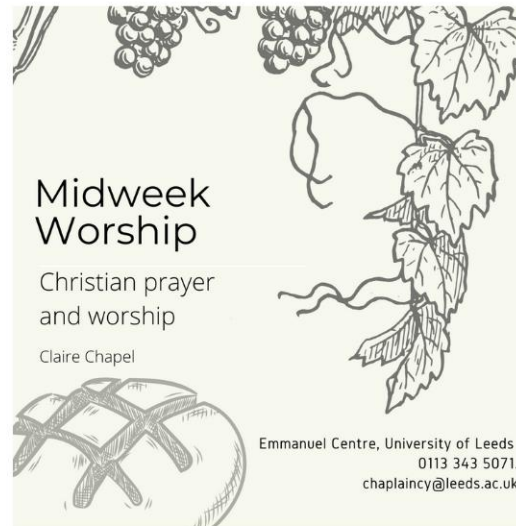




ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

Universities
CHAPLAINCY
in Leeds



Contents

Preface	4
About us	4
Chaplaincy Team	5
Chaplaincy Trust	6
Message from Trust Chair	7
Leeds Beckett University	8
University of Law (Leeds)	9
Leeds Arts University	9
University of Leeds	10
Catholic Chaplaincy Report	11
Student Outreach Worker Report	13
Activities and Events	14
Worship and Groups	16
Interfaith Working	20
Trolley Fun and Unity Joy	21
Finance	22
Looking Forward	23

Preface

The academic year 2022-23 seems to be drawing to a close with a considerable number of changes, both to the Team and the Trust. The saddest loss to the team is the loss of Rev. Johnny Chan who ended his earthly ministry in the spring after a very short illness. We needed a very large church to accommodate his memorial service, with many coming from far and near to give thanks for Johnny and his decades of service as a chaplain and as a pastor. I am very appreciative of the efforts made by the rest of the Chinese Church team members to maintain our services to Chinese Christians during the difficult weeks that followed. Our other losses have been less tragic and unexpected, but significant none the less. We are losing our Trust Chair, Professor Peter Howdle, who has competently managed us through the difficult Covid years and whose attention to detail has been invaluable. In his last year with us he has successfully renegotiated all four Service Level Agreements with our universities. I am also saying goodbye to Rev. Melvyn Kelly who has served as Methodist Chaplain and Lead Chaplain to Leeds Beckett University and the University of Law. Melvyn has done phenomenal work in raising the profile of Chaplaincy at LBU and has been rewarded with the provision of a sizeable room on Headingley Campus for chaplaincy activities. Melvyn has also been very much involved with Team Unity, really since he started with us, and will be particularly remembered for his creative use of origami. We have had two additions to our team, though, with Rev Joseph Nelson coming to serve us as Lutheran Chaplain. Joseph is one of three former Student Outreach Workers who have gone on to be ordained. We were also pleased to be able to appoint Rev Foluso Enwerem in May to serve as our International Students Chaplain and she has already been busy in promoting our services to International students and providing a warmth of welcome that reflects well on the chaplaincy as a whole.

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, The Claire 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
- Rev. Foluso Enwerem (Anglican), International Students' Chaplain (from May 2023)
- Laurence Pusey (Baptist)
- Fr. Marc Homsey (Roman Catholic)
- Rev. Joseph Nelson (Lutheran)
- Rev. Melvyn Kelly (Methodist), Lead Chaplain to Leeds Beckett University, and University of Law (Leeds)
- Robin Fishwick (Quakers), Co-ordinating Chaplain and Lead Chaplain to Leeds Arts University
- Rev. Samantha Sheehan (URC)
- Rev. Ryan Lindsey (Independent Churches Chaplain)

Associate Chaplains

- Fr. David Gill (Orthodox)
- Fr. Ephrem (Orthodox)
- Pastor Johnny Chan (Leeds Chinese Christian Church)
- Pastor Kim Chan (Leeds Chinese Christian Church)

Interns

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

Chaplaincy Service Managers

- Katherine Norman
- Nikki Barber

Student Outreach Worker – Digital Engagement and Promotions

- Celeste Drouin-Davis

Chaplaincy Trust

- Prof. Peter Howdle - Trust Chair (Until 1st July 2023)
- Rev. Prof. Simon Robinson – Trust Chair (From 1st July 2023)
- Ann Dudzinski - Company Secretary

Denominational Trustees

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

Co-opted Trustees

- Dr. Tamara Wilson (co-opted to represent Orthodoxy)

University Trustees

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

Message from the Chaplaincy Trust Chair

Rev. Prof. Simon Robinson

The annual report is more than just an exercise of social custom or normal protocol. It is a narrative, giving an account of who we think we are and the journey this has led us to take. Our identity is a function of our relationships and the mutual accountability involved in those. For the Chaplaincy Trust this means relationships with the Chaplaincy Team, each university, the denominations who support both, and God who is there for us all.

The story this year is one of change in relationships at every level. From the team we have lost the inimitable Johnny Chan. His sudden death robbed us of a man whose ministry to international students embodied Christian commitment and wisdom over many decades. Our love and prayers to Kim in her loss. Farewell also to Melvyn Kelly, who retired from full time ministry after extending his placement with us, during which time he helped significantly raise the Chaplaincy profile at Leeds Beckett University and develop the Unity project.

Thank goodness, then, that Nikki and Katherine are still there at the heart of our efforts. We welcome Tim Nicholls to add to those efforts in the lead role at Leeds Beckett University, and look forward to creative relations with Leeds Methodist Sanctuary. Welcome also to Foluso Enwerem, our new International Chaplain, developing a critical area of our mission.

The Trust is experiencing two major changes, the loss of Peter Howdle and the disbanding of West Yorkshire Churches together. Peter had a steady hand on the tiller, a clear eye for detail and clear head for governance. We wish him joy in the rest of his retirement and I wish the Trust good luck following my arrival as new Chair. As for WYCT, as well as losing a County-wide ecumenical witness, we are losing the successor body to West Yorkshire Ecumenical Council who oversaw the creation of the Chaplaincy in its present form. One task before us then, is how we maintain that vision in WYCT's absence.

Best wishes to all involved in Chaplaincy and university life.

Simon Robinson, Chair, Universities in Leeds Chaplaincy Trust

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



It is with something of a heavy heart that I compose these notes for this year's annual report. This will be my final contribution. By the time you read this I shall have retired and will have left the Chaplaincy Team. So may I first commend to you my colleague Rev. Tim Nicholls who comes to join the team as Methodist chaplain from September.

I have found, this academic year, that the impact of the COVID pandemic continues to be evident. Some staff colleagues have now settled into a pattern of working mostly from home so that interactions and conversations I had become used to have changed significantly. Many students too have got used to that hybrid pattern of studying.

At Leeds Beckett University, where I have done the bulk for my work this year I have tried to build again the usefulness of chaplaincy presence offering pastoral support where needed, especially in times of bereavement. Ryan and I have maintained the provision of drop-in sessions in the chaplaincy room in Priestley building.

I want to say a word about origami. It has been something of a trademark activity in my time here. When I arrived in 2016 I took the lead in a chaplaincy Light Night activity encouraging the folding and display of 800 traditional origami cranes (we didn't quite make it to 1000). Some folk surprised themselves at being able to do what seemed impossible to them at first, following my instructions to fold and add a crane to the hanging display. I have often taken origami paper to chaplaincy events including Creative Space, International Students' Fellowship and many Team Unity gatherings. One of my final origami events this year was to get people to fold origami hearts as symbolic of Team Unity's "Lovember" celebrations. The intention was to gather these symbols of love into artistic installations that might grace various walls around campus, much as our painted hands canvasses have done. Those heart-themed display boards now hang in various departments as a testimony to Unity's commitment to creating a love-filled campus. Images of the displays also took centre stage in a Lightbox display in the refectory during graduations and will be housed for a while at least in the Parkinson Building. Thanks are due to our amazing colleague Farhat Yaqoob (Muslim Student Adviser for University of Leeds) for the vision and the energy to make this all possible.

Following on from the paper I submitted some time ago to the Leeds Beckett EDI committee I have continued to encourage the university to improve its faith provision. This year I used as an

example of a state of the art faith centre the “Jo Cox More in Common” building at Huddersfield University. I hope that my legacy to Tim is a university committed to creating its own faith centre once a suitable location has been identified.

I was again asked to lead an inclusive act of Remembrance in November and with amazing help from the Comms Team, we broadcast this live on the internet as well as some of us meeting in person. Such is our post-pandemic world. At Christmas a few of us marked the season with Carol singing in the Headingley chaplaincy room.

My role at the University of Law has been limited to offering a watching brief and assuring staff and students there of my willingness to respond to pastoral need as required. Welcomed onto the Current Students Facebook Group, I was able to publicise there news of chaplaincy events. I hope that in coming times our relation with University of Law, Leeds can be developed.

I would like to thank everyone with whom I have worked in the Trust, in the team, in the universities for their collegueship, fellowship, encouragement and for the continued recognition within the universities of the value of chaplaincy presence and activity. These 7 years have been for me a pinnacle of my ministry and I am grateful.

Leeds Arts University

Robin Fishwick

After a frustrating period of delays – with something always coming up unexpectedly on a Thursday lunchtime – I finally managed to get into the practice of being visible and available on Leeds Arts University premises. I have not had many conversations so far but I have made a start and have begun to be seen and recognised. One thing I was asked about this year was what we had to offer members to staff and I sent quite a full list to the head of HR to make it clear that we are there for staff as well as students. Here as elsewhere, building relationships with staff is key to building relationships with students. Even so long after the worst of the pandemic, we are still suffering from breaks in continuity of relationships with the student population, and maintaining contact with staff and partners such as student unions is one way of preventing this from happening again. As society becomes increasingly secular, a higher proportion of students come to university with little or no comprehension of who chaplains are and what we do. It's therefore vital to build up relationships with people who are around long enough to get to know us and who have the credibility with students to recommend us.



University of Leeds

Rev. Anthea Colledge



It has been a busy and varied year at the University of Leeds. In common with many organisations, we are still feeling the effects of the Covid pandemic in patterns of engagement and staff/student need. Chaplaincy colleagues have offered a wide range of chaplaincy provision to the University; many of these activities are mentioned elsewhere in this report. I would therefore like to highlight the following ways in which the chaplaincy has served and been represented within the University communities.

Outreach and promoting the work of the chaplaincy

- Invited to explain chaplaincy and faith provision at: the induction for new International Foundation Year students, Student Counselling and Wellbeing staff briefing, Student Information Service team meeting.
- Attendance at the “Here For You” Fair, Student Support Fair, Unipol Roadshow, and Leodis Residence’s Wellbeing Fair.
- Samantha continues to develop our link with the School of Medicine by hosting a monthly drop-in onsite at the Worsley building.
- Q&A sessions with Lifelong Learning Centre students as part of their module on Religion, Politics and Society.
- Session with new staff as part of the Student Education Training Academy.

Bereavement and memorial support

- Chaplaincy continues to provide pastoral and practical support to staff, students, and Schools affected by bereavement, including facilitating or helping to plan memorial gatherings on request.
- I act as a point of contact for those wishing to have a memorial plaque installed on campus.

Ethics, equity, diversity & inclusion

- During this year, as Lead Chaplain I have represented the chaplaincy on the following groups: Operation London Bridge Silver Command group, a Research Ethics Committee; the new Ethics and Values Committee; Strategic Action Group for Equity.

Catholic Chaplaincy

Fr. Marc Homsey



We hit the ground running at the start of the academic year, with a variety of events and activities planned. Construction works were continuing in earnest – our residential building was demolished in March 2022 to make way for an extra teaching block for Notre Dame Sixth Form College. The new entrance at the front of the chaplaincy is now firmly established.

Our welcome BBQ was well attended. The assistance of the Catholic Society continues to prove essential in the running of our events, from the weekly tea and coffee after Sunday Mass, to socials such as our quiz night and All Saints party. As usual, in November we offered a Mass for the deceased relatives and friends of the chaplaincy community. During the Mass, all present had the opportunity to light a candle in memory of their loved ones, while the names of the deceased were read out.

I organised two excursions in the first term. The first was a walk on Ilkley Moor. We didn't let the dire weather put us off as we ~~trudged~~ strolled through rain and fog. The students had to take my word for it that we were standing right in front of the Cow and Calf at one point! All were rewarded with a trip to Billy Bob's Parlour for milkshakes and burgers after the walk. The second trip was by train to Knaresborough to visit the Christmas market and some holy sites. We celebrated Mass in the local church, and then walked to the shrines of St Robert and Our Lady of the Crag.

Just before Advent, we held our annual International Mass with shared supper. Students from various countries led the readings, prayers and music in their own languages. A highlight was sampling food from so many different countries and cultures. It was wonderful to celebrate our richly diverse community in this way.

The Retreat in Daily Life was well attended once again. All the sessions were delivered in person, and participants had the option to meet their prayer guide in person or on Zoom. The term concluded with our pre-Christmas party.

Bishop Marcus Stock returned to the chaplaincy in February to celebrate Mass and answer questions from the students. In March a group went to Ampleforth Abbey for our annual retreat. We heard talks from a few different monks, and joined the monastic community for their prayers. I also accompanied another group of students to Ampleforth Abbey for their annual Easter Triduum retreat.

The second term also saw a fundraising drive for CathSoc's chosen charity for the year – the soup kitchen at the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in Bradford. Events included a bake off and a promise auction.

There was a danger that our biggest event of the year, the Unity Pancake Party, would be affected by staff unavailability (including mine). Our CathSoc rose to the occasion and was able to host the night successfully. As it turned out, Farhat and the Unity team were able to assist at various points through the evening.

I was encouraged by the initiative of some students this year. Some students took it upon themselves to start and lead a Bible study group. Another student, working on her PhD on Dante, gave an introductory talk on the author and then led a weekly reading group, working their way through Dante's Divine Comedy. The participants of each group have spoken highly about how much they have gained from attending these sessions.

I had the privilege of accompanying three students on their journey into the Christian faith. Following several months of instruction, it was a joy to baptise them at one of our community Masses in May. We assure them of our prayers, and pray that more may come to know of the beauty of Christ's life-giving message of salvation.

We concluded our year with what has now become an annual trip to the park for a picnic and games. We have been blessed with dry weather every year so far!

I keep in prayer all who have passed through the doors of our chaplaincy buildings this past year. I also pray that God may continue to work through us as we prepare for everything we will encounter in the coming year.

Student Outreach Worker Report

Celeste Drouin-Davis – Digital Engagement and Promotions Lead

This year, I did a lot more research on how to do social media outreach effectively. I found that for small community social media, a steady schedule is more effective. It also allows for it to be low demand. My aim now is to schedule 2-3 posts a week. Instagram's algorithm is changing constantly, with the newest algorithm focusing mainly on content instead of hashtags. Now it is important to place key words in every caption, and this spreads it to the right people. Videos still have the best outreach, then carousels (more than one picture) and then a single picture. Because of my rota, and other chaplains' schedules I have not been able to make as many videos, but when I do manage to make one, they get seen by around 100 people. Sadly, Instagram's algorithm for videos/reels has changed since last year, which means that less people are seeing our videos. Reels were previously a new feature, with the engagement boosted on videos to encourage people to make them. Now, they are no longer as naturally boosted as they were before, so they focus more on the existing audience. However, I feel that the ratio of likes to views is a lot better, so Instagram's algorithm has narrowed down our audience to the correct people instead of showing it to everyone. Now a video with 1,000 views will have 30-40 likes, whereas last year we would have a 1,000 view video with only 1-10 likes.

Last year our most successful video was on exam encouragement which was released in May 2022, and had 12.5K views. Occasionally the number does increase again, and thanks to the pinning feature, it means that it is the first thing that people will see when they come onto our profile. Sadly we have not had the same amount of success with a similar video we released for Lent 2023 - only reaching 128 views.

I have been asked to do various artistic additions to the thought board and sandwich boards showing our service. This has given a light and fun introduction, hopefully, to many coming to see us or pray in the Chapel.

As I started working in August 2022, I was able to help out with the outreach for Freshers, helping out on stalls and talking to students about what we do at the chaplaincy. I really valued this time as it re-connected me with my purpose as an SOW. I also designed some material for events we held around campus during fresher's week, including sticker designs for an outreach event called 'cake and chat'.

Christmas is always a highlight of the year working at the chaplaincy. Because the outreach method had proved effective from last year, I continued with the same method of e-mailing staff; sending out our advertisements on screens around the campus. We recycled the design from last year, and just updated the date, location and content. Again, this seemed to work effectively and the event was a great success.

Activities and Events

Freshers' weeks: During Freshers' Week a number of the chaplaincy team were around to welcome new and returning students to the campuses. ISF year started with 'Cake and Chat' at the Chaplaincy during International Welcome week. The Tea Trolley also made several trips out on to campus.



Culture Shock Comedy Drama Performances: Robin Fishwick:

This little piece of light-hearted theatre has served a serious purpose for twenty years or so to my knowledge. The play follows an international student through their year in Leeds, helped along by a friendly Leeds local. In twenty minutes it achieves four things. It introduces students to the “‘W’ curve”, showing the stages they may go through leading to culture shock and out of it. It introduces international students to some of the foibles of British culture. It signposts students to where students can get support and encourages them to access that support and look out for each other, especially when feeling or witnessing isolation. And it introduces the chaplaincy to hundreds of international students every year, especially at the University of Leeds, where it has repeat performances every day of the international welcome week.

Remembrance 2022 at Leeds Beckett University: Rev M Kelly: As part of my commitment to inclusive chaplaincy I have each year been happy to accept an invitation to lead an act of Remembrance for Armistice Day. I have therefore created an order of service that is accessible for people of any faith and no faith. COVID drove the service online but this year with amazing tech help from Comms, we offered a hybrid service both online and in person.

Remembrance 2022 at University of Leeds: Remembrance Day was observed on the University of Leeds campus using the Royal British Legion's Act of Remembrance. The main act of remembrance, including the two minute silence and Last Post/Reveille, took place in the University Precinct and was supported by the LUU technical team who provided amplification and the LUU Music Society Brass Band who provided a cornet player. Around 75 people joined us in the University Precinct, with a smaller number also attending the wreath-laying at the Brotherton memorial which followed immediately afterwards.

Carol Service: The University of Leeds carol service took place in the Great Hall again this year with around 250 people joining the chaplaincy team for a traditional carol service. Music was provided by the excellent LUU Music Society Brass Band and the singing supported by a 'scratch choir' led by Robin and made up of University staff and students, chaplaincy team members, and friends of the chaplaincy. Students, Staff and families attended.

The Retreat in Daily Life: Took place in December organised by Fr. Marc at the Catholic Chaplaincy and St Bueno's Jesuit Centre. 21 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.

Lent: A series of social media posts ran throughout Lent. These captured what this time means to different people and helped to explain what Lent is about.

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: The chaplaincy supported Healthy Week and our activities were promoted on this year's programme. A few years ago the Healthy week emphasis was on sport and physical health, but thanks to Ryan in particular, the organisers now also see the relevance of the Chaplaincy and of spiritual wellbeing too.



Worship and Groups

Breathe: Robin Fishwick

Breathe, the weekly act of worship in the style of Quakers, has continued to take place every Tuesday in term time and for much of the rest of the year. We have continued to benefit from a mixed attendance, from undergraduate students, staff, retired staff and the odd visiting Quaker. Our worship tends to be fully silent, with only the occasional spoken word (“Vocal Ministry” as Quakers call it), but we often tend to have lively discussions over refreshments afterwards. One of our regular attenders this year was someone who had no previous experience of Quakerism and whose first exposure to the chaplaincy was watching one of my posts on Instagram – a testimony to the effectiveness of our Social Media work courtesy of Celeste Drouin Davies our Student Outreach Worker. As Quaker Chaplain, I have had pretty much sole responsibility for Breathe since the resignation of Richard Levitt two years ago but I am pleased that Leeds Area Meeting of Quakers has agreed to fund another Quaker Chaplain to work one day a week. Nationally, this is quite courageous as this is not a thing Quakers normally do; but as one Leeds Quaker put it, “The question is not whether we can afford to, but whether we can afford not to.” Every church that funds a chaplain does so as an act of faith and I am grateful to all of the Leeds churches of any denomination funding our chaplains.

Creative Space: Rev. Melvyn Kelly

Creative Space has had fewer takers this year but those who have come have valued the chance to lay down their work or study for a while and create something new - origami is always popular!

Engaging with Theology: Rev. Anthea Colledge

The relaunched Engaging with Theology met once per month at lunchtime in the Emmanuel Centre. Our usual pattern was to watch a video together (mainly but not exclusively the ‘Engaging Theology’ videos produced by Fusion) to introduce a theological topic and then had open discussion. Topics included creation/science and faith, disability theology, mental health theology, morality and God, eternity (presented ‘live’ by Robin Fishwick) and forgiveness. We had a core group of 3 postgraduate students and 3 staff who attended the majority of sessions, joined by others at different times. Students and PGRs from Queer Space and Engaging with Theology were also invited to an end of year retreat day at the Community of the Resurrection. 3 students/PGRs (accompanied by two chaplains) took up this opportunity to have some time for quiet reflection as well as join the Brothers of the Community for prayer and lunch.

International Students Fellowship (ISF):

We started the ISF year with 'cake and chat' at the Chaplaincy during International Welcome week. This went really well, with around 50 international students coming to try out a variety of British cakes, meet the chaplains, and chat to each other. Other highlights of the first term included a performance of the Culture Shock Comedy Drama (with free pizza) and a folk music night in partnership with Marcus Hill, a member of staff at the University of Leeds.

The ISF has continued to meet on Wednesday evenings, with a different social theme each week (e.g. Board Games, Art Trail on campus, Quiz Night etc.) and, during the summer exam period, as a drop-in for students to come in and have a break, with snacks and drinks always available. Numbers have tended to be low but those who come appreciate it; one student expressed that she's enjoyed trying the different activities and that she does encourage people to come along!

We are really pleased that a chaplain for International Students has now been appointed on a part-time basis (10 hours per week). Foluso Enwerem joined the Chaplaincy Team in May, and has been making contact with other offices and services in the universities having responsibility for the wellbeing of international students.

Scott Canadas, an ordinand training at the College of the Resurrection, was on placement with Anthea from November until May. Scott joined us at most ISF gatherings in that time, including impressing us on the ukulele at the folk music night!

For the academic year ahead, drawing upon the findings of the research project being undertaken on behalf of the Chaplaincy, we hope to get a better sense of the particular concerns of international students, and how best to engage with them and to offer support.



Leeds Chinese Christian Church: Pastor Kim Chan

We welcomed the new students in the academic year of 2022 with a Welcome Night in September, 2022. We had about 100 students attended. All these students are from different parts of S E Asia. Following that, there were two outreach events at both Christmas and Chinese New Year. In each event, there were over 50 students in total. The students enjoyed the contact they have made and developed good friendship. Before the Easter holiday, we had a special event for the students, they enjoyed the craft making evening, and learned about the story of Easter. During weekly regular meetings, the students studied the book of Mark. In between we have discussion of life issues, such as time management. At times we managed to book a badminton court, where the students spent time in the sports hall.



This year there have been quite a good number making appointments for meeting one to one with the chaplain, during which time, the students feel secure and have the confidence to talk about their personal issues. This is a good way to encourage them and also, we are able to point them to the right services to get help when necessary.

Midweek Worship:

Midweek worship runs weekly throughout the year on Wednesday lunchtime in the Claire Chapel. A number of Chaplains from different denomination are involved in offering the service – Anglican, URC, Methodist and Lutheran. It is mainly staff who attend, but occasionally students as well. Numbers are still quite a bit lower than pre-pandemic. We think this is largely due to the fact that many staff are still working from home rather than on campuses.

Orthodox Chaplaincy:

Sunday mornings have become one of the highlights of our week thanks to the all-embracing ethos of the Orthodox Divine Liturgy which is celebrated with an increasingly growing and vibrant group of students, staff and others under the stewardship of Father Ephrem and Father David.

Fr Ephrem writes:

Whilst I wish to maintain above all the concept of Chaplaincy and to be available to all – a role I hope I may have fulfilled to some extent- inevitably there has been some concentration on developing the Sunday morning Divine Liturgy, now occurring every Sunday morning at the Emmanuel Centre. Both aspects of ministry have been very fulfilling and it is humbling to be accepted at my age!

It feels like a great example of Christianity when out of our small number we have prayed or at least heard the Our Father in Greek, Romanian, Armenian, Eritrean, Ukrainian, Hungarian, Hindi, Bulgarian, Slovak Russian and Russian. We have had two Baptisms, both of adults new to Orthodoxy. We have contact with Coptic Christians and their contribution is greatly valued. After a fallow year, students hope to develop their WhatsApp group, 'Orthodox Buddies', into a Society. On Sundays and other days, these students have helped to facilitate my own relations with the Refectory, The Old Bar and, more recently, The Dry Dock where they hope to make use – along with mainly sports societies – of special offers for Societies meeting there. It is all outreach and potential for good links. Not only at the Universities but around Leeds, my cassock has been an asset as people approach and ask for prayer or chat.

Obviously none of this contribution from our Tradition would be possible without the establishing of Orthodox involvement years ago by Fr John McGuckin and the continued monthly ministry and Liturgical celebration of Fr David Gill over more than 20 years. My thanks are also due to Tamara Wilson, the Orthodox Trustee and to Nikki and Katherine, the Chaplaincy Service Managers and to all ministerial colleagues for their unfailing patience support and encouragement following my Ordination.

PGR (Postgraduate Researcher) networking: Rev. Anthea Colledge

In September 2022, after discussions with the Doctoral College, I launched a new chaplaincy-hosted group to support postgraduate researchers. I am very grateful for the involvement and assistance of Dr Kristi Boone, Associate lecturer at the University, who came on board as a co-facilitator at a very early stage. The PGR networking sessions are a monthly gathering of PGRs from any discipline. The aim of the group is to provide an opportunity for informal networking and peer support and to demystify the PhD process. Each session had a focal topic. These have included supervision dynamics, researcher wellbeing, dealing with a sense of failure, online networking, preparing for transfer/teaching/viva and how to approach conferences. Attendance at the sessions has varied from 3-27 PGRs, with 170 PGRs signed up to be part of the network. The majority of attendees were first year international PGRs. In end of year feedback the PGRs who responded gave the group 4.36 stars out of 5. Some comments included:

"A safe and beautiful space to share and learn"

"Great help from real experiences"

"Thank you for arranging this, it's so lovely and needed. Being a PGR is quite lonely".

Queer Space: Rev. Anthea Colledge

Queer Space continued meeting weekly during term-time for LGBTQ+ students of faith and their allies. It is not a big group, but important for those who take part. Activities were mainly

social but we also watched videos relating to LGBTQ+ inclusion in faith communities, discussed relevant news topics, and used the Table Talk cards for discussion of some of the big questions of life. Numbers were lower than 2020 but higher than last year; average attendance was 3-4 people from a total number of around 10. A change this year was that the majority of attendees were international, so we were able to discuss international and intercultural experiences and differences.

Interfaith working: Robin Fishwick

Our Chaplaincy Team is an Ecumenical Team, overseen by an Ecumenical Trust, here for staff, students and post graduate researchers of all faiths and world views who belong to four secular universities in Leeds. Some universities nationally have “multi faith” chaplaincies where chaplains of Christian and non-Christian faiths belong to the same team, but although we don’t have that set up-in Leeds (and it would be very difficult to change to one) we do extend our collegiate approach to chaplaincy to include, where possible, our non-Christian colleagues. Farhat Yaqoob, the University of Leeds Muslim Student Adviser, has her office in the Emmanuel Building, and is in almost daily contact with our team. The Jewish chaplains, cover quite a swathe of Northern England but fortunately are based in Leeds, enabling me to visit them during Sukkot. Much of our interfaith engagement with students is via faith societies or our Unity programme. We are supportive of the formation of Faith Fora at our universities and of the work of Student Union Faith or Interfaith Officers where they exist. We prefer the term “all faiths and world views” to “all faiths and none”, and I personally prefer it because it recognises faith as something fundamental to the human condition. When a student says “I don’t have a faith”, what they mean is “I don’t have a belief in anything you might think is fundamental to faith”. As Christians, we are aware of Gospel accounts where Jesus commends the “faith” of those beyond his own faith tradition. My job as a chaplain is not to give someone my faith but to help them nurture the faith they have.

Trolley Fun and Unity Joy: Rev. Samantha Sheehan

The Trolley project has been active again this past year at the University of Leeds. We began in Welcome Week at the start of the academic year in handing out drinks and snacks to staff, students and visitors. This year there was a sense of joy and excitement as students returned to campus. As with last year, there was a mixture of 1st, 2nd and 3rd years all sharing together in the events of Freshers week.

Over the last year the trolley has been out 15 times and handed out around 800 hot drinks. During LOVEMBER, the trolley went on a bit of a campus tour accompanying the LOVEMBER origami project and visited a number of departments. Inspiring those department to create their own mini 'trolley' gatherings at other times in the year. We ended the academic year by teaming up with the Window on Wellbeing team and took the trolley out on to campus as part of their annual week-long programme of health and wellbeing activities. Offering a moment of respite, refreshment and often smiles from the unexpected conversations that inevitable happen at the trolley. The spirit of the trolley and Unity is spreading across campus, taking on its own momentum as departments invite us to share with them and inspiring them to take the reins and host their own "in house" community activity.

The work of Team Unity has continued. At times it feels like a very small drop in a very large pond, but the joy and love that is shared at each moment makes each step a worthy one. Unity has offered what has become a staple diet of brunches and occasional lunches. This year has been slightly quieter due to unexpected life pressures and a tighter budget, but this hasn't stopped the team from popping up and supporting others in their Unity joy. A new venture this year was the Unity Soup Giving. The inspiration for this was owing to the cost of living crisis. The soup was donated by University Catering. Team Unity went out on a number of occasions during the winter months when the libraries were busy with deadlines looming. We handed out over 300 cups of soup to come very grateful staff and students.

One of the big projects form this year has been the LOVEMBER Origami Roadshow which visited 5 locations across campus, with a loaded trolley and a stack of square paper ready to be folded into hearts, to make a community art installation. Thousands of hearts where made, more than could be counted, and many more which were taken away and passed on to friends and strangers, and the LOVEMBER love was shared. Work is now underway in turning these hearts into our installation, of 5 canvases (plus a few prints) which will be in display across the campus as a reminder of our unity.



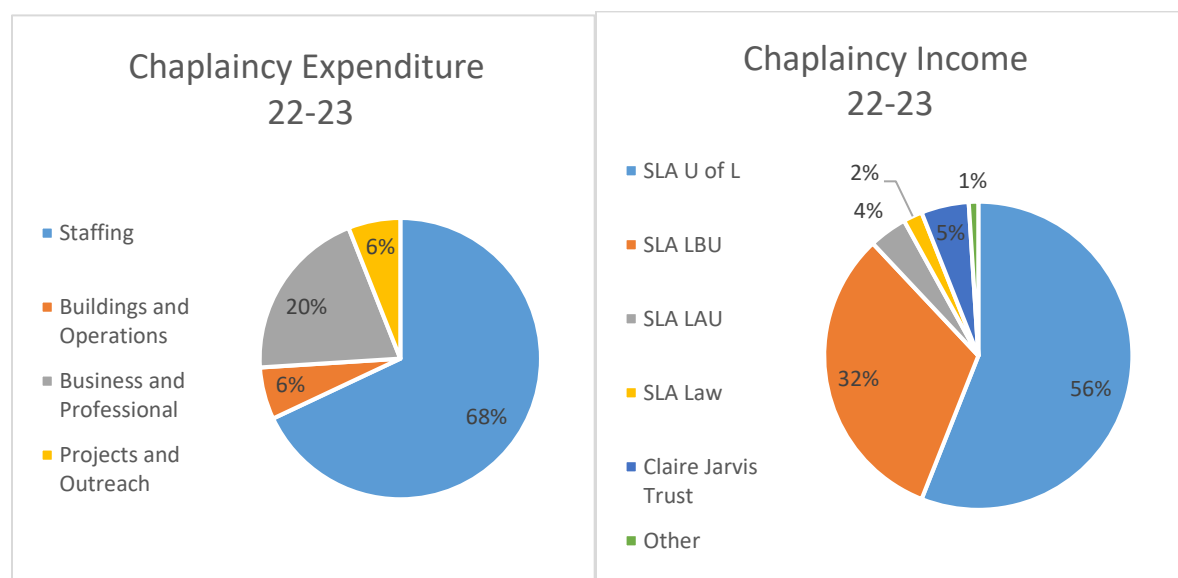
Activity and Finance

We keep records of the numbers 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 8700 attendees participating in chaplaincy activities and partnership events. The busiest months for the chaplaincy activities are November and December, February and May. Students make up over 80% of those that approach the chaplaincy for pastoral support/conversations, the rest being university staff.

Our income streams have been stable and thanks to our partnership agreements with the four Universities we have an essential level of income for provision of the Chaplaincy service. We are grateful to our institutions for infrastructure services that are no longer charged which has helpfully eased expenditure in a few key areas. We have weathered the price rises affecting common purchases like food and supplies by careful sourcing and close budget monitoring, as ever.

We have been blessed by two other financial donations to support the Chaplaincy work. It is with sincere thanks we acknowledge: the Claire Jarvis Trust. This helps towards funding a member of staff in the office. The Claire Jarvis Trust additional grant this year has also funded our Trolley Outreach which has been a great success and had contact with hundreds of students across campus. We also acknowledge The Quakers for their denominational contribution and the encouragement it gives to the whole Team.



Looking Forward

I look ahead to the coming academic year with the luxury of having already met some of the new players. Rev. Tim Nicholls will shortly take over both as Methodist Chaplain and as Lead Chaplain to Leeds Beckett. Some of the team met him last year during his exploratory visit as part of the Methodist discernment process and some of us saw him again in January when he attended the national conference of CHELG – the Churches' Higher Education Liaison Group. He and Foluso were also students at the University of Leeds when Rev Professor Simon Robinson was the Anglican Chaplain. Simon Robinson is now the new Chair to the Chaplaincy Trust and I look forward to working with him. Each Trust Chair I have worked with has had something different to offer and I feel that Simon will be one to make connections and inject a degree of passion and enthusiasm. Here are some of Simon's thoughts about the coming year:

"Responsibility and accountability then are exactly what the Trust needs to explore in the coming year. And we will do this as part of a review of Trust, team and supporting churches. This will look at: purpose and identity (are we who we and others think we are?), practice (how do we fulfil our purpose?), relationships (what can learn from our universities and our churches?), and development and growth (where do we want to be?). The review will be based in learning and discovery and at the centre of those conversations will be God, who doubtless will surprise us all".

One of the things emerging from the Service Review discussions is about having more focus on staff and PGRs. I welcome this, and although it might seem at first glance to be directing resources away from our undergraduate students – the majority of those for whom we have responsibilities- I don't think that is what will happen. I believe that in building enduring relationships with staff, PGRs and other partners, we will help promote our services better to the undergraduate majority. We are still re-establishing partnerships which were lost as a result of Covid years and it makes it clearer than ever that we need to build up enduring relationships with partners. I am encouraged by the fact that Leeds University Union's new Faith Rep is a member of our Orthodox congregation with an awareness of the relevance and value of Chaplaincy.

Thanks must go to our non-stipendiary chaplains. We are grateful beyond words for the care, love and constancy of those members of the Team who travel to come to work here and expect no remuneration but work tirelessly to support and bolster the staff and students, and contribute significantly to the Chaplaincy service across all 5 campuses we are present in.

We are indebted to the Churches who fund, send and support their ministers to be chaplains here. There is a very genuine and united purpose within the team and it is a privilege to be able to offer such a rich mix of clergy. Indeed it is a privilege to be on campus with an ecumenical team who range from nearly all the Christian denominations, and who work hard altogether to contribute to the communities of the universities.



Locations

Emmanuel Centre , 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 about the Chaplaincy:

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

