

ANNUAL REPORT

UNIVERSITIES CHAPLAINCY IN LEEDS

2020-21



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Preface

Welcome to our Annual Report for the year 2020-2021. I am sure I am not alone in presenting an annual report this year and finding the entire year to be a period of transition and change. We knew last year that there would be a lot of change this year, but I suspect that few of us would have realised that this period would have extended over the entire year and beyond.

In addition to changes brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, we also have had other changes at the Chaplaincy affecting the services we provide. Most notably, we have had to rethink our provision to International Students, not just because of Covid restrictions affecting the International Students Club, but also following the departure of Hal Strangeways – a founder member of the Club – and of our own Anna Spiegel who has left the chaplaincy to live overseas. We are thankful to both for their service to the Chaplaincy and ISC. I am also grateful to Dr Christopher Gibb, the last remaining officer of the ISC, for his assistance in helping us begin to reshape our provision for International Students. I am also grateful to Kim Chan for offering to become the lead chaplain on International Students.

As well as learning to become comfortable with Zoom, Teams and general social media, this report will show many examples of a general trend which Covid-19 has accelerated, that of Chaplaincy using social media and technology not just to promote Chaplaincy services, but actually to provide them.

This year has been our second year with Professor Peter Howdle as Trust Chair and I am mindful that, like Father Marc, he is yet to enjoy a year where we have been working in anything like our usual way. It has not been an easy year, but despite this he has helped us negotiate our way through short- and long- term changes to practices and provision and I have been grateful for his meticulous approach and eye for detail.

Robin Fishwick - Co-ordinating Chaplain

About Us

The Universities in Leeds Chaplaincy is here to support staff and students at University of Leeds, Leeds Beckett University (City and Headingley), Leeds Arts University and University of Law in Leeds. We are located in the Emmanuel Centre just at the edge of the University of Leeds campus next to the Parkinson Building. The Chaplaincy has Christian chapel space for prayer and quiet reflection. The Chaplaincy has a range of opportunities to gather for prayer and worship during the week and opportunities to meet socially. We are a welcoming space for all whatever your faith or world view.

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.

Chaplaincy Team

Chaplains

- Rev. Anthea Colledge (Anglican), Lead Chaplain to University of Leeds
- Anna Spiegel (Baptist), International Students' Chaplain (Until April 2021)
- 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) (Until May 2021)
- Jessica Ni (Leeds Chinese Christian Church) (From May 2021)

Student Outreach Workers

- 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)
- Tom Shaw (Yorkshire Baptist Association)
- Charles Maluila (Lutheran)
- Alasdair Fraser (Leeds District of the Methodist Church)
- Veronica O'Mara (Leeds Area Quaker Meeting)
- Michael Kelly (Roman Catholic Diocese of Leeds)
- Vacant (The Yorkshire Division of the Salvation Army)
- Richard Whiting (Yorkshire Synod of URC)

Co-opted Trustees

- Dr. Tamara Wilson (June 2021)
- Professor Rachel Muers

University Trustees

- Dr. Adalberto Arrigoni (Leeds Beckett University Staff Representative)
- Phil Cardew (Leeds Beckett University)
- Darron Dixon-Hardy (University of Leeds Staff Representative)
- Catherine Lorigan (University of Leeds) (Until August 2021)

Message from the Chaplaincy Trust Chair

Professor Peter Howdle



When I wrote last year's message in June 2020 we were coming to terms with the effects of the covid-19 pandemic and working under the restrictions in force at that time. We are now one year on and still restricted to some extent, although looking forward with cautious confidence to a less-restricted next academic year.

During this academic session the chaplaincy has continued to minister to the four universities which we serve in Leeds. The Chaplaincy Team has adapted to distancing and on-line work and ministry and this has been much appreciated, especially by a number of small groups of students and staff who met for discussion or worship, in a variety of formats. 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 this year.

During the year we said farewell to Anna Spiegel, our chaplain with responsibility for international students. She has contributed much to our work and many students from around the world will remember her with affection. We wish her well in her future.

I am grateful as ever to the chaplaincy service managers, Katherine and Nikki, who have enabled the chaplaincy to maintain a strong presence in these difficult times. They have willingly become 'hybrid workers', sometimes being at the Emmanuel Centre and other times working from home.

We have been grateful for the work of our two student outreach workers, Joseph and Juanma, this year. They have willingly exercised their ministry in the changed circumstances. Joseph leaves to continue his pre-ordination formation in the Lutheran Church and goes with our very good wishes.

This year our University of Leeds trustee, Catherine Lorigan, retires from the Trust. She has been a great support to the chaplaincy and has maintained the strong links with the University of Leeds. We wish her well for the future.

In September I welcomed the new Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leeds, Professor Simone Buitendijk, on behalf of the chaplaincy. We look forward to maintaining the good relationship between the chaplaincy and the University of Leeds and wish her well in her new role.

We welcome Dr Tamara Wilson as a new trustee. She comes from the Orthodox Christian tradition and will bring those insights to our work.

So we continue to look forward to the new academic year with hope and we will continue our vocation to serve our academic communities.

Leeds Beckett University and University of Law (Leeds) Rev. Melvyn J Kelly



Last year I ended my contribution to the Annual Report wondering about the shape of the post-COVID landscape. I never expected to be wondering the same thing twelve months later. So still I write from the manse, having had no campus presence whatsoever in this academic year.

I have again played my part in the community and events normally centred on the Emmanuel Centre – in particular, worship, pastoral support, Unity initiative, support of ISC and the annual Medics Module teaching. The difference this year is that all of these have been enjoyed in the online space of Zoom or similar technologies.

At Leeds Beckett University the technology in question has been MS Teams through which I have kept in touch with colleagues in the Student Wellbeing team, and the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion network.

Social media has come into its own as a means of exercising chaplaincy and I have done my best to make good use of it. Last year's Remembrance event at Leeds Beckett took the form of a Facebook Live broadcast. The Creative Space Facebook group has continued to grow as we have encouraged one another in our lockdown creativity. In my role as chaplain to Devonshire Hall residence I was delighted to contribute to their amazing Christmas service of Readings and Carols. Similarly, I loved taking part with other chaplains in the 'dramatic reading' of the Passion narrative. One blessing of the pandemic has been the ability to offer through social media content to staff and students even during the key seasons of the Christian year when the Universities are usually closed.

Supporting students and staff at the University of Law has been the most difficult to maintain. I have nevertheless experimented with offering some Creative Space mindfulness opportunities using video recorded on Blackboard. The bulk of my pastoral work has been given over the telephone or in my weekly Blackboard drop-in sessions to students needing bereavement support. As I have said before, this is some of the most rewarding work that I am engaged in. The experience of lockdown, an experience of loss, has for many people made coping with the loss of a loved one even more difficult.

Some re-organisation at Leeds Beckett has meant that I have said goodbye to Priscilla Preston and Jan Daley, two champions of the chaplaincy's work at the University. I am reassured that new colleagues in post seem to share their commitment to the support our team offers to students and staff alike.

Last year, I was also wondering whether it would be my last in the chaplaincy team. I am pleased to report that the Methodist District has invited me to stay in post for a further two years until August 2023 (when I shall retire from active ministry or 'sit down' as we Methodists quaintly call it.)

Despite the obvious difficulties and restrictions caused by the pandemic it has been again a rewarding and fulfilling time of ministry for me.

University of Leeds:

Rev. Anthea Colledge

This has been a challenging year for everyone, including our universities and their staff and students. The chaplaincy team has followed a hybrid model since the University reopened the Emmanuel Centre in October and most of our regular activities therefore had to be reimagined this year. Those which are not specific to the University of Leeds are covered in other reports, however in relation to the University of Leeds:



The 'Medics' Module' (School of Medicine Special Studies Project in Spirituality and Healthcare) this year focused on the way in which organisations had adapted during the pandemic. We were very pleased to host 18 medical students who interviewed team members and attended online workshop sessions on the topic.

The University Carol Service was pre-recorded with segments from Chaplaincy Team members and friends. A big thank you to Anna Spiegel for all her hard work in putting the video together in the face of multiple technological difficulties!

Pastoral support has continued to be provided to individual students and staff, delivered via video call (drop-in or appointment), phone, or face-to-face, depending on the covid restrictions in place and the individual situation. At the start of the academic year the chaplaincy's details were included in the information given to self-isolating students, and throughout the year we have offered support when requested by residences. We also continue to work alongside other University support services in responding to requests for pastoral support, when serious incidents occur, and at outreach/information events including the Doctoral Festival and Disability Services' open day for offer-holders.

Leeds Arts University

Robin Fishwick

Leeds Arts University has, I believe, managed the Covid-19 pandemic remarkably well, especially considering the amount of "hands on" work that happens on the campus and as part of most students' course work.



Reaching out to LAU students this year has, however, been a challenge for us in the Chaplaincy. It has not been so easy to have a presence on the LAU campus. However, I have had more success in engaging with LAU via social media – including sharing the odd video clip on Instagram. I envisage more of this in the coming year. I also think there is more we can do to ensure that LAU have access to the services we provide. Sometimes that involves conversations with external partners. For example, a talk I gave on sexuality and spirituality this year was hosted by a Leeds University Union society, but they were only too happy to invite LAU and LBSU students to the event.

Catholic Chaplaincy

Fr. Marc Homsey

When we entered our first lockdown back in March 2019, little did we know just how much the following academic year would be affected. Most of us naively thought we would be pretty much back to “normal” by September. We now have a much better, if not complete, understanding of the devastating effects of the Covid-19 coronavirus. In the context of universities, the impact has been felt in a particular way.

A significant portion of my pastoral work this year has been to provide support to students who have struggled with the effects of remote learning, for example due to loneliness, isolation, difficulties adapting to new ways of studying, lack of suitable study or living arrangements, and so on.

It has been a blessing to be able to continue public worship throughout the year, except during the lockdown in November. It was reassuring for students to know that transmission of the virus was not attributed to places of worship. The ability to worship together as a community, particularly for Sunday Mass, has provided invaluable support to students this year. Despite not being able to sing as a congregation, we were musically led by a pianist and two or three singers at each Mass.

There was a clear sense of “Zoom fatigue” this year. This translated into lower attendance at online events organised by me or CathSoc. Nevertheless, there was a good core group who joined us for the various socials and talks. Some online activities did work well, however. A faithful group of students joined online to pray the Rosary, and for *Lectio Divina* – prayerfully meditating on the following Sunday’s Gospel every week.

Our Retreat in Daily Life also successfully became a virtual retreat. Some retreatants were able to participate who might not otherwise have been able to – especially those who wouldn’t normally be able to travel to the chaplaincy.

Not wanting to miss out on our annual pancake party, we organised an online pancake-making demonstration. This was a joint event with Team Unity. Anna Spiegel led the demonstration. The evening was enjoyed as a great success.

With more students remaining in Leeds at the end of the Spring term, I decided to keep the chaplaincy open for Holy Week and the Easter Triduum. It was a joy to celebrate the Sacred Triduum in our Chapel for the first time in several years. Creme Eggs were a nice surprise for those who came to the Easter Sunday Mass!

At the end of the exam period, I took advantage of the ability to meet outdoors. I organised an end of year social to coincide with the chapel’s feast day – the solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. After Mass, we went to Hyde Park for a picnic and games, including rounders and the treat of an ice cream for all present! We also had an online quiz, so that we could include those who couldn’t be in Leeds.

As we pray for an end to the pandemic, I look forward to a return to some more of our regular events in the new academic year (depending on restrictions guidelines at the time). I suspect I will have to wait a while longer before I can experience my first “normal” year as a chaplain – whatever that may mean!

Student Outreach Workers Reports

Joseph Nelson

The SOW role in 2020-2021 has been very different to the pre covid role. However, this has also allowed time to develop our social media presence. For me this role has been very social media focused as this has been one of the few ways that we can still reach students. In my work I have increased our social media reach and engagement as well as developed the quality and frequency of our posts. Some of our posts have been on virtual events, others on our seasonal campaigns such as the Advent or Lent posts along with many discussing student wellbeing and promoting drop-in services.



It has been a strange year and has required lots of adapting to the situation. However, being able to continue with Engaging with Theology and attending ICM regularly has helped me to continue making connections with students directly. I hope that in the coming year the chaplaincy can take the lessons learnt from this year about social media and continue to develop and grow our digital presence.

Juanma Jimenez Robles

This academic year has been different, we had to move most of our activities online, and that has been challenging for all of us at the Chaplaincy. In my case, I kept running the Bible studies “Glimpses of Jesus”, where students and staff members from different universities in Leeds joined. I was quite pleased to see that our post on Facebook “Hallelujah, Christ is risen!” reached over 41,000 people, had over 1,100 likes and was shared by 365 people around Easter.



On the other hand, I prepared “The Hope Course”, where we looked at topics such as keys to happiness, resilience, emotional intelligence, dealing with stress and anxiety, etc. Again, students and staff joined the talks, and they found them uplifting and encouraging for this pandemic time. I also had the opportunity to lead a seminar about Forgiveness for all the chaplains during the Team Away Day, which was a beautiful experience. Finally, in June I participated in the “Staff Healthy Week” of the University of Leeds, where I delivered a couple of sessions related to psychological well-being, receiving some positive feedback.

All in all, I’m quite pleased about 2020/21, but I hope that next academic year most of the activities offered by the Chaplaincy will resume the face to face experience, because the students need it.

Activities and Events

The new academic year started in September and although a little bit of life came back to our campuses, due to continuing Covid-19 restrictions throughout the year we continued to do most of our activities remotely.



Freshers weeks: Several members of our team made short videos introducing themselves or some of our activities which we shared via our social media pages.

Advent: This year we decided to do an advent calendar on our social media. This included videos, scripture quotes and messages from chaplaincy staff. This was an eye-catching way to engage students and staff with the season and to possibly encourage them think a bit deeper about preparing for Christmas and what this season means.



Carol Service: Led by Rev. Anthea Colledge and Anna Spiegel, the team produced an online service that featured contributions from many team members but also from students and friends of the chaplaincy who provided music and readings. The carol service was aired on Facebook and the reach of the event proved phenomenal. There were 2,400 views and 100 “engagements” – either people clicking a “like” or submitting a comment. Although we look forward to having the Great Hall again with the brass band and staff choir and all the trimmings, hopefully in 2021, this level of on-line engagement was very encouraging.



Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - Devonshire Hall: Rev. Melvyn Kelly is Lead Chaplain at Devonshire Hall, a University of Leeds residence, and he had the pleasure to take part in their online Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. This highly accomplished and beautifully delivered service was available through our Facebook page.



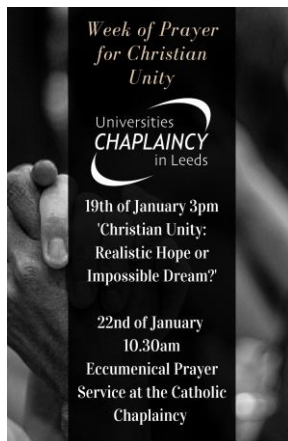
The Retreat in Daily Life: Which is organised by the Catholic Chaplaincy, Chaplaincy and the Jesuits at St Beuno's and which normally consists of a week of in-person meetings and worship, moved online this year. Even with the change of format the retreat continued to have a high level of engagement, including people joining us from France and Germany.



The Hope Course: This was a new activity run by the Chaplaincy in 2021. Led by student outreach worker Juanma Robles, who has devised this course as an aid to the wellbeing of all staff and students regardless of faith. Everyone can take from this monthly series ways of thinking and acting more positively.



Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is something we have previously marked at the Emmanuel Centre with displays on the premises; this year on 27th January 2021 we promoted Civic and National HMD events via Facebook, with Rev. Melvyn Kelly sharing his thoughts via the Chaplaincy and Unity Facebook pages. Robin Fishwick also produced a video clip on the subject that was shared by Leeds Arts University Union via Instagram where it had 150 views.



The Week of Prayer for the Unity of Christians – or Christian Unity Week, as it's commonly called – takes place annually from 18th until 25th January. On Friday 22nd January Fr. Marc Homsey hosted an ecumenical service at the Catholic Chaplaincy on behalf of the Chaplaincy team. A number of team members were able to meet in the chapel in person. It was live streamed via the Chaplaincy Facebook page. The theme this year was “Abiding Together”, based on John 15:1-17 (“Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit.”). It was a wonderful opportunity to be able to pray together, reflecting on how we are all connected through Christ. As with many of our other events, we pray that the easing of restrictions will permit us to organise a service with more people next year.



Shrove Tuesday: The Catholic Chaplaincy hosted their annual pancake party online this year with a fun demonstration led by Anna Spiegel which we could all join in with remotely. As in previous years, this was a Unity Event.



During **Lent**, we put out daily reflections on Facebook which have been submitted by several of the chaplaincy team. At the end of Lent we held a **Good Friday online Service** which was coordinated by Joseph Nelson. The 20-minute service was produced and shown on Facebook. The service included music from the Orthodox Church, prayers by different chaplains, a reading of the passion and a reflection from Rev. Anthea Colledge.

University of Leeds Healthy Week: In June Juanma Robles participated in the “Staff Healthy Week” of the University of Leeds, where he delivered two sessions related to psychological well-being.

Worship and Groups

During the 2020-21 our chaplaincy worship and groups continued to run online with some being able to meet in person towards the end of the year.

Breathe – Robin Fishwick: Breathe is the Chaplaincy’s weekly meeting for worship in the Quaker style. Normally this would involve sitting in a circle in the Claire Chapel, gathering in silent communion with God and allowing the silence only to be broken if someone feels moved to speak. Converting this experience to Zoom is in some ways easy – we don’t have to worry about distributing a physical sacrament, for example – but Breathe has suffered from the fact that it is very difficult for a new person to attend this form of worship on Zoom and have an authentic sense of collective worship. I was not surprised, therefore to see a slight fall in attendance and I was surprised to have a new person join us this year – someone who only months later came to experience Quaker worship in person.

Café Church – Rev. Sam Sheehan: This year Café Church has met twice a month online. We began the year with “BYOB and hymns” our own take on the popular “Beer and Hymns” events where we invited folk to name their favourite hymn or worship song and we shared together in talk about what memories and emotions these songs have for us as well as singing our hearts out as we listened to them being played – with thanks to Sarah for joining us and playing! The beer bit, I hasten to say, was optional. Our term continued with the theme of Joy in the parables. At a time when joy seems to be far from our go-to emotions, it seemed a good place to start for a topic. Joy, what is it? Where might we find it? What does God say about it? These were some of the questions we want to explore. In the second term, we picked up on a bible study produced by the World Council of Churches: Healing the World: Eight Bible Studies for the Pandemic Era.

Over the last few years, we have struggled to attract new members to Café Church, we had hoped Café Church Connect would help with this. The church environment in Leeds is also quite different now compared to when Café Church started – there are a lot more options for students on Sundays. We have taken the decision to pause Café Church meeting for the next academic year. We want to use this time to rethink and consider future directions for an inclusive worshipping congregation and expression of church. We hope that our current members who will be continuing their studies will be a part of this

conversation. We met for the final time at the beginning of June, ending the only way we knew how, with coffee and cake. It was a joy to be able to meet together in person on this final occasion.

Chinese Church – Pastor Kim Chan: From March 2020, in line with Government guidelines and the lock-downs, we could not have our usual Welcome night, nor the Mid-Autumn Festival to welcome the new students in the end of Sept or Oct.

Our Welcome Event was online, with 19 students, instead of the normal number of about 50-60. At our Mid-Autumn Festival celebration, we had 18 in attendance, instead of normal number of about 80-90 students. We had 17 people join us to celebrate Christmas, and 10 people at our Chinese New Year event, instead of the previous year of about 50 or more. We had 10 attend the Easter special event instead of the 30 previously. It was obvious the lock-down greatly affected our ability to get in touch with new students, thus greatly reducing in number compared with previous years.

We continue to provide pastoral support to some students via phone calls, some are referred to us through teaching staff in the University of Leeds. Some students suffer from fear and depression, and it has been a difficult year for some who find isolation difficult to handle. On top of this, some students faced extra pressure from parents from home to isolate themselves from others due to fears of catching Covid 19. It has been a very difficult year for all concerned.

The number who attend our regular activities since moving online has also been greatly reduced. The Thursday Mandarin activities weekly has been about 6-8. For the Friday English activities we have about 4 to 5 staff and students. We had about 8 to 12 regular attendances to our Cantonese fellowship. All these students are mainly students who stayed behind to finish off their course, mainly come China and Hong Kong. A few new students, some from China and Malaysia.

On the whole, it has been a difficult and unusual year because Covid 19 came upon the nation. However, it does give us the opportunities to get to know the few students and staff better, and it is a joy to be able to give them support and be an encouragement to them. It has been also great to know that those we have been supporting are doing well in their course work despite the difficulties they have been facing.

Engaging with Theology - Joseph Nelson: Engaging with Theology has continued in the academic year 2020-2021. Due to everything being online we have not been as able to make the connections that led to the high turnout last year, which meant that we would only have a few students for each session. However, we have explored a range of interesting topics including 'Truth in Theology', 'What is Lent' and 'Christian Unity: Realistic Hope or Impossible Dream'. The discussions have been interesting and engaging and has included a range of chaplains and students discussing theological topics. I hope that this group can continue next year and keep on engaging with theology.

Glimpses of Jesus: Our bible studies group continued this year led by Juanma Robles, meeting online every Last Wednesday of the month.

International Students Club – Robin Fishwick: In her last few months as International Students Chaplain, Anna Spiegel made efforts to continue the ISC online, including sending out video clips of her making international recipes, but nothing could be created that matched the experience of scores of international students gathering at the Emmanuel Centre every week, meeting for tea, coffee and toast and joining in various activities. Reluctantly, we concluded that all we could do was stop and work out how and when we could resume anything like the former activities. This period has enabled the chaplaincy to assess our work with International Students, as well as look at how we can continue to be

authentic as a Christian Chaplaincy whilst offering a genuine welcome to international students of all faiths and world views. As a consequence of this evaluation, the chaplaincy is starting an International Students Fellowship, to run initially every other Wednesday. I am grateful to all of my colleagues who have helped in this discernment process and look forward to having international students meeting once again in the Emmanuel Centre.

Orthodox Chaplaincy and Prayer of the Heart – David Ephrem: Once again there has been little to call normal in Orthodoxy. We are gradually meeting people at the Chaplaincy and we have a potential 6 catechumens, two from atheism, one from agnosticism, some also having contact with the Romanian Church. Fr David and I continue to pray for all at the University. I was only able to be in the Emmanuel Centre for a short while, but was able to increase this over time, focusing on re-introducing the Jesus Prayer Service once the term was restarting.

During this time of pandemic, a number of students from many different countries have been in touch, sometimes to share news but also to ask for prayers - a brother in a road accident, being received into the Church with parental opposition, just feeling cut off from any church and so on. Others have found the lack of normal life very difficult, whereas others have benefitted from a time of looking inwards. I have met the designated chair of the Christian Orthodox Society and we both hope to expand the group beyond the Coptic Christians who make up 90%. It will be good to see them face-to-face. I am delighted by the initiatives they have taken, including setting up a podcast with interviews with different Christians, from H.E. Archbishop Angaelos to the lay associate chaplain!

It is important to thank Fr Marc for allowing us to use the Catholic Chaplaincy for our monthly Liturgy - a great piece of ecumenism. Our focus is being back to the Emmanuel in the Autumn.

I should like to pay tribute to Fr David Gill for making so many efforts to keep in touch, for his wise advice readily given, and, most importantly for continuing prayer for all at the universities. As St Gregory Palamas said, ' Don't talk about God unless you are talking with God'.
God's blessings on us all!

Queer Space - Rev. Anthea Colledge. Queer Space continues to offer an inclusive and supportive space for LGBTQ+ Christians and their allies. This year we gathered online for an hour each week during term-time, with a core group of 4-5 students and others who have joined us occasionally. Our programme alternated a 'book club' format with group members sharing something with us. The books we used this year was *The Book of Queer Prophets* (each chapter is an LGBTQ+ person writing about their experience of faith). On the other weeks, group members shared something with us – part of their story, something about their faith journey, an interesting news item or Christian resource, or a question they'd been pondering. We finished the year by meeting once in person, at St George's Field on the University of Leeds campus, where we discovered that people look different in person rather than on a computer screen!

Guest Groups and Partnerships at the Chaplaincy

In pre Covid times we have frequently offered different guest groups the opportunity to meet at the Chaplaincy, in our rooms or sometimes the Chapel. This has meant in the past we have been able to welcome a rich range of activities including University of Leeds Staff Choir, the Student Christian Movement and many other groups. However, during the pandemic this has not been possible, as the Emmanuel Centre was fully shut down during the campus closure and thereafter only available for staff working here and for private prayer space in the Claire Chapel. A vital part of the life of the building appeared to be missing, but we were unable to accommodate guest groups for reasons of protocol and distancing. Looking forward, we have planned to welcome small groups back – albeit with Covid adjustments and risk assessments agreed. We want to begin to offer that welcome and space on campus for these vital activities.

Our partnership with Forward Leeds, supporting students and staff with alcohol or drug issues, has sadly had to be temporarily on hold. We have, though, maintained positive contact and encouragement for the charity and we are aware they are still able to host the appointments for clients remotely. We continue to have a team member who is participating in the Menopause Strategy Group at University of Leeds, and who has been able to help with remote co-facilitation over Teams of the Menopause-for Thought-Café over the pandemic. These cafes are very popular and e-tickets always sell out.

If you would like to know any more about any of the groups above, please email chaplaincy@leeds.ac.uk.

COME ALONG TO ONE OF OUR GROUPS!
A GREAT PLACE TO MEET NEW FRIENDS AND
LEARN MORE ABOUT LIFE IN LEEDS.

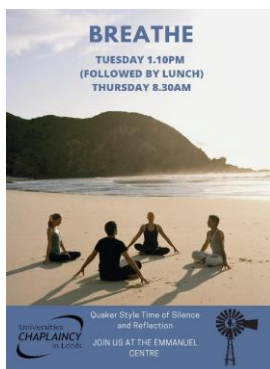
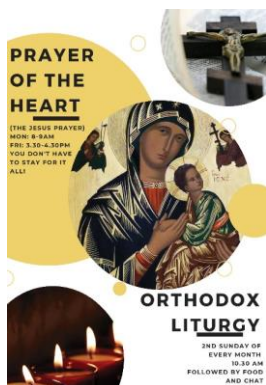
ENGLISH
FRIDAY 6:30PM FIRST FLOOR

CANTONESE
FRIDAY 6:30 PM FIRST FLOOR

MANDARIN
THURSDAY 6:30 PM FIRST FLOOR

VENUE: THE UNIVERSITIES CHAPLAINCY,
EMMANUEL CENTRE

CONTACT: KIM AND JOHNNY CHAN
TEL: 07907 251092
EMAIL: K.Y.F.CHAN@LEEDS.AC.UK



Team Unity

Over the past year Team Unity has continued its work in building community and interfaith work; promoting a message of unity and solidarity. We have faced the challenge of a digital world and the frustration of not being able to gather around food (as is our norm and part of our DNA).

‘Lovember’ continues to be a firm favorite among the team, across campus and beyond – with many stories of random acts of kindness being shared.

We were invited at the start of January by Unipol, a student accommodation support agency, to join in with a national Time to Talk day created by Time to Change – which aims to end mental health discrimination by encouraging folk to come together and talk about mental health and begin to break down some of the barriers and stigma around mental health.

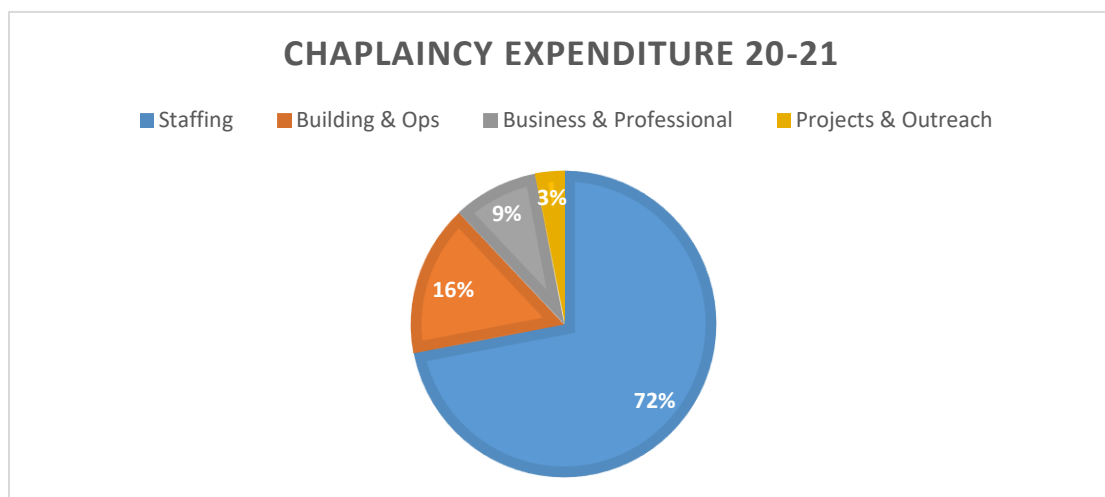
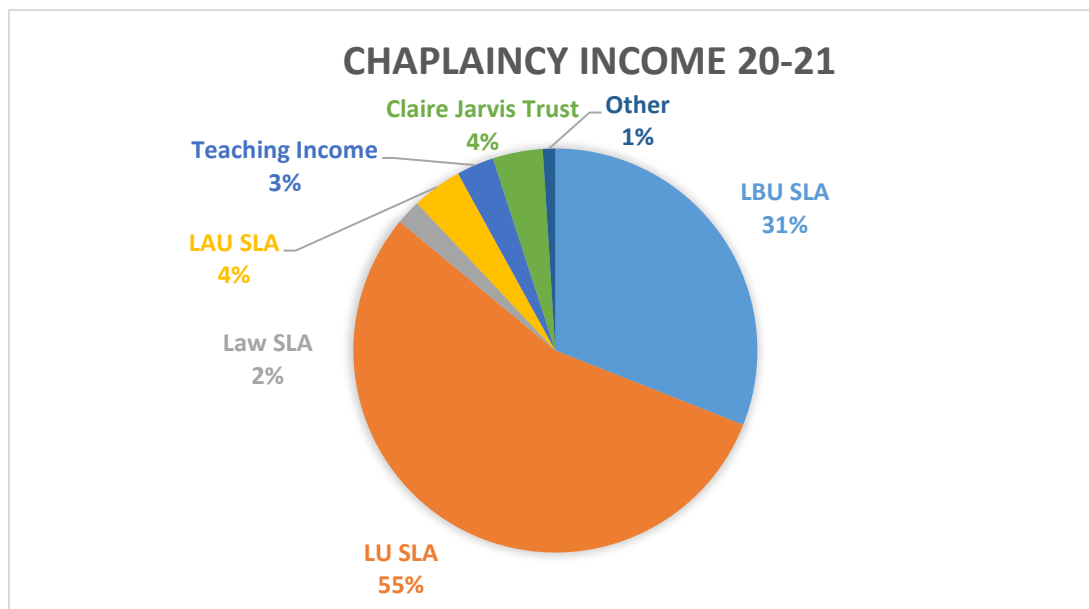
This last year has felt increasingly isolating for so many people, with reduced numbers on campus, increase working and studying at home and even the need to isolate and shield to protect each other. We decided this was one way we could continue the work of Unity – zooming into each other’s homes for a simple conversation to help break down the sense of isolation.



Activity and Finance

During 20-21 the chaplaincy team kept a record of the events and the number of staff and students attending. Across the year we had over 2500 attendees to chaplaincy activities, our chaplains had over 1000 pastoral conversations or appointments with a 75/25 split between student and staff.

Despite the ongoing difficulties of corona virus and its impact on the HE sector we are pleased that our income and expenditure were stable. Please see below for an overview of income and expenditure for the financial year. Some project costs reduced, owing to services being offered online or blended for some of the year, in line with government guidance. Income from hire of the building also reduced for the same reason. Our grateful thanks to the Claire Jarvis Fund, University of Leeds, LBU, Law and LAU for their financial support of the chaplaincy work.



Looking Forward

We have had to learn and adapt a lot over the last 18 months, but much of what we have learned will bear fruit, and many of the changes will help us develop well into the future. In the coming year our new Student Outreach Worker will be particularly engaged in improving our use of IT and social media. We have come to see some of the unexpected benefits of online presence. Whereas before we did nothing generally during Holy Week or on Christmas Day on the grounds that the universities were closed, we now no longer see that as a restricting factor. I have recently been supporting an International student via Zoom from Nigeria, something I never would have previously contemplated doing. So I am looking forward to further developing these tools for our ministry.

Juanma no longer works as a Student Outreach Worker, but this year has been appointed by the Trust to help remodel our services to international students over the coming year. Already I can see good progression for the Chaplaincy in the running of the International Students Fellowship and of a wider team participation in the running of their events. I hope in the coming year that we can do more for International Students of LAU, LBU and ULaw.

It would be wrong, however, to underplay the sheer joy and relief of finally beginning to hold in-person worship and events on our campuses. Our universities have done remarkably well in providing for staff and students since March 2020, but they have also come to value aspects of the student experience that cannot be provided virtually.

Robin Fishwick - Co-ordinating Chaplain



The Universities Chaplaincy is based at:

**Emmanuel Centre at the entrance to the University of Leeds,
Woodhouse Lane.**

Priestley Hall, Leeds Beckett University, Headingley Campus.

**Catholic Chaplaincy, 5 St Mark's Avenue, near the University
of Leeds**

For more information on the work of the Chaplaincy:

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