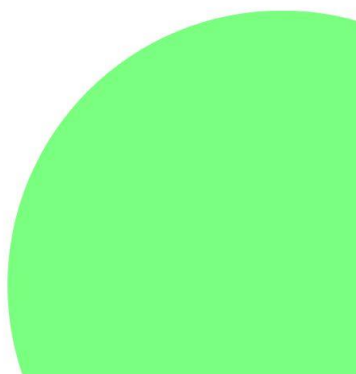




ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

Universities Chaplaincy in Leeds



Contents

Preface	4
About Us	4
Chaplaincy Team	5
Chaplaincy Trust	6
Message from the Chaplaincy Trust Chair	7
Leeds Beckett University	8
University of Law (Leeds)	9
Leeds Arts University	9
University of Leeds	10
Catholic Chaplaincy	11
Student Outreach Worker Report	13
Activities and Events	14
Worship and Groups	15
Guest Groups and Partnerships at the Chaplaincy	20
Team Unity	21
Activity and Finance	22
Looking Forward	23

Preface

Welcome to our Annual Report for the year 2021-2022. It has been a year of gradual rebuilding following the lockdowns of 2020. We have continued to be flexible in our response to the needs of our University communities, including facilitating worship for those working or studying from home. We have also celebrated two ordinations: Joseph Nelson, a former Student Outreach Worker was ordained into the Lutheran Church and David Ephrem is now serving us as a fully ordained Orthodox priest. We have been re-establishing our presence on our campuses and I am pleased to report that we have new premises on Headingley Campus of Leeds Beckett University – a room large enough for small groups as well as office space. We are conscious that although we see these premises as “ours”, whatever space is provided on campus for us is provided for us by our universities and not ours by right. We are mindful also that our ministry is not restricted to a place or places on campus but is about being there for all staff and students wherever they are and of whatever faith or background.

This year the International Association Chaplains in Higher Education had its delayed international conference take place in Sheffield. I was one of several Leeds chaplains attending and emerged with a sense that higher education chaplaincy is becoming increasingly relevant at a time when churches are struggling to resource chaplains for this work. I am very grateful to the churches in Leeds and West Yorkshire who continue to fund our team in the service we provide to the universities we serve.

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 and at PRG.13, LBU Headingley Campus. The Chaplaincy has a Christian Chapel for prayer and quiet reflection, located at the Emmanuel Centre. 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
- Laurence Pusey (Baptist)
- Rev. Melvyn Kelly (Methodist), Lead Chaplain to Leeds Beckett University, and 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)
- Fr. Ephrem (Orthodox)
- Richard Levitt (Assistant Quaker Chaplain) (Until January 2022)

Interns

- Eric Suen (Leeds Chinese Christian Church)
- Jessica Ni (Leeds Chinese Christian Church)

Student Outreach Worker

- Celeste Drouin-Davis

International Students Project Worker

- Juanma Jimenez-Robles

Chaplaincy Service Managers

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

Chaplaincy Trust

- Prof. 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 (Yorkshire West District of the Methodist Church)
- Prof. Veronica O'Mara (Leeds Area Quaker Meeting)
- Michael Kelly (Roman Catholic Diocese of Leeds)
- Richard Whiting (Yorkshire Synod of URC)
- Vacancy (The Yorkshire Division of the Salvation Army)

Co-opted Trustees

- Dr. Tamara Wilson (co-opted to represent Orthodoxy)
- Professor Rachel Muers (until July 2022)

University Trustees

- Dr. Adalberto Arrigoni (Leeds Beckett University Staff Representative)
- Prof. Phil Cardew (Leeds Beckett University)
- Dr.Darron Dixon-Hardy (University of Leeds Staff Representative)
- Dr. Michael Byde (University of Leeds) (from November 2021)

Message from the Chaplaincy Trust Chair

Prof. Peter Howdle



When last year's report was prepared the universities and the chaplaincy in Leeds were still operating and ministering under a level of covid restriction. This has now eased considerably although, at the time of writing, the incidence of infection in Leeds is still high and one needs to maintain a level of care and concern. However, the universities are returning to a much more personal level of contact between students and staff, although in the future there will undoubtedly be more on-line activity than previously, as this is an area of considerable development. The chaplaincy is also returning to more person to person contacts, although we too have improved our on-line presence. This has been greatly helped by our student outreach worker, Celeste Drouin-Davis. Celeste is a recent graduate of Leeds Arts University and we employed her as a Digital Engagement and Promotions Lead. In this role she has been invaluable in developing our on-line ministry.

This year we said goodbye to Juanma Jimenez-Robles. Juanma has been with us for 4 years as a student outreach and project worker. We are very grateful for his ministry with us, particularly to international students. His pastoral care has been a great help to many, and we wish him well for the future.

This year we are also sad to lose Prof. Rachel Muers as a trustee. Rachel has been in this role for 15 years and has brought wise counsel and experience to our work. We wish her well as she moves to become Professor of Theology at the University of Edinburgh.

We welcome Mike Byde as a trustee nominated by the University of Leeds. Mike is currently Director of Student Operations and brings useful experience to the trustee body.

As always, the trustees are grateful for the continuing support of Nikki Barber and Katherine Norman, our Chaplaincy Service Managers. Robin Fishwick continues as the Co-ordinating chaplain and we are greatly indebted for his continuing leadership and to all the chaplains who provide ministry to the students and staff of the Universities in Leeds.

Prof. Peter Howdle.

Leeds Beckett University

Rev. Melvyn Kelly

At Leeds Beckett this year has been very much a year of two halves (the fractions are not accurate!). Between September and the end of the year my work continued to be offered from the manse through email, telephone and the wonders of Zoom, MSTeams and Skype – with all the accompanying limitations.



During this time however, a service re-structuring saw the creation of a combined Library and Student Services. Jo Norry MBE has become the Director of the service and Jo Jones has become the Associate Director and is effectively my 'line-manager'. I am delighted to say that both acknowledge the value of the service we provide as a Chaplaincy, and both have become valued encouragers of my work here as Lead Chaplain.



Changed patterns of working has freed up some office space. I am delighted that Estates have now provided us with a dedicated chaplaincy room just off the foyer of the Priestley building at Headingley and right next to the Student Information Hub. It is a spacious room with a comfortably furnished gathering space as well as desks and workstations. It is equipped with kettle and fridge and already promises to become a welcoming hospitality space where people can enjoy a free drink and biscuit and space to be together. It has been exciting since January to be based on campus again in this space, to meet with students here for pastoral support and to revive Creative Space sessions. I am exploring ideas of how to use the room effectively as a focus for varied chaplaincy work on Headingley campus. My hope is that other members of the Chaplaincy Team will see it as their space too and make good use of it in coming months.

I am delighted also to report that this is simply the beginning of a broader re-imagining by the University of how it might effectively make provision for staff and students to celebrate their faith traditions on campus. Following a report that I submitted to the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, working parties and sub-committees are beginning to explore how prayer spaces might be improved and, in the longer term, whether a dedicated faith centre might be a possibility.

University of Law - Leeds

Rev. Melvyn Kelly



I remain committed to supporting students and staff at the University of Law but this had been the most difficult to achieve during the pandemic. Changes in staff arrangements at the University this year have meant that I no longer have my usual point of contact in Razwana. So far this academic year it has not been possible to resume any on campus activity. I have had to content myself with the fact that as a chaplaincy service we have made ourselves available to the University. I am also able occasionally to contribute to the current students' Facebook group from time to time. As the Service Level Agreement is renewed, I trust that the new academic year will bring fresh opportunities to engage.

Leeds Arts University

Robin Fishwick

As with the University of Law, our ministry this year to Leeds Arts University (LAU) has been more difficult with it being harder to establish a physical presence on campus. I am glad that in the coming year this will be less of an issue and I will be glad to set myself up in the café for “chaplain available” sessions again.



One way in which I have been able to reach LAU students more effectively in recent months is via Instagram. I have been grateful to Celeste Drouin-Davis for her technical assistance with this. It is a sobering reflection on how things have changed that if a chaplain has thirty people attend a service and ten remember any of it the chaplain is doing well, but now we can have thousands of students view a post and hundreds “like” it.

I continue to serve on the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee. I am conscious that I am the one faith representative on that committee and in the coming year am aiming to improve on our advocacy not only for the various faith groups at LAU but for faith itself.

University of Leeds

Rev. Anthea Colledge



The majority of chaplaincy activities restarted onsite (rather than online or hybrid) at the Emmanuel Centre from the beginning of this academic year. These activities are not exclusive to the University of Leeds and so many have been covered elsewhere in this annual report. Thinking specifically about the University of Leeds, I would like to highlight the following aspects of the chaplaincy's work:

Pastoral care & spiritual accompaniment/development

Pastoral and spiritual support has continued to be offered to University members (staff, students, and PGRs) by the Chaplaincy Team. This has primarily been onsite, but we have continued offering phone or video-call support if that is more appropriate. The continued use of video-calling has meant that we are more easily able to continue to offer support to students who are away from Leeds, and can help to overcome barriers that people may face in accessing the chaplaincy onsite. My personal observation is that the events surrounding the covid pandemic have encouraged young adults to reflect on their spiritual journey and especially to engage with spiritual questions around suffering. As lead chaplain I continue to be part of the support offered to Residences, Schools and individuals when serious incidents occur, and this year we have been able to develop stronger relationships with some of the University's student support services. This included the chaplains who hold the out-of-hours chaplaincy phone being invited to training with the Student Counselling and Wellbeing service.

Christmas Carol Service, Remembrance Day, and All Souls Day

This year we were able to host all of these events on campus once again. Music for the Carol Service was once again provided by the excellent LUU Music Society Brass Band. It was great to have the singing supported by a 'scratch choir' of University members. The Remembrance Day silence was observed at a gathering in the University precinct, followed by a wreath-laying at the Brotherton memorial. For All Souls Day we offered opportunities for space and silent reflection in the Claire Chapel, followed by a short service to remember those who had died in the past year.

Ethics and institutional involvement

These are two areas of the service level agreement between the Chaplaincy Trust and the University of Leeds. In this academic year I have become a member of a University Research Ethics committee, and have also been part of four University working groups relating to faith, religion and belief within the University.

Catholic Chaplaincy

Fr. Marc Homsey

This academic year began at full pace. Starting the year with no formal Covid restrictions meant that we could plan a full programme of events. This began with our traditional welcome BBQ.



Sunday Mass attendance was at a higher level than the previous year. It was a joy to all be able to sing together once again. Our socials after Mass were well attended, whether it was “simply” for tea, coffee and biscuits, or for larger events such as our quiz night and our shared international supper. Many students put in good effort to their outfits for our All Saints party, to coincide with Halloween. It was fun trying to guess which saints everyone had dressed as!

In November we prayed for deceased family and friends with a special Mass. During the Mass everyone was invited to come and light candles for loved ones who had died, while names of the deceased were read out.

The start of Advent saw the return of Retreat in Daily Life. All sessions were held in person, whilst individuals could choose to meet their prayer guides in person or online. This format seemed to work well, and will probably be repeated next year.

I organised two excursions in the Autumn. The first was a walk from Ilkley to Bolton Abbey. We were blessed with beautiful weather, and we finished the day with burgers and milkshakes at Billy Bob’s Parlour near Skipton. The second was a trip to York in December. After taking the train there, we started the day with Mass at the shrine of St Margaret Clitherow. The visit also included a walk along the city wall to the Bar Convent, to visit a relic of St Margaret. We were pleasantly surprised to be granted free entry to York Minster. There was enough time to enjoy the German market before heading home on the train. We concluded the first term with a pre-Christmas party.

The Bishop of Leeds, Bishop Marcus Stock, visited the Chaplaincy in February. He celebrated Mass and then stayed to share his faith journey. The students were impressed with his humility and his openness to answer questions. We look forward to inviting him back next year.

February also saw the return of our annual retreat – the first in three years. This was held at the Briery in Ilkley, and led by a priest from Salford Diocese. Many students enjoyed a walk to the edge of Ilkley Moor. We returned spiritually refreshed, and just in time for the start of Lent! The Unity Pancake Party was held in person once again, with a good number attending. I organised a few talks during the Lenten season: on confession, on CathSoc’s chosen charity “Mary’s Meals”, and on being a Catholic doctor.

The start of Lent also saw some changes to the Catholic chaplaincy site. With approval from the Diocese the residential accommodation was closed for demolition. This means the chaplaincy no longer has any resident students. The day to day running of the chaplaincy remains unaffected – the main difference is that the new entrance is via the front of the building. A new accessible ramp has been installed to allow access for all.

After the Easter break it was a delight to baptise and confirm nine members of the chaplaincy community, seven of whom were students. We had spent several months in preparation for this event. Congratulations to all the candidates!

In June I drove a minibus full of students to a national Catholic student conference. Despite it being a long day, it was enjoyed by all. We managed to have a little walking tour of London before the return journey.

The return of breakfast on Friday mornings (after Mass at 8.10am) proved a popular event for dedicated students. The Friday of the year came with a cooked breakfast as a treat, and to coincide with the feast of the Sacred Heart (after which our chapel is named). We concluded the year with a picnic and games in the park.

I thank God for a wonderful year in chaplaincy. I feel much more settled following a much more “normal” year. I look forward to seeing what the coming year has in store for us. I pray that many more may come to know of Christ’s love through the work we all do as chaplains at our universities.



Student Outreach Worker Report

Celeste Drouin-Davis – Digital Engagement and Promotions Lead

An important part of this role was adapting to the new behaviours we adopted from COVID. When I joined in October 2021, students were returning to campus but we still needed to ensure that we maintain a strong internet reach.



In the first semester, I designed Advent posts, which went out every day from the first of December all the way to 25th December. I had found through research that posts which are more personal, have a higher engagement so I asked other members of the team to give me personal stories about Christmas, as well as favourite verses.



As well as this, I was leading the work on designing the song sheets, prayer cards and posters for the annual Christmas Carol Service which takes place in the Great Hall. This involved making sure that the posters were the correct size and layout for all the different screens on campus. With the help of the team, this resulted in a very successful event with over 200 people.

One of the first tasks I was assigned was to design new posters for chaplaincy events, using my skills within design to give them a concise and contemporary look. I did this by creating posters which were not dominated by too much text, look inviting and reflect the nature of the event/club/worship.

During my time here, I have introduced my team members to making videos on Instagram. I have found through my own experience that Reels get the most exposure, and most importantly, are the most effective way of reaching a new audience. I have found that each video has received over 1000 views, with the highest currently having 197 likes and 6,558 views. I also use relevant hashtags on Instagram, so people who watch similar videos or like similar posts will be exposed to our content. I have found that hashtags which are geocentric are essential, especially for the Chaplaincy where we only support staff and students of the Universities within Leeds.

For example, during Lent this year I used these hashtags: #chaplaincy #LeedsChaplaincy #lent2022 #lent #Christian #LeedsStudents #StudentWelfareLeeds

Activities and Events

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.

Culture Shock Comedy Drama Performances: The drama performed for arriving international students by Robin Fishwick, Kim Chan, Eric Suen, Laurence Pusey and Fr. Marc Homsey. The play, co-written by Katie Manns of the University of Leeds International Students Office, follows an international student through his year at Leeds. He is helped on his way by a Leeds local who befriends him and helps signpost him to support and helps him look after himself through the ups and downs of student life whilst explaining some of the oddities of British culture.

Remembrance 2021 at Leeds Beckett University: For the second year running it was not possible to gather people together on campus for the Remembrance Day in November 2021. However, the University Communications team helped Rev. Melvyn Kelly to lead an Act of Remembrance, entitled 'Remembering Together', from the war memorial in the James Graham Building on Headingley campus which was streamed live online to colleagues, students and the public.

Remembrance 2021 at University of Leeds: The Remembrance Day silence was observed at a formal gathering in the university precinct lead by Rev. Anthea Colledge, followed by a wreath-laying at the Brotherton Memorial.

Carol Service: The Carol service took place at the Great Hall. Music was provided by the LUU Music Society Brass band, over 200 attended. Donations were raised for the Leeds North and West Foodbank (Trussel Trust).

The Retreat in Daily Life: Took place in December organised by Fr. Marc at the Catholic Chaplaincy and St Beuno's Jesuit Centre, 23 people took part in the event. We are grateful to Steve Hoyland whose team of prayer guides enriches the prayer life of staff and students of all denominations.

Shrove Tuesday: Team Unity held their annual Pancake Party, held at the Catholic Chaplaincy. A number of the Chaplaincy team were able to attend. We are grateful to CathSoc for helping to provide a genuine interfaith welcome and to Farhat Yaqoob for providing pakoras to accompany the traditional fare!

Lent: A series of social media posts ran throughout Lent, these captured what this time means to different people.

Exam outreach: During exam season a number of the chaplaincy team took the tea trolley out around the University of Leeds campus, providing free cold drinks and brunch snacks. The trolley was well received by students.

University of Leeds Healthy Week: This year the Chaplaincy had 5 events on the programme for Healthy Week. Our Tuesday Quaker Breathe worship included an introductory talk, Laurence Pusey organised a Healing Service in the Claire Chapel, Anthea Colledge with Sam Sheehan created a Labyrinth on campus and Juanma ran a wellbeing webinar about “Hope and happiness”, this was attended by 50 people and we believe was one of the most well attended events of the whole programme.



Worship and Groups

Breathe – Robin Fishwick

Breathe is the name we give to our weekly meeting for worship in the manner of Quakers. We call it “Breathe” to ensure that nobody feels it is only for Quakers. This year we moved away from the Zoom only version of Breathe, initially via blended meetings and eventually to having the Tuesday Breathe in person and a Zoom version on Thursdays. The blended version involved having a few of us meet in person in the Claire Chapel while others could join via a Zoom link to a laptop placed in the chapel within view of at least some of the participants.

Those attending Breathe have been a small but diverse group. The Quaker format, with its absence of set liturgy or collective prayers, has enabled participation from those whose beliefs do not necessarily fall within the Christian mainstream and we have even had attendance from participants of other faiths such as Baha’i and Islam. This has not detracted from the authenticity of the worship experience or the deep sense of unity as we have each listened to God speaking within us.

I was very pleased to learn that the new Chaplaincy room on Headingley campus has sufficient space for Breathe to occur there in the coming academic year. I look forward not just to contributing to a worshipping presence on Headingley Campus but also to enabling staff and students at Headingley to join in this simple but poignant form of worship.

Chinese Church – Pastor Kim Chan

This year in September we restarted our meetings in person at the Emmanuel Centre. During Freshers' week we held our Welcome night, with around 40 students attending - a good number, although the numbers have been reduced following the pandemic.

Each week we held our groups at the Chaplaincy with the weekly activities of Bible discussion, games and refreshments. We had a good Christmas celebration with our students, many of them enjoyed their first Christmas in the UK. Later in the year we also celebrated the Chinese New Year, with new students attending. This year alongside games and food, we also had the opportunity to do some Chinese Calligraphy. In between studying and their exams, students enjoyed coming to the weekly groups, which included Bible study and discussion on life issues. Students were able to share their concerns about their studies and health issues during the group time. During the year I also had appointments and ran drop-sessions at the chaplaincy. I appreciate the time I have been able to speak to those who dropped in or came by appointment. Those who need someone who understands their cultural background to listen to them can relieve their anxiety concerning their mental health and the pressure of the course work through talking it over with me. On the whole, those with whom we have been able to connect this way have been able to finish their course work by overcoming their difficulty. This year I once again took part in the Culture Shock drama. Those international students whom we had contacted during the performances all spoke of their appreciation of the drama. They found it helpful to their adjustment to the British culture in a new environment.



Creative Space – Rev. Melvyn Kelly

Since I arrived in Leeds in 2016 Origami – the Japanese art of paper-folding - has become something of a trade-mark of my ministry, whether that be at our Light Night event, or during Unity events as a simple conversation starter and sustainer, or as a focus for reflection on spirituality in the Medics Module sessions.

It surprises some folk to find a Chaplain offering origami. But, though I have been folding paper since I was a boy, as an adult my hobby has become one of my go-to mindfulness activities – a fun way of slowing down, of focusing attention, of being still, even of prayerfulness.

Colleagues in Student Wellbeing at Leeds Beckett University encouraged me to share the practice with students and staff at Mental Health Awareness days and Wellbeing events. I found myself teaching staff and students how to fold – but with the folding came the opportunity gently to offer pastoral conversation.



Out of all this grew *Creative Space* offered (pre-pandemic) on Headingley campus and City campus on alternate Mondays in term time. *Creative Space* seeks to offer 'space'. Space to lay down, for a moment or two, our work, our distractions, our worries. Space to be aware. Space to rest a while. Space to re-focus. Space to be still.

At *Creative Space* I offer simple creative activities of various kinds: Origami, colouring with crayons, drawing or sketching with pencils, poetry (to read or to write), crosswords. Sometimes people have brought along their own activity, e.g. embroidery or knitting. In each case the idea is the same — an opportunity for self-care, a chance to slow down, to find a calmer frame of mind, with attention focused on the task in hand and hopefully, little by little, worries, stresses, troubles may float away - for a time at least.

A small Creative Space community developed. During the lockdown, when we were all working at home, a Facebook group was created to preserve the group and to share creative ideas. The idea caught on and more and more folk joined the group from across the University communities. Now that we are working sometimes at home, sometimes on campus, the Facebook group continues but *Creative Space* has also returned to Headingley campus as an in-person event on alternate Mondays.

International Students Fellowship (ISF)

This academic year, Juanma Jimenez Robles worked as a project worker for international students at The Universities' Chaplaincy in Leeds, preparing a proposal for the Trust about which would be the best way to look after the International Students of our four universities in Leeds. At the same time, he ran the International Students Fellowship (ISF) every Wednesday evening. The ISF superseded the International Students Club which had been run as a partnership between a committee of local churches and the Chaplaincy. The ISC came to an end partly with the departure of several key figures and partly with the lockdown taking away its principal strength – a lively and vibrant but safe environment where International Students could meet friendly faces. The Chaplaincy started running the ISF directly as part of our chaplaincy provision to International Students of all faiths and world views. Juanma reported that International Students are more sophisticated now than ten years ago, they have travelled more, and are a bit more confident to be exposed to a foreign culture. Nevertheless the International Students still experience isolation from their family, friends and culture. Providing a hospitable place like the Chaplaincy where they can establish meaningful connections and friendship is something the chaplains can offer them.

In its first year of in-person meetings, the ISF has begun to provide that friendly environment again. It has not had the size and numbers of the old ISC, but the activities have been enjoyed and appreciated by all the people attending them. With these activities being led by members of the Chaplaincy Team (and, in the case of the Culture Shock Comedy Drama, performed by the members of the Chaplaincy Team) the ISF has given International Students the confidence to approach chaplains about other things.

In regards to the promotion of the ISF events, Juanma created a Facebook page, a Twitter and Mailchimp accounts, plus “business” cards to hand around. However it seems what is working better is the promotion of the ISF through internal universities platforms, such as *teams*.

Juanma also met the international and wellbeing teams from Leeds universities, and they are happy for the Chaplaincy to come alongside International Students. The universities are aware for many International Students it can be difficult to find a space to meet people who cares for them and make friends in a safe environment like they can do at the Chaplaincy. Therefore, the universities are happy to promote the ISF activities, and other activities and services run by the chaplains for International Students.

Midweek Worship – Rev. Anthea Colledge

We took the decision at the start of this academic year to change ‘midweek communion’ to ‘midweek worship’. This was to accommodate different guidance from our denominations relating to covid restrictions and sharing communion. We have offered this weekly throughout the year; usually onsite in the Claire Chapel but occasionally online as a result of chaplains needing to self-isolate. Staff and students from two of our four universities have attended. Numbers were lower than pre-pandemic, but this is to be expected while people are still working from home rather than on campuses.

Orthodox Chaplaincy – Fr Ephrem

This year it has been good to have the support of Dr Tamara Wilson as Orthodox Trustee. This has had added importance because she has been able to use her knowledge of the Armenians suffering over one hundred years ago in the context of the invasion of Ukraine. On the same subject, we had prayer vigils for Ukraine and I was asked to participate in a vigil at the Students Union and in another for University staff. Emotions were running high, with some students personally affected. Sofiya, a former member of University staff, and one of our community was able as a Ukrainian and Orthodox to bring some understanding and comfort, especially to the young women, on these occasions. Some significant contacts were established at the same time. It is important to observe both the angst of Orthodoxy and the strength of the challenge from leaders across the Church to the Russian Patriarch. This reminds us of the importance of standing up for the teachings of Christ, at times requiring tough language, alongside Christian forgiveness, even when that seems almost beyond us.

It has been a privilege to facilitate the meetings of the Orthodox Society in the Chaplaincy. It is good to see students from other traditions joining what was previously almost 100% Coptic Orthodox. There were very good speakers and presentations, including a meeting when Fr David Gill spoke and Dr Wilson was present. This was indicative of the growing together, at least spiritually, of the two traditions. There was a moving meeting on the conflict in Ukraine, with another personal contribution from Sofiya. In addition I very much appreciated the themed Bible studies and the evidence they provided of prayer and study.

We have had a number of students journeying towards Orthodoxy and one Baptism at the Romanian Church. This has given added significance to the monthly presence of Fr David Gill, bringing his experience and wisdom to share.



During Lent I planned extended times of prayer and many of these took place. They were interrupted as a result of the decision of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolitan for Western and Southern Europe that I should be ordained both Deacon and Priest, for which I had to give space for preparation. Despite feelings of inadequacy, I hope this will increase potential effectiveness.

It will also involve time spent in the Monastery of All Celtic Saints on the island of Mull, with potential for student and staff visits in the future. As I saw this as a new start, I am now formally Fr Ephrem or Ephrem David. Above all, perhaps, the support and prayers of Chaplaincy colleagues was very moving and is something I shall never forget.

Very conscious that we are chaplains and not, in a direct form at least, evangelists, I have much appreciated the trust students of different faiths and none have put in me when personal issues have arisen and I recommend the Refectory as a positive context for encounters!

Queer Space - Rev. Anthea Colledge

Queer Space continued to run online this academic year, offering an inclusive and supportive space for LGBTQ+ Christians and their allies. Our numbers were lower than they had been previously, a situation that we shared in common with many groups and activities across the chaplaincy and University. The majority of our meetings were therefore informal, with group members sharing about their week, or bringing a question or news item for the group to discuss. My intention is for Queer Space to run onsite in the next academic year, beginning with a welcome event in the first week of the teaching term.

Guest Groups and Partnerships at the Chaplaincy

Nikki Barber

During the year we received requests from a trade union to offer a place for striking staff where they could gather together and make refreshments or take a break. At times there has been a constant stream of striking staff coming in to use the facilities, and they have been grateful for this space. The Chapel has also been a place where strikers have come for quiet and peace at turbulent times.



Our partnership with Forward Leeds had to sadly be on hold during the pandemic for practical reasons. We are looking to re-establish the student clinics we were able to help host for those concerned about their own alcohol misuse or addiction, in the forthcoming year.

We continue to have a team member who contributes to the University of Leeds Menopause Strategy Working Group, and who has helped co-host the Meno-Pause -For Thought Cafes this year. These have been held virtually this year, and are a space to support staff and students affected by the challenges of menopause. They aim to remove the taboo that menopause can be in the work place or in wider society. Future cafes are now planned both in person on campus and virtually to maximise access. Tickets are available via Eventbrite; cafes are free to attend and get booked up quickly. The feedback from participants has been tremendous.

We have been delighted to welcome back some of the groups who used to meet at The Chaplaincy pre covid like the Student Christian Movement. We have also welcomed new groups like The Orthodox Society who were able to meet and host guest speakers in the Chaplaincy with support from the team.

If you would like to know any more about any of the groups above please [email chaplaincy@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:chaplaincy@leeds.ac.uk)

Team Unity

Rev. Samantha Sheehan



This year Team Unity were back on campus, we celebrated in style with our first event – a Unity Picnic. The wonderful folk in University of Leeds Catering and Conferencing enabled us to gather in the marquee with pre-packed lunches for our first outing. This was a much needed reminder to reinforce the value of outreach and in person meet ups for the up-coming year, especially in an ever changing and often ‘unstable’ world. The term continued with more joyous Unity gatherings with a monthly Unity Brunch, and Lovember take over and Trolley runs. We began 2022 with a reminder of what Unity mean to us, in the words of our sister Farhat:

What can I tell you about us...

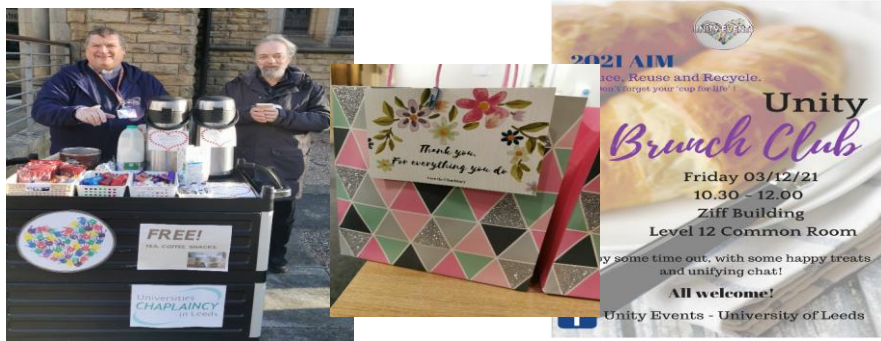
Team Unity is hopeful that we all carry hearts that care about this world and want to be a source of healing.

Team Unity is optimistic that our efforts *have* not and *will* not ever be wasted.

Team Unity genuinely and sincerely does this work because WE LOVE YOU. I know that sounds strange when you think about us being at a University, a place of learning, but that’s the truth, you are our family, we are yours and we love you. So live with it..!!

Team Unity is very very grateful that we can continue doing this work (*you all make it possible*).

Sadly we have not be able to re-instate our Unity Lunches in person, we felt it was covid safer not to. We were able to hold three Webinars over lunchtime on Guilt, Gratitude and Grief – offering space to be open, honest and to talk about some big life topics. The work of Unity is never ending, we could be tired and feel despairing about this, but at its heart is the desire to Love, a love which crosses boundaries, seeks those seen and unseen, and continues to grow as we share together. Work whose reward is immeasurable and fixed in the Kingdom we seek here on earth.

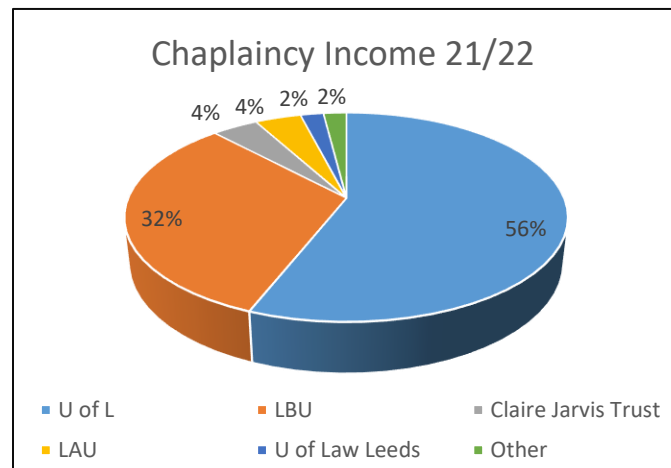


Activity and Finance

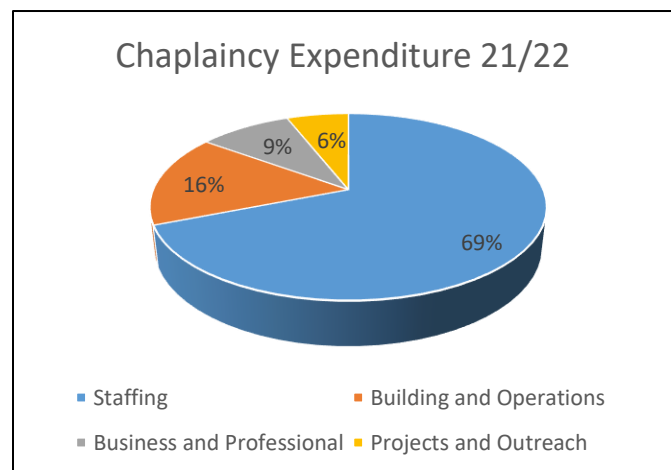
We keep records of the number of students and staff participating in chaplaincy events and attending services or coming to see chaplains. We do this so we know what is popular and also to understand how our resources are best allocated.

Across the year we have had over 8000 attendees participating in chaplaincy activities and partnership events, our chaplains have conducted over 1800 appointments or conversations with students making up about 80% of this figure and the rest being university staff.

Our income streams have changed in the light of pandemic as paid bookings at the Chaplaincy have reduced with events being increasingly hosted on line. We also no longer teach the second and third year university medics regarding faith and spirituality, due to curriculum alterations following the pandemic, and this has removed our teaching income. However we have seen some growth in SLA income with our four institutions, as our partnerships deepen and evolve to match the changing needs of university members.



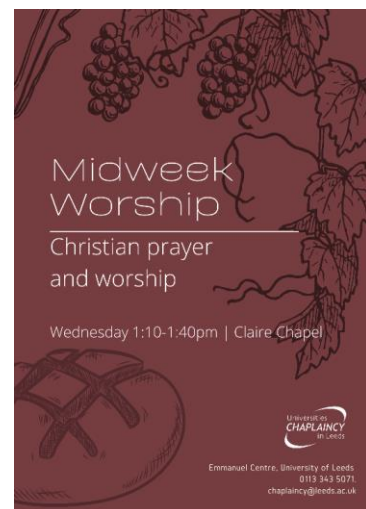
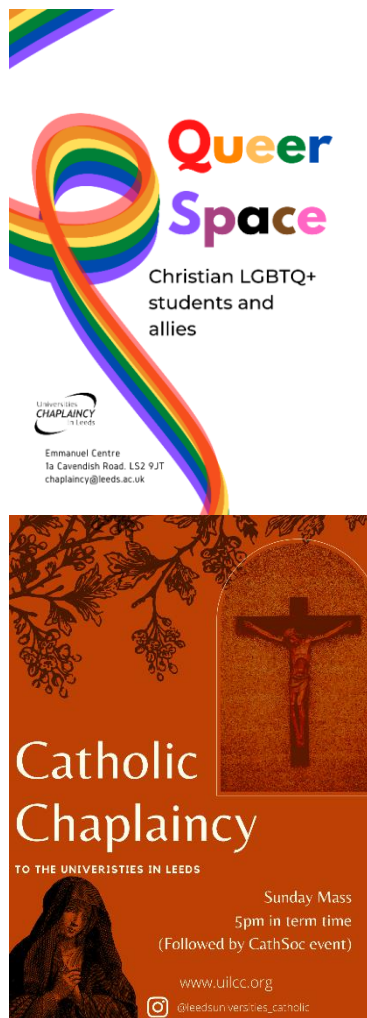
We have also been blessed by donations to support our work. It is with grateful thanks we acknowledge: the Claire Jarvis Fund, the University of Leeds, LBU, LAU, The University of Law Leeds, and The Quakers. We are indebted for your encouragement in this work, and your help as we continue the privilege of chaplaincy on all our campuses.



Looking Forward

We enter the academic year of 2022-23 with a mixture of relief, excitement and hope. For myself, I have found particular relief in the resumption of in-person meetings and the slow but steady increase in attendance at the International Students Fellowship. Our excitement comes with the prospect of starting a new academic year with our campuses returning to something like their pre-covid vibrancy. We are particularly excited about doing more work from our new base on Headingley Campus and appointing an International Students Chaplain to help us do more for International Students. Underpinning all we do, though, is that sense of hope, a sense of hope that arises from a sense of purpose. It is clear to us that we have a role to play in campus life; not just in providing opportunities for worship and spiritual growth but also helping staff and students develop the resources to deal with potentially damaging feelings and promoting kindness to ourselves and one another.

Robin Fishwick - Co-ordinating Chaplain





The Emmanuel Centre is at
the entrance to the
University of Leeds,
Woodhouse Lane LS2 9JT.

PRG13 Priestley Hall, Leeds
Beckett University,
Headingley campus.

Catholic Chaplaincy, 5 St
Mark's Avenue, near the
University of Leeds LS2 9BN

For more information regarding
the work of the Chaplaincy:

www.unichaplaincy.org.uk
E: chaplaincy@leeds.ac.uk or
chaplaincy@leedsbeckett.ac.uk
T: 0113 343 5071

