great experience, and we had an inspiring discussion about the beneficial aspects of forgiveness for our general wellbeing.

When the lockdown period arrived, we moved many of the activities offered by the chaplaincy online. In my case, I continued to be involved with “Engaging with theology” and I started running “Glimpses of Jesus”, where once a week we discussed about something Jesus did, like calming a storm in the Sea of Galilee or raising his friend Lazarus back to life after being dead for four days. We had very interesting conversations, and staff and students enjoyed them alike.

Finally, in June 2020 I participated again in the “Staff Healthy Week” at the University of Leeds, but this time virtually, running the seminar “Learning How to Forgive”, receiving very positive feedback. Altogether, it has been a good year, and we are looking forward to continuing with renewed energies and new ideas for blessing all the university community.

Alice: This year one of the main focuses of my role was having the opportunity to carry on my predecessor Robin Hanford's efforts with Queer Space, our LGBTQIA+ affirming group, which addresses the conversations surrounding the intersection between sexuality, gender and faith. Although throughout the first semester numbers were very low, once we picked up our publicity efforts on social media and online events noticeboards, we saw a more hopeful increase in attendance in the second term. Our revised approach included running some more focused events as part of LGBTQ+ History Month in February, such as a queer Bible study and a film night.

In addition to Queer Space, I assisted with the weekly running of ISC, and helped to facilitate two well-attended taster sessions with ISC volunteer Sam Huang at Leeds Beckett University. I also had the chance to aid with

events such as the new Café Church Connect services, the Medicine, Health and Biological Sciences Wellbeing Fair, and some of the Unity events and trolley runs. Towards the end of the year while remote-working, I helped to develop the 'Virtual Chapel' on Facebook and the Chaplaincy website, and resources for next year such as lists of key dates and promotional contacts.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my year at the Chaplaincy and although I will be moving on after the summer, I am hopeful that Joseph and Juanma will be able to carry on with and expand upon our outreach this year.

Joseph: During my time as a Student Outreach Worker I have had the opportunity to be involved in and assist with a range of different projects and events. When we first started in September, I was involved in preparing for and helping to set up for Freshers' Week. This included making sure we had enough of everything and being involved on stalls meeting and talking with students from both the University of Leeds and Leeds Beckett. I have been involved on a regular basis with day-to-day Chaplaincy tasks such as Breathe, sorting the Common Room and the team meetings and team worship. This has helped me to have established working relationships with members of staff, of the team and with students. On a regular basis I have also been involved with and an active member of the Student Christian Movement at Leeds University and have been able to make several connections with students through getting to know the members of this group.

Juanma and I worked together to run a discussion group on theology and religion with help of resources from the 'Engaging with Theology' series. This was very successful, and we engaged with several students from a range of backgrounds and from a variety of faiths. This has led to some students who would never have come to anything run by Chaplaincy coming to know what we do and being aware that we are here for them.

Although it seems likely as I write that I will not be able to complete everything that I had sought to do in my time as an SOW due to Covid-19 I have enjoyed working with the Chaplaincy Team and have had a very enriching time engaging with students from all four of the universities we serve.



Unity Events - Robin Fishwick

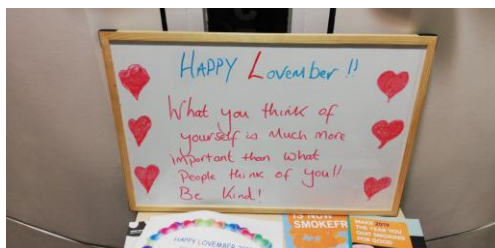
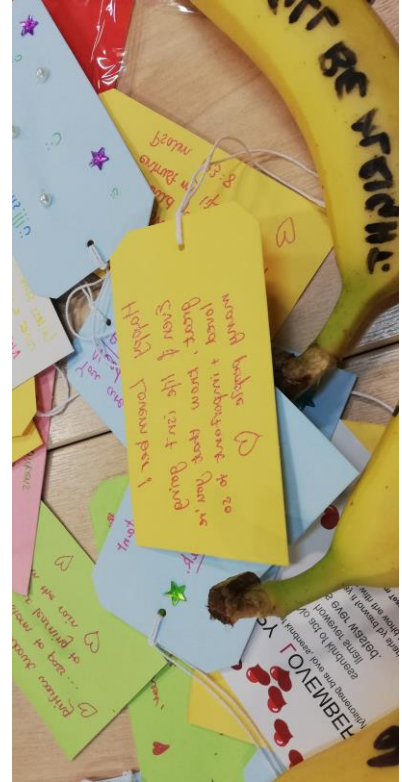
The Unity programme began in earnest in June 2016 when some of the Chaplaincy Team were walking round the University of Leeds campus with Farhat Yaqoob, the Muslim Student Adviser. It was in the aftermath of the EU referendum and many of the staff and students were concerned that the result was to make international students, international members of the staff team and members of BAME communities feel less welcome in the UK. As a result, our interfaith and community building work stepped up a gear and we began identifying ways of promoting a message of unity and solidarity – the sense that we all belong to one family.

Food and fellowship have been a common element of Unity events. There have been trolley runs which have promoted both Unity and the Chaplaincy, monthly brunches, usually held in the Marjorie and Arnold Ziff Building on the University of Leeds campus and seasonal lunches such as the Spring Lunch and Winter Starlight Lunch. Often we have invited guests to these events, people who have been making a positive contribution to the local community, such as The Real Junk Food Project based at All Hallows Church in Hyde Park.

Although the Unity programme started at the University of Leeds, our team has been keen to roll out Unity events to our other universities – for example with the unveiling of a Unity canvas at Leeds Beckett University. Having premises of our own also makes it easier to invite staff and students from our other universities to the Emmanuel Centre and the Catholic Chaplaincy. I was pleased this year that Fr Marc has continued the tradition of hosting the Shrove Tuesday pancake party as an interfaith Unity event.

Our last Unity event before the lockdown was the Show of Unity, with performances by staff and students in the Pyramid Theatre and Canteen in Leeds University Union. It was an excellent evening with music and dance from around the world, taking place on the Friday of LUU's annual World Unite Festival. I was glad that this event has now become an established partnership with Leeds University Union and for me personally the first time I had played at that venue since it was the Raven Theatre. On that occasion I was playing incidental music for a production of Beowulf in 1992. Seven years later I married the harpist in that production, so the venue held happy memories for me.

Since lockdown, we have not been able to do any of these events, but Melvyn and I have been periodically writing contributions to the Unity messages going out via email and social media. A lot of these messages have received positive feedback, including appreciation from the retiring Vice Chancellor.



Worship at the Emmanuel Centre

The pattern of worship at the Chaplaincy continues to be varied reflecting the ecumenical breadth of the team.

A regular pattern of weekly worship provides opportunities for staff and students to join in: Orthodox Prayer on a Monday and Friday, “Breathe” – worship in the manner of Quakers on Tuesday lunch time, Mid-Week Communion from Anglican, Methodist and United Reformed Church traditions on Wednesday and Chinese Church gatherings in Mandarin, Cantonese and English on Thursday and Fridays. On Sundays a full Orthodox Liturgy happens once a month and Café Church gathers twice each month in the evening too and Sunday Mass is offered at the Catholic Chaplaincy.

It can feel that these services and time of pause and prayer happen in the background, they have become a part of the fixtures and fittings of what the chaplaincy has to offer; but they are a part of the life blood of who we are. The Claire Chapel offers a space for quiet prayer, rest, and reflection to many who visit the chaplaincy with candles to lights, prayers and the week’s Gospel reading available.

As a Chaplaincy Team we also get to take advantage of this space as we meet for our team meeting twice a month, we take the opportunity to worship together - sharing in scripture, listening for God’s word and prayer for the universities.

As well as our regular moments of worship and prayer we have also hosted memorial services for students, staff, and departments as they celebrate the life of colleagues and friends who have died. We have hosted an annual memorial service at the beginning of November and continue to help the Universities mark several annual days of remembrance such as the Trans day of Remembrance and Remembrance Day in the chapel and on campus. Being able to mark these occasions is important to a lot of people and it is a privilege that the chaplaincy has been able to offer time and space for this to happen.

We have also been a part of time of celebrations with leading the University of Leeds Carol service; carol singing at Leeds Beckett and offering prayers for all university graduates.

The worshipping life of the chaplaincy is anything but mundane, sometimes it trickles in the background offering a reassuring presence while other times it gushes and pulls us along with it.

We continue to look for ways to offer something of God in everything we do, while remembering to rest in God’s presence in-between.



PRAYER OF THE HEART
(THE JESUS PRAYER)
MON: 8-9AM
FRI: 3.30-4.30PM
YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAY FOR IT ALL!

ORTHODOX LITURGY
2ND SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH
10.30 AM
FOLLOWED BY FOOD AND CHAT

BREATHE
TUESDAY 1.10PM
(FOLLOWED BY LUNCH)
THURSDAY 8.30AM

Quaker Style Time of Silence and Reflection
JOIN US AT THE EMMANUEL CENTRE

Universities CHAPLAINCY in Leeds



LEEDS UNIVERSITIES CHAPLAINCY

Mid Week Communion

MID WEEK COMMUNION
WEDNESDAY
1.10-1.40
FOLLOWED BY LUNCH

Chaplaincy Groups and Activities

Café Church

Café Church has gone through a time of transition this year. We finished last year talking about possible changes we could make to Café Church, and began the year with the inclusion of a monthly praise service on the 1st Sunday of the month with a simple inclusive liturgy, singing led by one of our regulars and a time of reflection.

Our hope is that folk will find an open and inclusive space where they can worship and explore something of God with fellow explorers. No one claims to be an expert we share in the journey together.

The year began with the theme of Women in the Bible – wanting to explore some of the lesser-known women, dipping into the stories of Esther, Deborah and Miriam.

In January we took the hard decision to meet just twice a month, 1st Sunday would be Café Church Connect our inclusive praise service, and the 3rd Sunday we would host Café Church Original where we create, discuss and reflect. As always, at all of our meetings we gather around tea, coffee and cake sharing fellowship together, and hand the rest over to God.



Queer Space

Queer Space was originally set up by a previous Student Outreach Worker, Robin Hanford. It aims to provide a welcoming space for Christian LGBTQ+ students and their allies, in recognition of the ways in which those two identities may intersect. This year Alice Healey took on the role of coordinating the group, overseen by Anthea. The programme this year included a showing of *Transfigurations* by Peterson Toscano, Bible study, activism workshops, and social time. It is fair to say that attendance was very limited during the first term, often a problem when the leadership of a group changes. With a lot of hard work by Alice, this started to change in February/March as new people found the group and started to join us, just in time for us to go into lockdown! Despite this, we have been able to build on this with on line meetings.



The Trolley Project

Towards the end of last year Farhat Yaqoob and Rev. Sam Sheehan started regular Trolley runs at the University of Leeds. The aim of the project is to offer altruistic hospitality to staff, student and visitors to campus; to provide a reason for folk to stop and breathe (even if it was just for 5 minutes) without asking for anything in return.



We are happy to say it has grown and flourished. With the purchase of a new trolley and equipment we have handed out a total of 771 hot drinks over 9 separate occasions between Oct and March. We still operate on a pop-up principle, no advertising beforehand, which gives us the flexibility to cancel last minute due to bad weather and go out last minute due to good weather.



We have noticed as the year has gone on that we have regular 'customers' who look out for us and will even come and find us when they hear we are out. It has been a place for staff and students to come for respite during what can often be very busy time. We look forward to returning to the time when we can take the Trolley back onto campus.

Breathe

Breathe is our weekly worship in the Quaker style. We started calling it "Breathe" rather than "Quaker Worship" to make it clear that this worship is not restricted to Quakers. Every Quaker knows that Quaker Meetings for Worship are open to people of all faiths, but it is important that non-Quakers are aware of this. That also is consistent with other worship at the Emmanuel Centre – as an Ecumenical Partnership we don't put a denominational label on any of our worship. So those attending Breathe have not only been Quakers but also Christians of other denominations and people of other faiths and world-views.

People attending Breathe find chairs in the Claire Chapel formed in a circle around a small table, on which there are copies of the Bible, Quaker Faith and Practice, Advices and Queries and a small introductory leaflet of our own. As soon as the first person enters, the silence starts and is only broken if someone stands to speak. This "spoken ministry" can come from anyone attending, although often the silence can last the full half hour. Our Tuesday sessions are traditionally followed by a shared lunch, but in the autumn we added had some Thursday sessions from 8.30 to 8.55 enabling staff or students to attend if their timetables made Tuesday lunchtime difficult. Since March Breathe has continued via Zoom

Guest Groups at the Chaplaincy

In 19-20 we welcomed new and old guest groups for facilities, events, and services. The University Logik Centre Staff Choir, Student Christian Movement (SCM), the Post Graduate Christian Fellowship and English conversation groups for families of visiting scholars have all met weekly across the different areas of the Emmanuel Centre. Some benefit from the acoustics of the Chapel and AV system. Others take a quiet meeting area for fellowship and prayer. We were delighted to host the UCCF's training program for bible study leaders; and the CU to host daily prayer breakfasts in Freshers' weeks. The SCM have been regulars for many years and their home from home here on a Monday night has enabled them to table discussions on religion, race and LGBTIQ+ inclusion.

It was our particular privilege this year to partner for the first time with the independent charity Forward Leeds and ring fence a Thursday morning for them to meet one-to-one with student clients who have been referred via Leeds Student Medical practice, for support with alcohol or drug issues. The quiet retreat of the upstairs Wilson Room has made a helpful oasis of calm and privacy for support work to carry on in kindly surroundings. This has enabled Forward Leeds to increase their student client base and see students more regularly, increasing the effectiveness of the rehabilitative sessions.

We also have a team member who joined the Menopause Working party at the University of Leeds and we started to participate in hosting *Meno-Pause for Thought* Cafes for University of Leeds staff, or for anyone within the Leeds University community wishing to seek new learning and support for what can be a challenging time in life. If you are part of the university community and are interested in any aspect of the guest activities described here please send an email to chaplaincy@leeds.ac.uk and we can get back to you.

Catholic Chaplaincy – Fr. Marc Homsey

I arrived at the Catholic Chaplaincy at the start of September 2019. Taking over from Fr Peter Kravos, I was aware that I had big shoes to fill! He provided a good handover for me but it was still quite daunting trying to remember and work out everything that needed to be done. I hit the ground running when I arrived: I immediately started offering Mass for students who were already in Leeds; I had to figure out how to use the (very outdated!) website; I created publicity for the chaplaincy; I started to get to know the various team members at the Emmanuel Centre. I got to know the committee for the Catholic Society (CathSoc); and I prepared to plunge into the life of Freshers' Week! It certainly felt like I was trying to keep plates spinning for the first few months!

I am thankful for the welcome I received from the other chaplains, SOWs and CSMs at the Emmanuel Centre. They definitely helped me feel welcome from the start. CathoSoc members were also key to me settling into the Catholic chaplaincy – they were able to tell me (or remind me) what happens and when. They also organise much of the logistical running of Mass on Sundays (readers, musicians, welcoming, etc.). At the end of September our CathSoc helped to host our big welcome event – the annual barbeque. It was attended by around 150 people. It was wonderful to welcome so many people and to begin to get to know the students.

Other events in the first term included:

- Batley Torchlight Procession – a decades-old tradition of processing from Batley town hall to the local Catholic church by candlelight.
- Breakfast on Friday mornings after Mass – this was one of the better attended weekday Masses thanks to the free food!
- Bonfire party, with a real fire in our car park (safely supervised, of course).
- Interfaith concert in our Chapel for part of Interfaith Week.
- Quiz night.
- A “pre-Christmas” party.
- A Mass in November to remember deceased loved ones.
- An “International Mass”, with readings and music in a variety of languages.

At the start of December, the Catholic Chaplaincy once again hosted the Retreat in Daily Life. This was well received by all who participated. Many students participate annually and benefit greatly from the input – both individual and to the group. After the Christmas break, students returned and were plunged straight into exams. As January ended, we were invited to Glasgow Catholic Chaplaincy to celebrate Burns' Night with the community there. I drove a minibus full of students from Leeds and Leeds Trinity. The students appreciated the opportunity to mix with members of another chaplaincy for the weekend.

The final big event of the year was our Interfaith Pancake Party in February. Little did we know at the time that it would be one of the final events before the pandemic took hold of our everyday life. This was run by CathSoc with a lot of help from Farhat and other Team Unity members. Over 200 people attended this event, with many positive comments. Even before the lockdown was announced in March, the vast majority of students had chosen to return home to be with their families. Like many other chaplains and clergy, I learnt very quickly how to live-stream Mass and other events to help keep students connected. We rounded off the year with one final social – a combination of a quiz, speeches and other fun activities.

I have greatly enjoyed my first year as chaplain. I look forward to the year ahead, and indeed the coming years. Despite the uncertainty of how things will be run this year, I am confident that our Lord is truly at the heart of all that we do.

Chaplain Ryan Lindsey

The role of university chaplaincy is not only measurable in number of contacts but in the development and depth of those contacts made over the course of a student's tenure of higher education. Many times, students pass through the chaplain's door at a low point or crossroads of their life, and we might never hear what comes of a student. Other times that student continues to see the chaplain as a guide even after their time at university is done. This year has been witnessed to both these types of encounters.

Early in the year a young international Muslim student was in need of someone to talk with. His uncle, who had stepped in when his father had died many years ago, had himself just died. Due to travel and educational requirements, he was unable to be there for the funeral or to support his family. He was struggling with what to do with the emotions that were battling with his educational obligations. After listening for several minutes, it became apparent that men might not be encouraged to cry in his culture so as one man to another I encouraged him to not hold back but to express those emotions without judgment or explanation. After about five minutes of crying he finally started to feel better and was on the road to acknowledging his grief. While I did encourage him that my door was open if he wanted to chat about how he was doing I never heard back from him. Students coming to my door in a moment of crisis occurred a few times in the autumn term, none of them with appointments but all of them welcome. They all left admitting to feeling better though none have been a second time. Such is one type of service chaplains often give.

The other type of service is one that develops over time. Throughout the autumn term and even into lockdown one student has regularly been in touch. She has just needed encouragement and someone to speak value into her life. While she has now graduated there has been a request for future conversations, to which I am happy to provide.

This year has also opened doors for continued and deeper service with the Christian Unions in Leeds and UCCF organisation. In the autumn term I was able to speak at the University of Leeds Christian Union about how to love your non-Christian friends as a way of sharing the Gospel. They had me scheduled to speak in March but due to the lockdown that did not happen in a traditional way. Instead they had me record a message which they then used as their first virtual meeting. As UCCF and the CUs have thought about how to move forward with the new academic year I have been able to review and speak into some of the material they intend to use plus how to form small groups in place of the traditional large group meeting. These opportunities have come from several years of close working relationships which has allowed trust to be developed.

While we do not know what the coming year has in-store, we know that God can and will use whatever service we offer. Students will continue to need support, probably more so. We need to be on hand to offer that support and wherever possible share the love and hope that can be found in Jesus Christ.



Orthodox Chaplaincy - David Ephrem

Normally we meet to celebrate Divine Liturgy in the Claire Chapel once each month and Fr David travels up from Nottingham to preside for this. In Covid, Fr David sends homilies to his network and I have added meditations-cum-homilies to the Chaplaincy's publications on line. This also reflects the practice of including meditations during the Jesus Prayer, the *Prayer of the Heart*, which normally would be said twice each week in the Claire Chapel.

Once the first Lockdown finished, the two Orthodox Churches in Leeds reopened and I have met students at the Romanian Church. I have been very pleased and impressed by the way Orthodox students have used this difficult time to engage in prayer, thought and reflection. Some have clearly benefitted from comparative isolation more than others and there have been some who have struggled. However, of the latter, as and when we emerge from this weird situation, my sense is that they will, in unexpected ways, have benefitted in terms of personal growth, as much, if not more than those who have coped better. There is even an emerging priestly vocation.

It has been very compensating to hear from former students in different countries, from Okinawa (Japan), Hawaii, Indonesia, China and Romania. Some have very kindly shared family issues or made requests for prayer, and personal prayer ministry has considerably increased, which is very humbling.

Quaker Chaplaincy - Robin Fishwick

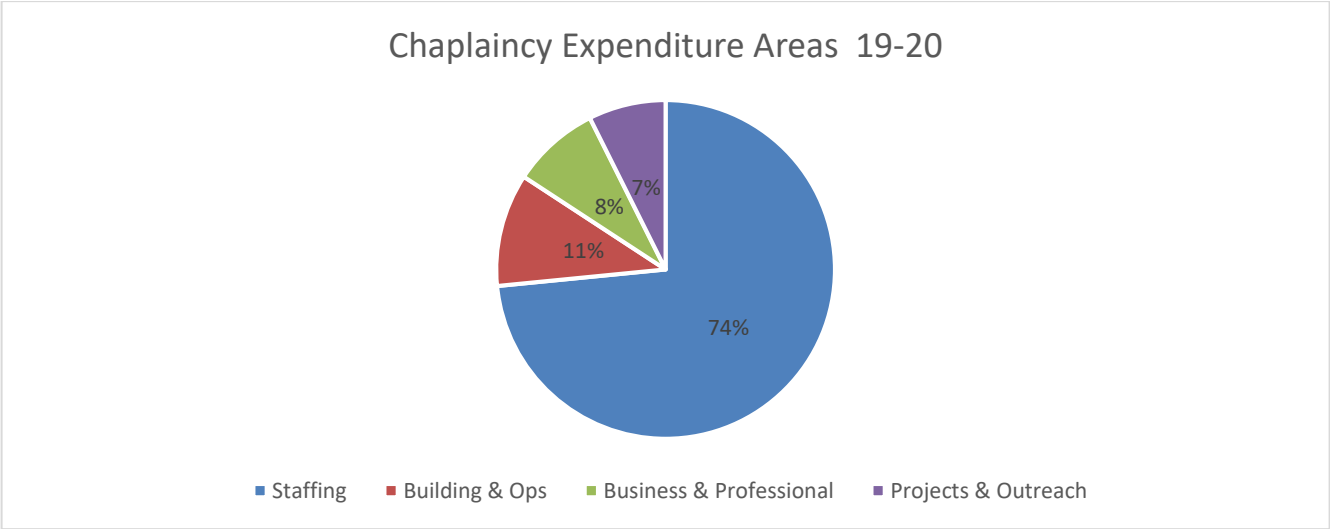
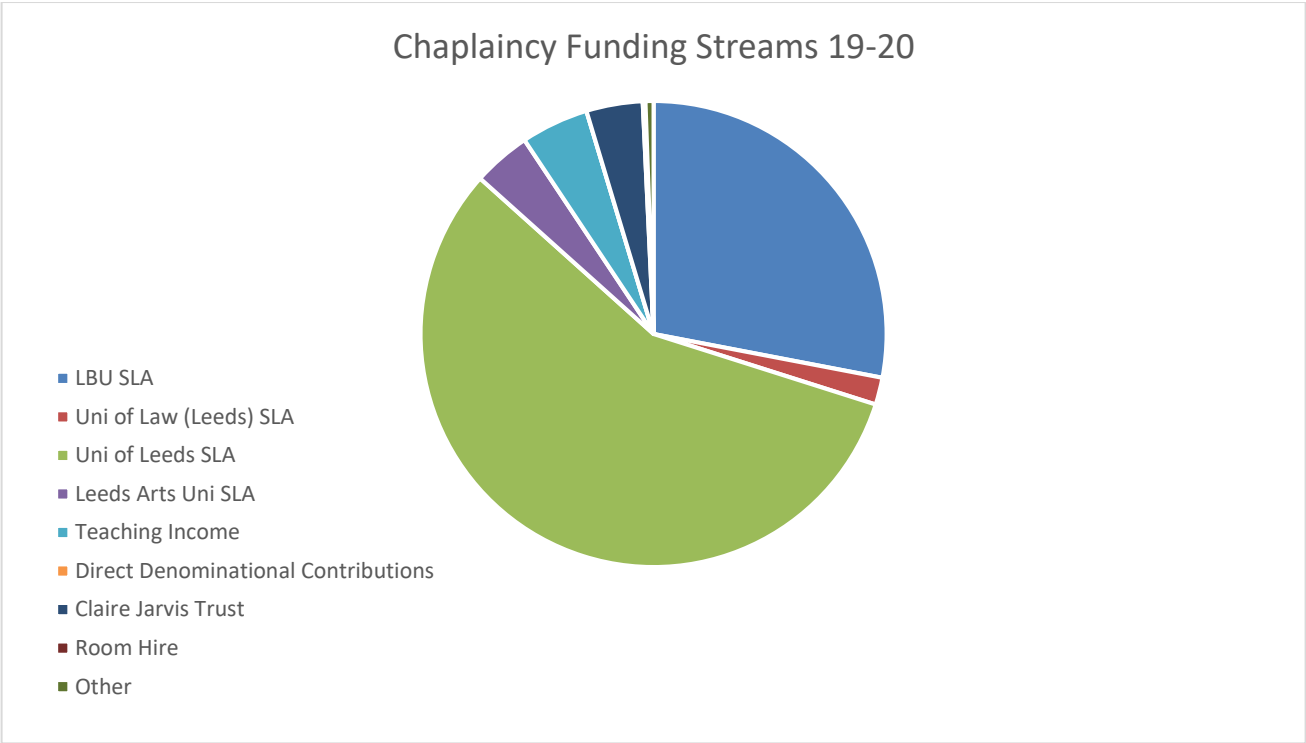
For several years now, I have been the Quaker representative on the Churches' Higher Education Liaison Group (CHELG) where I sit alongside national representatives of most of the churches who contribute to our chaplaincy in Leeds. People with a traditional understanding of the role of a chaplain might wonder why, as a member of a religious group with far fewer adherents than many churches *not* represented on CHELG, I should have, as it were, a seat at the big table? I have been a chaplain for 10 years now and during that time that sense of imposter syndrome has gradually decreased.

A traditional view of the Chaplain is someone who sees to the spiritual needs of their "own flock" and might do the odd bit alongside other chaplains in issues of common interest. For me, the reality has been that, but apart from a few Quaker regulars at Breathe the staff and students I engage with are predominantly non-Quaker. That, however, is not to say that my Quakerism is irrelevant; I once wrote that "good Quakers make good chaplains". The reason for this view is that there is something in the Quaker approach to faith that makes it particularly conducive to chaplaincy, especially in a context that is not just multi-faith but also where the majority of those we serve are non-religious. One aspect of the Quaker approach is to be open to "the Light" from whatever source it may come and another, related aspect is the idea that we must seek ways to answer "that of God in everyone". This means not only that we are comfortable to engage with people from a variety of faith and world views but also that we view science, culture and all learning as imbued with an innate spiritual value.

Financial Overview and Activity

The following information gives an overview of our income streams and areas of expenditure to the end of our financial year in August 2020. Despite the difficulties of the Corona virus and its impact on the HE sector we are pleased that our income and expenditure were roughly equal in the financial year and the finances have been stable.

Our grateful thanks go to the Universities of Leeds, the Churches, and the Claire Jarvis Fund, for their encouragement and financial support of the Chaplaincy work.



The total attendance at Chaplaincy events during the 19-20 academic year was over 13,000. We held nearly 3500 pastoral conversations throughout 19-20. The most common areas our Chaplaincy Team work were providing pastoral support, community building, and international student support work.

Looking Forward - Robin Fishwick

Reading the Gospel narratives can offer a good insight in the relationship between ministry and interruption. Many of the significant events in Jesus' ministry occur while Jesus is on the way to deal with something else, or actually in the middle of something else. Looking back over the last year and how it has been affected by the pandemic, it is easy to see the pandemic as something that has interrupted our work. There are clear instances of some of our activities that we have had to cease altogether, or replace with online equivalents that seem almost a mockery of the original. One thing the Gospels teach us, however, is that there is ministry in the interruption which can be as significant and vital as the ministry that has been interrupted.

I am grateful that in response to the pandemic, our team has not just sat back and waited for circumstances to change back to normal so that we can carry on where we left off. Our team has used its imagination and embraced technology to continue to deliver many of our services. I have also noticed a paradigm shift in how we have started using social media – not just as a way of advertising our services, but also as a way of delivering them.

I hope that by the end of the coming year we will be able to resume some of the things we have had to stop – meetings of the International Students Club, Unity lunches and brunches, live performances of the Culture Shock Comedy Drama and all of those encounters made through walking on a busy and vibrant campus – but in the meantime we have learned much and done much to ensure our ministry is uninterrupted.

The year 2020-21 started with a culture shock of its own, with thousands of students coming to Leeds and experiencing a Freshers' Week quite unlike the one their parents or older siblings talked about so fondly. The reality, however, is that every year there are hundreds of students feeling that they are alone in a crowd, the only ones not having a whale of a time like everyone else. This year there is an emerging awareness that a lot of people are struggling at our universities and the need for Chaplains to offer support has never been greater.

My hope for the coming year, then, is that we continue to minister in the interruption by using more ways to reach a wider number of our students, to minister to our universities as whole communities, not just to the individuals in those communities who seek us out. My hope is that by the time we are able to resume those interrupted aspects of our ministry we will have achieved significantly higher levels of engagement with our universities than at any time previously.



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:

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t: 0113 343 5071**

