Annual Report

2023-2024



Universities
CHAPLAINCY
in Leeds

Offering support to staff, students, and PGRs of:

Leeds Arts University

Leeds Beckett University

University of Law

University of Leeds

Contents

	Page
About us	2
Preface	3
Our Chaplaincy Team	4
The Universities Chaplaincy in Leeds Trust	5
A message from the Chaplaincy Trust Chair	6
Engagements	7
Finance	9
Pastoral Care	10
Spirituality	12
Ethics and Advice on matters of faith to the universities' senior managers	20
Community Building	21
Reflections by Lead Chaplains	27
Looking Forward	28

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 on Leeds Beckett University's Headingley Campus. The Chaplaincy has a Christian Chapel, The Claire Chapel, for prayer, worship and quiet reflection, located in 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 (WYCT) and the beliefs of its member churches.

This year's annual report is structured to report on the services we offer to our university partners:

1. Pastoral care (Personal support, crisis and bereavement care, with a focus on international students)
2. Spirituality
    a. Inter-faith work, which seeks to increase understanding between people of different faiths
    b. Worship and other religious events
    c. Spiritual Development
3. Ethics, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
4. Community building
5. Advice on matters of faith to the universities' senior managers

The quotes included in the report were provided by members of the university community to members of our team and are shared with consent.

"[The Chaplaincy] is a balm of peace in a frenetic campus… My experiences have been entirely favourable. I would say I have found it 'broadening'."

Former staff member feedback 2024

Preface: Robin Fishwick

For our chaplaincy the year 2023-4 has been the most difficult and challenging year since the pandemic. Back then our challenges were largely around our campuses being almost devoid of life, this year our campuses might have been a little bit too lively. For the first time in many years, international events have played out on our campuses, with student groups involved in protest and conflict. It has also exposed conflicting views about the role of chaplaincy in response to this situation. I think that our team has maintained a sense of unity, cohesion and mutual respect even when we have not always agreed in our analysis. I do believe that despite our diversity, in theology and background, we have a common sense of the role of chaplaincy in all this. My hope is that our universities have come to recognise our role and the integrity of our approach.

We have also had significant changes in our team. With Anthea Colledge moving to the University of West of England, Bristol, last November, to become the Co-ordinating Chaplain, we have lost a well-loved, wise and conscientious colleague. We also said farewell to Katherine Norman, our longest serving Chaplaincy Service Manger whom we have also greatly missed. This has required us all to step up our game somewhat, most notably Nikki Barber who continued as lone Chaplaincy Service Manager for six months until we appointed Geraldine Montgomerie in the spring. I would also add Samantha Sheehan, our URC chaplain, who has taken over the role of interim Lead Chaplain to the University of Leeds. Some of the newer members of our Team have had to get into role at a busy and sometimes difficult time. Tim Nicholls, our Lead chaplain at Leeds Beckett University has been consulting with that university over new faith spaces whilst helping to deal with situations arising from the Gaza conflict, while Ellie McCarthy, our new Quaker Chaplain has been assisting not just with building the community worshipping at Breathe, but also chipping in with the chaplaincy's general work, including assisting Foluso Enwerem with International Students. And Geraldine Montgomerie has very much hit the ground running in working out what was required of her and getting on with it, helping raise the general morale of the team with a can do attitude. Our Student Outreach Worker, Carmen Costanza, also started in the late spring and has shown enthusiasm and commitment.

It is said that bad weather makes good sailors and my feeling is that the year 2023-24 has been particularly challenging for us all, but we are emerging with a stronger shared understanding of the role we have to play and a stronger ethos of mutual support.

Our Chaplaincy Team

Chaplains

- Revd Anthea Colledge (Anglican), Lead Chaplain to University of Leeds (Until November 2023)
- Fr David Gill (Orthodox)
- Ellie McCarthy (Quaker) (from October 2023)
- Fr Ephrem-David (Orthodox)
- Revd Foluso Enwerem (Anglican), International Students' Chaplain
- Laurence Pusey (Baptist) (Until April 2024)
- Fr Marc Homsey (Roman Catholic) Lead Chaplain to University of Law (Leeds)
- Revd Joseph Nelson (Lutheran)
- Pastor Kim Chan (Leeds Chinese Christian Church)
- Revd Tim Nicholls (Methodist), Lead Chaplain to Leeds Beckett University
- Robin Fishwick (Quakers), Co-ordinating Chaplain / Lead Chaplain to Leeds Arts University
- Revd Ryan Lindsey (Independent Churches Chaplain)
- Revd Samantha Sheehan (United Reformed Church - URC) (Interim Lead Chaplain to University of Leeds from November 2023)
- Vacancy (Baptist)
- Vacancy (Anglican)
- Vacancy (Salvation Army)

Interns

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

Chaplaincy Service Managers

- Geraldine Montgomerie (From May 2024)
- Katherine Norman (Until January 2024)
- Nikki Barber

Student Outreach Worker

- Carmen Costanza (From June 2024)

> *"I've loved working with you all over the past year – I've learnt so much from you and had a lot of fun doing events."*

Former Chaplaincy team member - feedback 2024

The Universities Chaplaincy in Leeds Trust

Universities Chaplaincy in Leeds Trust was incorporated as a registered charity in 1999. The charity's objects are to promote the Christian religion in Leeds and elsewhere by the provision of premises, facilities, maintenance, personnel, support, encouragement, and such other services as the charity may from time to time consider appropriate for:

- *the work and ministry of the persons appointed to undertake religious services, counselling and give spiritual direction and to be Chaplains (including lay workers) at the University of Leeds and/or Leeds Beckett University and their affiliated institutions or any of them; and*
- *advice and counselling on the education and wellbeing of students, staff, and members of such Universities.*

The trustees are:

- Revd Prof. Simon Robinson – Trust Chair
- Ann Dudzinski - Company Secretary

<u>Denominational Trustees</u>

- Alasdair Fraser (Yorkshire West District of the Methodist Church)
- Charles Maluila (Lutheran)
- Revd Lynne Grey (Anglican Diocese of Leeds)
- Michael Kelly (Roman Catholic Diocese of Leeds)
- Prof. Richard Whiting (Yorkshire Synod of URC) (until March 2024).
- Tom Shaw (Yorkshire Baptist Association)
- Prof. Veronica O'Mara (Leeds Area Quaker Meeting)
- Vacancy (URC)
- Vacancy (The Yorkshire Division of the Salvation Army)

<u>Co-opted Trustees</u>

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

<u>University Trustees</u>

- 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)

A message from the Chaplaincy Trust

Chair: Revd Prof. Simon Robinson



Governance of a Trust demands two major tasks: to keep the Trust afloat and to steer the ship in the right direction. The first task has been carried out with aplomb, and we are beholden to the immense work of Nikki Barber and Geraldine Montgomerie, our managers. Nikki has carried on the good work that Peter Howdle oversaw. Geraldine joined us this year and has creatively built on the great work of Katherine Norman who left just before Christmas.

The second task has been less smooth not least because on October 7 of last year we were faced by the volatility and complexity of a geo-political crisis played out in the context of inter-faith chaplaincy. When such a storm rises it tests both seaworthiness and direction. Just what are we about as a Christian chaplaincy? How do we relate to our faith friends across the university communities and beyond? Is Christian chaplaincy a service focused in the service level agreement that we have with our four different universities? Or is it something more, about Christian outreach in some way? These are questions about identity and purpose which inform our direction and strategy. They are also questions that remind us that chaplaincy, whatever the faith, is not discrete but is connected to the wider faith communities who in turn have been trying to steer through the storm of conflict and misinformation since October 7.

For Christian chaplaincy this poses several challenges at every level. How do we relate to the wider church and its leadership? In turn this asks questions of church leaders about their mission strategy and how this links to engaging anchor institutions such as universities. How effective is the Trust in developing mission and strategy? Does the chaplaincy team have a shared sense of mission and strategy?

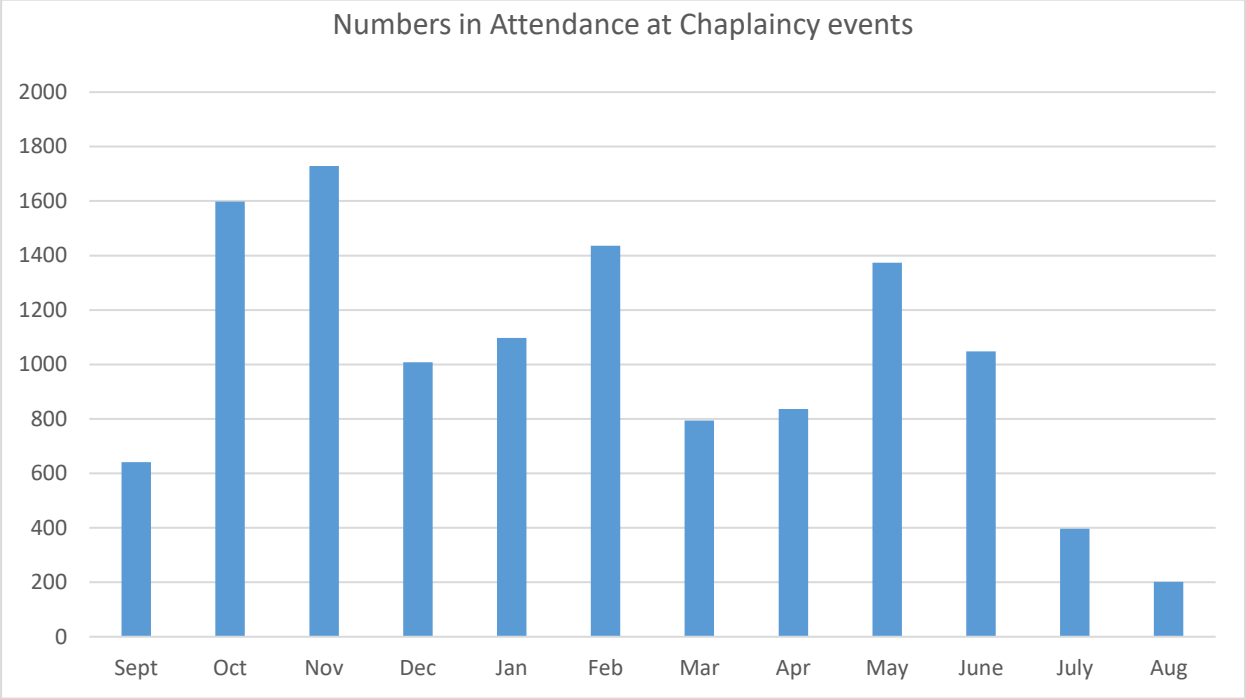
The backdrop of this is a decades old national debate which has tended to see the interests of the church (and how it copes with declining congregations) as somehow separate from chaplaincy. So, this could not be a better time for a Review of our chaplaincy, giving ourselves the space to reflect on both practice and underlying meaning. Using ecumenical resources made available by the West Yorkshire church leaders we have contracted Theos[1], a highly respected research group. The Review is underway, and the aim is to report back by March/April of next year.

Meantime, I commend the rest of this report to you and, in particular, I want to commend the tremendous work of the chaplaincy team in the past year. The challenges have been great on many fronts, but team coordinator Robin Fishwick and university leads Samantha Sheehan and Tim Nicholls have shown great leadership and navigational skills. Robin has increased his hours reflecting a deepening of the coordinating role. Tim, who joined us only a year ago has shown himself to be ready for the role, taking his place into a respected line of Methodist chaplains. Samantha stepped up to fill the role left by Anthea before Christmas and has shown herself equal to filling the continued absence of an Anglican chaplain.

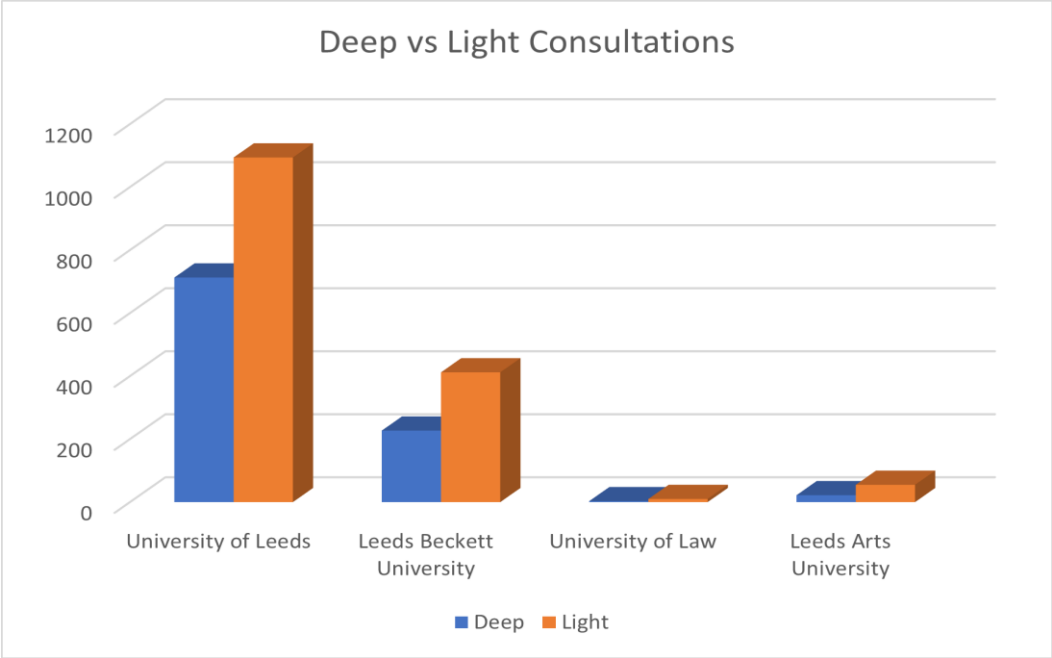
I also commend the church leaders and our faithful trustees for their continued support for a ministry that continues to embody a Christian presence on campus.

[1] https://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/

Engagements: Geraldine Montgomerie



We keep records of the number of people 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 from September 2023 to August 2024 we have recorded 12,159 attendees participating in Chaplaincy activities and partnership events. The busiest months for the Chaplaincy activities are October, November, February, and May. In 2024-25 we are planning to revise the way we gather statistics to capture more detail on the work we do and the impact we have.

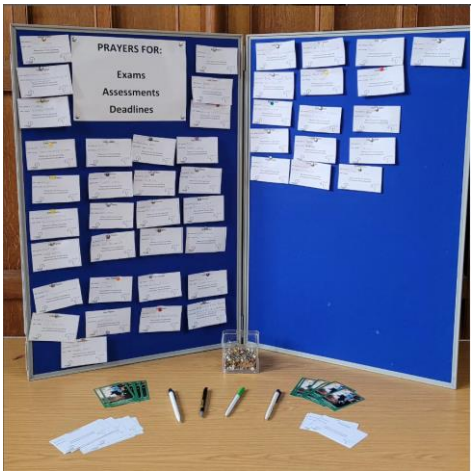


Students make up over 75% of those that approach the Chaplaincy for pastoral support and conversations, the rest being university staff.

In addition, we recorded 88 prayer and thanksgiving requests at the Emmanuel Centre and the Catholic Chaplaincy in 2023/24.

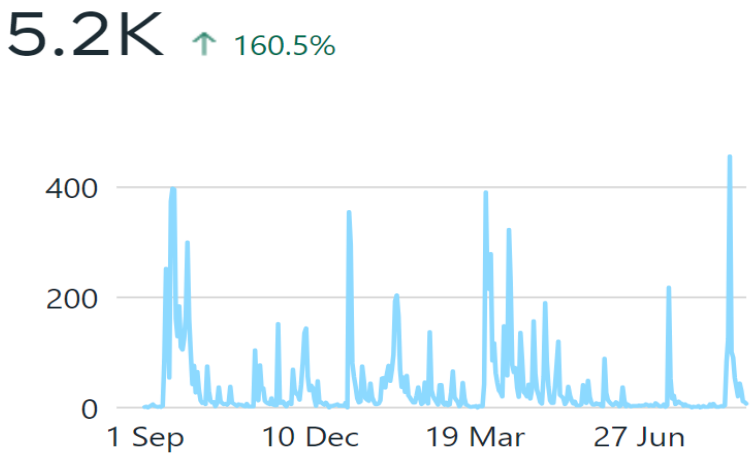
Over the last year our chaplains have continued to use social media to promote the Chaplaincy services and wider university activities with increased engagement from the wider community in response to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

We have continued to make efforts to engage members of our universities and beyond through social media and other communications and have successfully increased our reach.

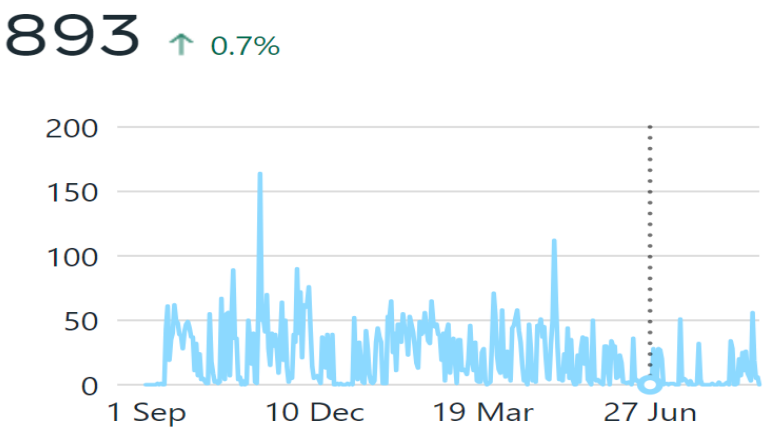


Prayers during May exams at the Catholic Chaplaincy, 2024

Facebook Reach September 2023 - August 24



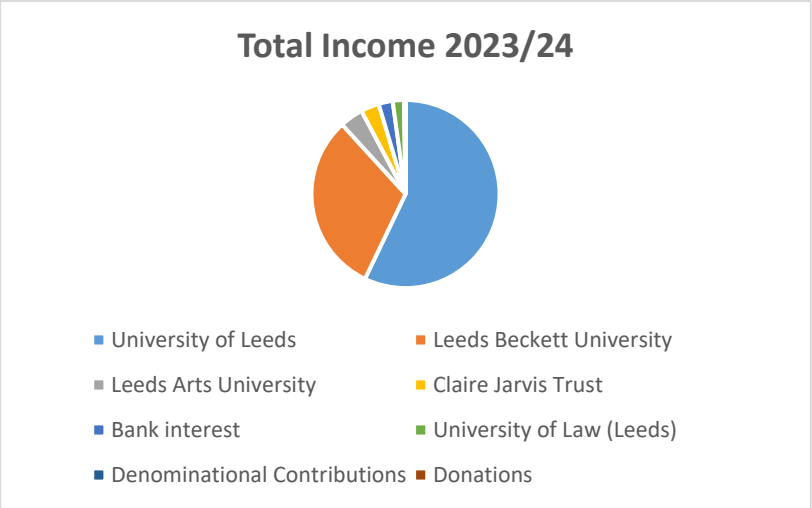
Instagram Reach September 2023 - August 24



We recruited a Chaplaincy Service Manager in May 2024 and a Student Outreach Worker ahead of the summer term in June 2024 and we are now in a strong position to build on our current engagement on social media, through our website, in printed resources and through our visibility at campus events.

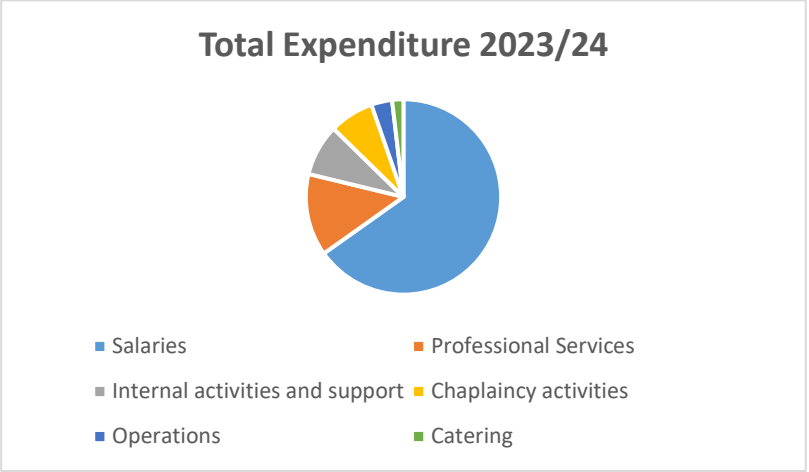
Finance: Nikki Barber

Our income mainly comes from Service Level Agreements with our four universities.



This enables the Trust to employ a small team of 5 part time staff. These staff manage and co-ordinate the Chaplaincy services over 5 campuses 365 days per year and include a dedicated Chaplain to International Students and a Christian student outreach worker.

We are indebted and extremely grateful to all the Churches and other sender groups, who send and support their ministers to be our university chaplains, and also to our non-stipendiary clergy volunteers, who contribute enormously to the capacity, cohesion, direction and diversity of the team.



Over the past 1-2 years, we have seen significant price rises in the areas of university services, consumables, and crucially labour costs. These have been managed by negotiation, careful monitoring and stewardship, though labour costs look set to rise materially again and this will be a challenge for the years ahead.

We have been blessed by three specific donations to support Chaplaincy work in the past year.

It is with sincere thanks we acknowledge:

- West Yorkshire Churches Together (WYCT) for their grant to support a Strategic and Operational Review
- Claire Jarvis Trust for their ongoing and sustained support of the role of the Chaplaincy Services Managers and the outreach work of the URC chaplain,
- Quakers, for their denominational contribution.

All these donations give targeted financial help and, just as importantly, much encouragement to us all.

Pastoral care

"One-to-ones with chaplains [have] been useful… really, really good to be able to use that... I have intentionally chosen the Chaplaincy over the university staff counselling service."

Staff - feedback 2024



Personal support including Crisis and Bereavement Care and Out of Hours Support: Robin Fishwick

It's 1.00 on a Saturday morning and the out of hours phone rings. I wake up and hastily realise where I am and what is happening. I get out of bed and go downstairs so as not to wake up my family. My caller is a student due to take an exam later that day. She had been on medication for anxiety but ran out a few weeks ago and hasn't got a new prescription. She's been trying to get to sleep but cannot, and she's worried that she'll be too tired to do well in her exam. It's not her strongest subject at the best of times and now she's tired and anxious. I listen to her calmly, trying to sound reassuring, using those active listening skills I have been taught.

After a while I ask her whether she would like to try an exercise to calm her down, and when she says "yes" I lead her in an exercise that allows her to calm her breathing and relax her body. Remembering an exercise from our Retreat in Daily Life, I invite her to envision herself as bathed in a golden light. As the exercise comes to a close, I explain that the light is the love that she is held in. She says it reminds her that her parents love her, and that God loves her. She thanks me and says she thinks she can get to sleep now. I tell her, as I always do, that if she still cannot get to sleep in half an hour or so, not to be afraid to ring me back. Later that day, she rings me back. She did get back to sleep and the exam was not half as bad as she feared. We make an appointment for later in the week and she says she will make an appointment about her medication.

Calls such as this are the tip of the iceberg so far as our pastoral care is concerned. There are people we support at a time of crisis – not just on the out of hours phone, or our drop ins, but sometimes at the request of one of our universities in response to a student death or other "Critical Incident". There are also the countless other students and staff members who have the assurance of our availability even if they never quite contact us. We work alongside wellbeing services but are distinctive from the other services. We are often easier to access and can maintain a connection for longer than a course of counselling sessions, but the real distinctiveness can be in the nature of the conversation. Chaplains may have some training in counselling, but our true strengths are in conversations about life, death, forgiveness, vocation, faith, morality and discernment. Our pastoral experience informs our theological understanding, and our theology informs our pastoral work.

"[The Chaplaincy is] my number one safety net – most of the time if a crisis is weighing on me, I will approach a chaplain before I approach my friends."

Current student - feedback 2024

International Student's Fellowship (ISF): Revd Foluso Enwerem



Having now led ISF since September 2023 to date, it has been encouraging to see that ISF continues to provide a meaningful social space for International Students and Post Graduate Researchers (PGRs), while also helping them to become more aware of the Chaplaincy provision. Its strengths include:

- ISF continues to provide a place and a space for International Students to meet in a relaxed, safe environment.
- Free snacks and drinks are very much appreciated by students (especially the fresh fruit) – 'Cake & Chat' and 'Pizza & Chat' in the first term went down particularly well – as did the free cakes and pizza!
- A different, simple activity each week enables students to 'break the ice' and experience aspects of British culture – one student seemed particularly delighted to discover how to make a Christingle at the end of term Christmas Celebration in December!
- Numbers, while still relatively low, have gradually increased over the course of the academic year – an ISF performance of the Culture Shock Comedy Drama in January 2024 was particularly well attended… to the point of nearly running out of all our snacks!
- Students tend not to rush away once ISF finishes at 6pm but will often continue chatting with each other.

There are also challenges in delivering International Student Fellowship activities:

- Ideally at least 2 chaplains are needed to host ISF but due to chaplains' other commitments and availability, this has not always proved possible.
- Aspects such as the set up and clear up can be time-consuming and reduce time and capacity for building up relationships with students.

With the new Students' Outreach Worker in post, we are now in a better position to consider how to develop and implement some of the recommendations identified in this year's student research project, undertaken on behalf of the Chaplaincy, including how to improve our engagement with students via digital marketing and social media, as well providing scope for intercultural experiences with the wider student body.

"I have referred many students to the Chaplaincy during my time as Pastoral Support Officer and advise students if they are looking for a quiet space away from the intensity of campus life, with staff who are great listeners and provide tea and biscuits, the Chaplaincy is a great place to go, and I have had some excellent feedback from my students".

Jonny Ackroyd - Student Pastoral Support Officer at University of Leeds – Feedback 2024

Spirituality

Interfaith working: Robin Fishwick

Although we serve four universities in Leeds, none of them has what might be called a "Multi-faith Chaplaincy" that works as one multi-faith team. Our Service Level Agreements, however, commit us both to serving those of all faiths and world views and also to working towards better interfaith relations on campus.

As I was writing last year's Annual Report, I mentioned approaches I had made to the then Jewish Chaplains. Universities Jewish Chaplaincy is a national organisation which allocates university chaplains across the country. Often these chaplains are Israeli rabbinical couples who come over to serve for around three years. Zecharia Deutsch and his wife, Nava, were in their third year at Leeds (and responsible for several other universities in Yorkshire) in October 2023. A few weeks later, Zechariah returned to Israel to fight as an army reservist. All this was damaging to interfaith relations and to our reputation as a Chaplaincy despite the fact that our team has no oversight over the Jewish chaplains. Many were surprised that a serving chaplain would go on active military service and the situation was exacerbated by the controversy surrounding Israel's actions in Gaza, by the presence of protest camps on several campuses, including the University of Leeds, and by Zecharia's own WhatsApp posts which were leaked onto wider social media.



Unity Canvas, created by students taking a Unity Pledge as part of the Unity Programme, Laidlaw Library, 2024

We have been fortunate in recent years that despite serving international universities, we have found campus life in general to continue largely unaffected by international events, but this year this has not been the case. Our team assisted the University of Leeds in putting out a statement, and sometime later, we agreed a statement ourselves. The delay in putting out our own statement was frustrating, but it was important for us to think about what we were saying, how, and to whom. It was a difficult time and during the months that followed our Muslim colleague, Farhat Yaqoob, gave in her notice.

By this time, I had helped Leeds University in recruiting another part time Muslim Student Adviser, Sister Jaan Malik, but the idea was for Jaan to assist Farhat, not stand in for her. I am very grateful to Sister Jaan for agreeing to increase her hours in response to Farhat's absence and the support she has given staff and students since coming into post. As for Farhat, we will deeply miss her. I was here when Farhat piloted the Muslim Chaplain role on a voluntary basis, when she was recruited on a part time basis and when her hours were increased to full time. It was Farhat who very much pioneered the *Unity Programme* which not only enabled disparate members of the University community to come together, but also helped promote the work of Chaplaincy in general.

I think where we have worked well as chaplains during this difficult year has been our availability to people troubled by the international conflict and echoing conflict on campus. Listening to people with passionate views, being with them emotionally, even when not always agreeing politically, has been where we have excelled. Chaplains have been able to provide a listening ear and a space to explore the complexities of our world and its conflicts. We have been blessed this year by Leeds University Union having Nikita Zychowicz as Faith Representative. Nikita has pursued his duties in this role with great sensitivity towards all of our faith groups and has been a welcome channel of calm mutual understanding.

Looking forward, I think we have learned a lot this year and our universities have learned something of the complexity of Chaplaincy in a multifaith context. We will work with our universities to ensure that we are all, as chaplains, able to work co-operatively and collaboratively with one another and able to respond to the needs of all of our staff and students. This might involve identifying groups who currently do not see Chaplaincy as being for them and respond by either making ourselves more approachable or inviting new partners. The role of local faith leaders and faith communities is vital in this.

"A shelter from the storm - you can sit, you can meet, the building is a place of peace and of support if you need it…"

Post Graduate Researcher describing the Emmanuel Centre - feedback 2024

Worship and other religious events



Chinese Church Report: Pastor Kim Chan

We had a good number of people attend our Welcome Night this last year. The activities which followed continue to attract new students – particularly when we hosted special events on such as Light Night, Christmas, Chinese New Year, and Easter.

Generally, our Mandarin speaking activities were very well attended, as were our English-speaking activities. Cantonese speaking activities made up a small group.





Student Welcome events as part of Fellowship Group Emmanuel Centre, 2023





Crafts and cultural activities as part of Fellowship Group, Emmanuel Centre, 2024

Apart from coming together to discuss the Bible, discuss the issues of life, talking over our failure and success, we also enjoyed a good time of worship together. We held popular craft evenings. It was good to talk about life experience with friends from similar backgrounds. By doing so we can support one another.

The one-to-one appointments with individual students have been good, we discussed issues such as course problems, relationships and faith. Our Culture Shock Drama helped to inform a wider circle of students that the Chaplains are here for them - that helped to point some to us. And we do, at times, refer and signpost some students to other appropriate departments such as the counselling department.

Midweek Worship: Revd Samantha Sheehan



We continue to offer mid-week worship on a Wednesday lunch time at the Emmanuel Centre for the Universities communities. This is shared between the Methodist, Lutheran and United Reformed Church Chaplain, each presiding at communion in their own denomination's tradition. Numbers have sadly been low since COVID mainly due to the change in staff shifts and working habits of students (who seem only be on campus for in person teaching and use of library - a shift from pre-COVID habits).

In the coming year, with the increased Chaplaincy space at Leeds Beckett University, we hope to be able to offer a mid-week service there too.

"The university Chaplaincy is a big part of my life. Weekly structure is something I've needed…"

Former volunteer on campus - feedback 2024

Breathe: Ellie McCarthy



Breathe is the weekly act of Quaker-style worship, taking place in the Claire Chapel each Tuesday lunchtime. The group consists of students, staff, retired staff and Quakers in the local area. Numbers have varied from two to twelve, depending on the time of year. Compared to 2022/23, there have been more students attending this year. Generally, the average age at Quaker meetings in the UK is over 50, so it has been really nice to see the growth of a truly intergenerational Quaker worship group.
There have been quite a few students and staff attending for the first time this year. Many heard about the group through word of mouth, but some came after a conversation with a Quaker chaplain, (myself or Robin Fishwick), at an event like the Christmas

Carol Service. This influx of new students reflects the growing group of young Friends attending the Quaker meeting on Sundays at Carlton Hill. Some connect strongly to the values of peace, truth and integrity and Quaker work for climate justice. Others came to try out something new, drawn by the model of silent worship.

Most meetings have been silent, providing space for reflection. The time for fellowship with tea, coffee and biscuits, (or homemade cake by a generous student attender), usually lasts longer than the meeting itself. Conversation topics have ranged from 'what is theology?' to music performances and dissertation topics. Robin and I have had conversations with people coming for the first time about the nuances of Quakerism, which is still quite a mystery to many! It's encouraging that the leaflets and copies of 'Advices and Queries' we have available are taken away and found to be a helpful guide for those wanting to learn more.

Engaging with Theology / Taizé Prayer: Revd Joseph Nelson



During the last academic year Robin, Revd Tim, and I started a group at the Chaplaincy with alternating weeks of Taizé Prayer and Engaging with Theology. The topics for engaging with theology included ethics, theology, Jesus, Christianity, creation/the environment, and so much more. On the other weeks we would have Taizé chant and prayer together. In this way we provide a space for Christians from all traditions a space to explore their faith and come together for prayer and worship. It has been particularly important for us to provide a space where a variety of perspectives can be welcomed and reflected on within the Chaplaincy and open and honest discussion can take place.

We have had a small group of students attending and being involved and we look forward to reaching out to local Churches, SCM (Student Christian Movement), and students from all of our universities to grow our small group together over the next year.

Bible Study: Robin Fishwick

This new group emerged in response to a staff request and has been led by several different chaplains; Baptist, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Orthodox and Quaker. The group so far is still this core of staff members – mainly food scientists – but open to all and itself has a range of church backgrounds including Pentecostal as well as Roman Catholic. They have welcomed the chance to come together to explore the Bible from different perspectives and in some cases have said that their Sunday worship experience has often been predominantly listening to others rather than having the chance to discuss themes that occur in faith. My colleagues and I have found it a pleasure and privilege to support this group and hope that it will develop into something with wider participation.

Carol Service



Our Annual Carol Service took place in the Great Hall at the University of Leeds this year with over 200 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 Fishwick and made up of University staff and students, Chaplaincy team members, and friends of the Chaplaincy. Students, staff and families attended raising a record sum - £1,617 - for Zarach, a charity working with local schools to ensure that every child in England has a bed of their own.

Spiritual Development

Catholic Chaplaincy Report: Fr Marc Homsey



The start of the new academic year began in earnest, with preparations to welcome new students, and also to welcome back existing students. We had a packed church for Mass before our welcome BBQ. The numbers exceeded our expectations – members of the Catholic Society had to rush out to buy more burgers! The Catholic Society continues to complement the activities of the Catholic Chaplaincy.

I organised a Bible study to span the first two terms. I used an online course titled Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible. In Lent, I organised another course titled A Biblical Walk Through the Mass. Both were well received by all who attended and generated lively discussions. When there was no formal Bible study, we held a Lectio Divina, praying through the Gospel of the coming Sunday.

November saw three of our annual events take place. The first was our All Saints party. Many of us dressed up as a saint, with prizes for the best dressed. Since November is the month associated with remembering the faithful departed in a particular way, one Sunday Mass was dedicated to remembering the deceased family and friends of our community. The names of the deceased were read out, and all had the opportunity to light a candle in remembrance of them. We celebrated our International Mass on the last Sunday before Advent. As usual, we had readings, music and prayers in a variety of languages. After Mass, many students brought food to share from their own countries and cultures.

I organised two trips during the first term. The first was to Whitby. We stopped in Robin Hood's Bay on the way to join the community at Madonna House for Mass and refreshments. We then enjoyed fish and chips by the sea in Whitby, followed by free time. The second trip was in December – we took the train to York to visit some holy places (the shrine of St Margaret Clitherow, the Bar convent, York Minster) and enjoy the Christmas markets. I also organised an eight mile walk around Bolton Abbey in May.

We have a popular early Mass on Friday mornings, partly because it is followed by a free breakfast of fresh waffles, hot pastries, toast, crumpets, etc. Catholics generally abstain from meat on Fridays. The exception is when a significant feast (a solemnity) falls on a Friday. This happened on 8th December, when we celebrate the Immaculate Conception. To mark the occasion, I provided a cooked breakfast – I was busy in the kitchen cooking 48 sausages, 48 bacon and 40 eggs!

December also saw the return of the Retreat in Daily Life. This continues to be well attended and required the drafting in of the "reserve" prayer guide. The term concluded with our pre-Christmas party, including mulled wine and carols around the piano.



Bishop Marcus visits to the Catholic Chaplaincy, March 24

Bishop Marcus visited the Catholic Chaplaincy twice this year. The first time was in February for his regular visit to celebrate Mass, followed by a talk and an opportunity for students to ask him questions. Bishop Marcus returned at the end of April to baptise and confirm the six students I have been preparing for the sacraments. The Catholic Society again took a lead in organising and running the interfaith pancake party. Over 200 pancakes were cooked and enjoyed by all who came.

One significant new event this year was a pilgrimage to Rome. Twenty people signed up for the pilgrimage, which took place in the second week after Easter. The week went very well, with lots of memorable experiences. Some of the itinerary included: Mass in St Peter's Basilica with Cardinal Arthur Roche (who ordained me to the priesthood before he became cardinal); a visit to the excavations under St Peter's Basilica, finishing at the tomb and relics of St Peter; the General Audience in St Peter's Square, including a very close view of Pope Francis as he drove past us; Mass and tour of the Venerable English College – the seminary at which I studied for seven years. And, of course, there was plenty of opportunity to enjoy the pasta, pizza, and gelato throughout the week!

I introduced praying the Rosary once a week this year. Even though numbers started small, it gained popularity as the weeks went on. I encouraged students to take a lead in organising the prayers. I also encouraged the students to offer to lead a decade in their own language. It is wonderful to experience the richness of the universality of the Church, hearing familiar prayers in other languages.

We concluded our year with our annual trip to the park for a picnic and games. We continue to be blessed with dry weather every year! The students were treated to a free ice cream before we finished.



Pilgrimage Group in Rome – in St Paul's Basilica - with Cardinal Arthur Roche in April 24

This summer I celebrated ten years since I was ordained to the priesthood. As I reflect on these years, I thank God for His graces and blessings, and for placing me in this wonderful ministry of university Chaplaincy. I pray that this new academic year will bring just as much hope and joy, especially to those who need Him the most.

Retreat in Daily Life: Fr Marc Homsey

Each year, in conjunction with Steve Hoyland of the Jesuit spirituality team, we lead a week to help staff and students deepen their prayer lives. The week is for any student or member of staff who is already a Christian and who wants to deepen their prayer life, or someone who is not sure what they believe but is willing to take a risk and seriously explore the reality of God.

This continues to work well. Steve is well-versed in leading the retreat in Leeds and knows many of the chaplaincy team. As usual, he recruited local prayer guides to assist with the one-to-one meetings with staff and students. 25 participants signed up for the retreat this year. The team is already booked in for December 2024, and we look forward to seeing the impact it will make on the spiritual lives on those involved.

Orthodox Chaplaincy: Fr Ephrem-David



This has been a stressful, interesting, and ultimately rewarding year. The stresses have largely revolved around the conflict in the Middle East and the terrible suffering. The Christian, lay or ordained, stands with those in pain, especially when others keep a distance. It has been interesting to observe the different responses across the campuses. Trying to be a supportive colleague to the Muslim Student Advisor as she absorbed so much anger, pain and incomprehension was itself painful but also richly rewarding, opening up many paths of pastoral support and shared spiritual insights and ethical approaches. It was a privilege to be part of the vigils and the gratitude, which was humbling.



Preparing for Orthodox Service at Claire Chapel, Emmanuel Centre, 2024

Conversations with a number of Jewish students also brought out shared pain and distress, but again there were rewards. We need deep prayer and openness as we move forward. As the situation seems to get worse, our prayers and thoughts are also with the Lebanese student from our community.

We have had two Baptisms and are humbled by the depth of faith and longing for God in our students. We are usually able to say or hear the Our Father in seven to ten languages. We have started planning for the next academic year and there are many hopes for what will happen and how our prayer life together alongside other activities, will deepen as we grow in Christ. As always, it is important to receive the continuing ministry on the second weekend of each month from Fr David Gill and to recognise we are building on foundations of faith and prayer - over many years.

We shall miss those who have moved on and are now spread around the world as well as continuing in the UK. Still with us is Nikita who has had a very challenging year as Union Faith Representative, a role in which he is continuing. As with other students he has brought experience

and an approach of convinced faith, openness, and hope. It has also been a privilege to be part of the Chaplaincy and to offer a listening ear to many members of the University. The colleagueship and friendship across the traditions has been invaluable – both with other chaplains and the Chaplaincy Service Managers.

So, I must end by thanking God for all He has given to us and to me personally in such a rewarding and challenging ministry. Whatever is produced by reviews and future strategies, (I speak as an Orthodox) we must not forget the fundamentals of humility, love, compassion and faithfulness, sustained by prayer.

Orthodox Chaplaincy: Fr David Gill



It has been very rewarding to see sizeable numbers of students seeking the help of the Orthodox part of the Chaplaincy and attending the Liturgy which is now served every Sunday. Other members of the Chaplaincy team have expressed affirmation that the Emanuel Centre chapel is now used with such frequency. The gathering of students is acclamation of Fr Ephrem's unstinting commitment and effort over several years.

When I was appointed chaplain in 1997, there was always a good gathering of mainly Greek postgraduate students. When these numbers declined, there were only few for many years. It is so good that this has now changed. This reflects an interesting development in our society. Many, many young people - especially young men - are seeking experience of, and admission to the Orthodox Church and to other denominations across Britain. For some it is a realisation that the atheist promised endeavour has not brought the promised Nirvana and a deep realisation that there must be more to Life. A search of the internet reveals an interesting challenge of the Orthodox understanding of the Christian Gospel. So, our efforts are rewarded and we are reminded of the prayer attributed to Sir Francis Drake:

"…When thou givest to thy servants to endeavour any great matter, grant us also to know that it is not the beginning, but the continuing of the same, until it be thoroughly finished, that yieldeth the true glory…"

Ethics and Advice on matters of faith to the universities' senior managers: Robin Fishwick

The Chaplaincy's contribution to the ethical lives of our universities has varied over the past, and is itself, from time to time, the subject of discussion. There are some obvious ways in which chaplains contribute – serving on ethics committees is an obvious one. We also serve on other committees such as Equality, Diversity and Inclusion committees. However, we have a wider role than this which I would say has three aspects:

1. Encourage the development of ethical literacy at our universities. This might involve assisting senior staff in understanding the ethical complexity of a particular issue.

2. Enable our universities to find their voice on ethical matters and help them discern ways of acting within their own ethical frameworks. Is there a mismatch between the values a university espouses and its actual practices? Are there groups within the university community who feel excluded, or that the university is falling short of the values it claims to espouse?

3. Provide an environment where staff and students can gain a better understanding from each other of the moral or ethical complexity of issues we face.

This last year, I have had a greater sense of the contribution we are making, particularly in response to crises and conflict. We have not yet got to a point where we might, say, host formal discussions about moral issues or conflicts, but maybe such opportunities might arise in future. In the meantime, what we have done is help people gain a better understanding of their own values, how the values of others might differ, and how to manage the potential clash. I believe that many of the conversations my colleagues have had, say, with students engaged in protest, have helped generate a little less heat and a little more light.

I see the chaplaincy's role towards our universities as being a partner in ethical exploration. That might, from time to time, involve accompanying students in their dialogue with university management, particularly when they feel powerless or unheard. It is also true, however, that we are chaplains for our whole university community, including senior management, meaning that in addition to being available to assist in exploring ethical questions, we are also there to give pastoral support to those making difficult decisions.

Community Building



Partnership with The Christian Unions - Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship (UCCF) and Christian Unions (CU): Revd Ryan Lindsey

One of the challenges for any ministry is where the invisible lines are drawn between different entities. These lines change between institutions, departments, churches, ministries, and even between individuals. Housing assistance or financial aid are obvious while Wellbeing or Counselling Services does require more active listening and discernment. However, the places where these invisible lines are more easily crossed and confused are within the areas shared by other Christian ministries. While the Chaplaincy is the formal extension of our shared churches responsibility to the whole university community, there are others who also see the spiritual needs of the university and whose aim is to engage.

As Chaplains, we have worked over the years to keep in good relationship with the various churches who also have significant presence in and around the university. Whether through personal relationships or through the Trustees, these relationships have kept the invisible lines more visible. Over the past few years though the Chaplaincy has also made meaningful movement to establishing ourselves as co-labourers with UCCF and Christian Unions.

Historically the relationship between UCCF/CU and Chaplaincy has been non-existent for a host of varied reasons. In recent years we have found that this distance has been more one of ignorance for what each other could bring to the table than on any specific issues. To this end the Chaplaincy at Leeds Beckett University has opened our doors, literally, to helping to host various UCCF/CU events and meetings while in return have seen them promote our services to students who might need something beyond their normal services. While UCCF/CU have been champions in student evangelism and organising student worship meetings on campus, there are times that pastoral care or future life plans have needed more of a chaplain's input; leadership development and discipleship; students who are wrestling with questionable life choices but not interested in what their peers have to say. These are areas where the Chaplaincy can and has been able to bring wisdom and experience.

We are excited for opening what future possibilities could come through a working partnership with UCCF/CU. While they are certainly on the tip of the spear in their evangelism and student engagement, we are able to offer lasting encouragement through personal and accommodation support.

Trolley Fun and Unity Joy: Revd Samantha Sheehan

The Trolley didn't make it out as much as we had hoped, but still managed 14 appearance and handed out 400 hot drinks. This year the Trolley project has also included providing refreshments for the PGR Network, a live podcast recording and a few more targeted department drops. We continue to see this as an important part of ministry in providing hospitality on campus meeting folk where they are and providing a little rest-bite during busy and sometime stressful times.

The Trolley is planned to make many more appearances in the year ahead with a monthly outing and Lovember department visits already in the diary with the help of Sister Jaan and Chaplain, Robin Fishwick.







Free Soup at the Emmanuel Centre, 2023-2024

Student Outreach Work: Carmen Costanza



I started my job as Student Outreach Worker here at the Chaplaincy on the 10th of June 2024, a very quiet time for all Universities because students are not around. This meant that, so far, I have had the time and space to think about the communication strategy I want to adopt for the outreach – in conversation with Geraldine, the Services Manager -, and started to make the space of the Chaplaincy more welcoming. This quiet period also gave me the time to understand a bit more where we are as a team and what our goals for the coming year are, but also to start thinking about ways to contribute to the Christian ministry of the Chaplaincy with my own vision.

The past year seemed to be a particularly challenging one for the team, especially because of the difficult situation related to the Jewish chaplain and the pro-Palestine protests happening on campus. For the coming year, I believe that our starting point needs to be that of fostering trust among us and rebuild a stronger sense of identity and unity that is rooted in our shared faith in Christ. To be clear and happy about that does not mean that we put aside the people who do not share our faith: simply, I believe, our faith with its history and tradition is our main strength, the precious treasure we have to offer to the people who are entrusted to our care and support, regardless of their background. It is pivotal for us to acknowledge the pluralistic and intercultural world in which we live, in order to know what is the role that we – with our identity – are called to play to best serve others. Therefore, moments of shared prayer and open, honest conversations among the team can be a starting point to nurture our community: I am very happy to contribute to that, making sure that prayer is the source of all our actions.

Those who already have a connection with the Chaplaincy are particularly happy about what it offers and the relationships it fosters: their testimony can be part of our outreach activity, especially when communicating the specificity of the service we offer as different from that of any other well-being or counselling service. It is nevertheless important to acknowledge the lack of awareness, among the majority of students, either of the presence of the Chaplaincy altogether, or of its specific service and mission. I have already started making contact with the university societies to see if and which forms of collaboration can be put in place in order to help the students access our services: peer to peer communication and word of mouth seems to be a powerful method for increasing the visibility of the services on campus, according to a report

conducted by Eve Maloba. Some other insights from this report also suggest that we should consider the digital world as integral part of our communications, and that the key to greater engagement is the use of such tools in a 'personal' way.

My desire is that of reaching the students through simple communication. Besides some regular posts on our social media advertising our events and sharing our Gospel values, I am designing a newsletter with a person-to-person approach, aimed at showing the students that here at the Chaplaincy there are people, whose life is informed by their faith, who are willing to share the journey of life together with them. Another activity I am designing, as part of my student outreach plan, is that of a Dante reading group: using the medium of literature, and in particular of a profoundly human poem such as the Commedia, I want to create a space for open and honest conversations where, together with the participants, we can explore questions regarding the challenges of daily life while trying to listen to the message that Dante has to offer through his stunningly beautiful poem.

Ultimately, the service offered by the Chaplaincy is one of accompaniment and support, rooted in the love of Christ and His commandment to love our neighbour as ourselves: this is what we have to offer, and the best way to make it known among those we are called to serve is to live out a life rooted in this love, so that our words and actions can make Him present to others, and therefore be for them the kind of presence and support they need.

Freshers' Weeks 2023: Revd Samantha Sheehan

During Freshers we took our trolley outside our Emmanuel Centre building four times - twice for international welcome week and twice for welcome week. It offered a great space to welcome students back to campus and let them know a little about the Chaplaincy service. It was great to hear some of the adventures returning students had had over the summer, and to listen to some of the fears and anxieties for the coming year.

As well as our presence across campuses for the Autumn Freshers activities we have had a number at the Refresher fairs hosted to welcome students back after Christmas. A quieter fair than Septembers Freshers, but a great opportunity to be present, engage in conversation, and also get to know staff and support services.

"[The Chaplaincy is] the perfect place to start with any problem. You will be met by a friendly face."

Current student - feedback 2024

Culture Shock Comedy Drama Performances (CSCD): Revd Foluso Enwerem

You're here in Leeds! You're on your course – there's still so much to do and discover – it can be really exciting and confusing! Whether you're feeling like everything is great right now or you're feeling like everything is just too different, the Culture Shock Comedy Drama is for you!



Fr Ephrem-David performs in Culture Shock Comedy Drama, 2024

The Culture Shock Comedy Drama is a long-standing part of the Chaplaincy's provision for International Students. This fun live performance on adapting to life in the UK, written and presented by the Chaplaincy Team, aims to help International Students to be better equipped to recognise and cope with the reality of Culture Shock. There were CSCD performances in Sept 2023 during the Welcome Week for International Students, and further opportunities to see it a bit later on in the year (October 2023) for those who had missed it first time round, and for those who started their courses in the second semester (January 2024).

The CSCD has become a much-loved feature of the International Orientation programme, and many International Students subsequently expressed how it indeed helped them to recognise and to cope well with Culture Shock during their time in Leeds.

In the CSCD, a small band of willing amateur actors from the Chaplaincy Team, with the help of simple but effective props and staging, invite International Students to take a fun and informative look at culture shock. The CSCD enables International Students to come along and discover how one international student successfully navigates the reality of culture shock…



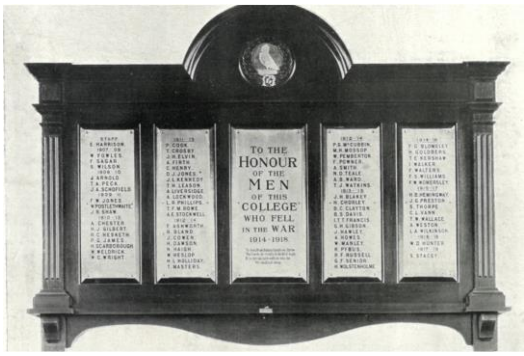
Peace Vigil: Revd T Nicholls

Chaplains from the team organised a Peace Vigil to remember and lament the victims of the Middle East conflict. The Vigil took place exactly three months after the attack on Israel had taken place, in the grounds of the Quaker Meeting House, opposite the University of Leeds. In the grounds houses the Leeds Peace Pole. Representatives from the three Abrahamic faiths were able to gather, to pray for peace, to stand in solidarity with those who are grieving and to light candles to remember the fallen and injured many victims on all sides of the conflict.

Chaplains have repeatedly prayed for the victims of the conflict and offered pastoral support for staff and students affected by the violence.

Remembrance Day 2023 at Leeds Beckett University: Revd T Nicholls

On Friday 10th November 2023, I led a short service as the Lead Chaplain for Leeds Beckett University to remember together all those who lost their lives during the First and Second World Wars and in armed conflicts since 1945, including the 129 'men of what was then the City of Leeds Training College named on the Roll of Honour in the James Graham Building at Headingley Campus. The service took place in the main entrance to the James Graham at the foot of the Roll of Honour, and was attended by staff, students and representatives of the British Legion.



Original World War 1 University War Memorial from the Great Hall which preceded Leeds Beckett University's James Graham Hall

The service was live streamed across the University and all staff and students were encouraged to hold the two-minute silence at 11.00.

The service provided the space for the University community to reflect upon all the victims of conflict both civilian and combatants, and to strive for a peace which is more than just the absence of conflict but the clear presence of justice.

Bio Medical Memorial Service at University of Leeds: Revd S Sheehan



It was a privilege to be invited to share with the staff and students from the faculties of Biological Sciences and Medicine and Health as they led a service of thanksgiving for all those who had donated their bodies for medical science and medical and dental education. It was inspiring listening to the students share their stories and honour the families of those who had donated their bodies, as well as witness the many photos and hearing the stories of the lives they had lived. We remembered through words, songs, music and artwork.

Student Christian Movement Podcast Recording Event



Thomas Jay Oord interviewed by William Gibson (SCM) at Emmanuel Centre © SCM 2024

In August 2024 the Chaplaincy hosted supporters of the Student Christian Movement and the Progressive Church Network to bring together an audience for a recorded interview. The interviewee was American Theologian, Thomas Jay Oord, who shared his recent trial in the Church of the Nazarene for his advocating for full LGBTQ+ inclusion as well as aspects of open and relational theology in this unique event with an anticipated international listenership.

You can listen to this recording which was released as part of the Student Christian Movement Podcast on 3rd September 2024.

Reflections by Lead Chaplains

Leeds Beckett University: Revd Tim Nicholls

I replaced the Revd Melvyn Kelly in September 2023. Melvyn retired after seven years as the Methodist Chaplain to the Universities and the lead Chaplain to Leeds Beckett. I spent part of the year getting to know the communities at Leeds Beckett, continuing the strong links that Melvyn had developed with the Student wellbeing and Counselling services. During the year we said farewell to Laurence Pusey who had been the lay Baptist chaplain serving across the Universities but had developed a presence supporting students in the Beckett Halls of Residence. We give thanks to God for Laurence's long-standing ministry.

Revds Joseph Nelson (Lutheran) and Ryan Lindsey (Independent) supported engaging with staff and students primarily focussing their energies on the Headingley Campus where the Chaplaincy room was situated in the Priestley building. During the year the Chaplaincy forged stronger links with the Christian Union, and also with the Islamic Society through a working group to improve the Prayer facilities at both Campuses. The fruition of this work will be seen in the forthcoming academic year as the Headingley Camus will see a new Muslim prayer room open in the James Graham building and there will be new offices for the Chaplains and a Multi faith prayer space opening in the Campus Central building. This should increase the visibility of the Chaplaincy as the offices are close to the main Canteen on the Campus with greater levels of footfall.

A new Faith space at the City Campus should open for the start of 2025 of the new Academic Year above the Student Union. One of the challenges of doing Chaplaincy work at the City Campus has been the lack of a base to operate from, so this should help us to offer a more visible presence to the staff and students across the whole University.

There have been significant challenges at the University over the course of the year. The Chaplaincy has sought to offer impartial advice and support to the University in the wake of the tensions caused to the University communities in the wake of the Middle East conflict. We have also supported students and staff affected and offered space for people to grieve and lament. A vigil was organised at the City Peace Pole in December 23 to mark three months since the 7th of October attack. As with many other Universities, Leeds Beckett has not been immune to the wider funding crises hitting the Higher Education sector. There are the prospect of staffing cuts and organisational restructuring which have caused some anxiety. The Chaplains will continue to offer pastoral support to staff affected.



Winter at Leeds Beckett University - Headingley Campus - 2024

Leeds Arts University (LAU): Robin Fishwick

Prof. Kristin Aune recently described chaplaincy as "the relational presence of a tradition of wisdom". That presence can be established when there is on campus a dedicated location for chaplaincy. At universities such as Leeds Arts University (LAU), however, we do not have an office or chaplaincy centre to work from or invite people to. We do have the consolation of the Emmanuel Centre being a short walk from Leeds Arts University (indeed it is closer to the LAU campus than to parts of the University of Leeds campus) and we invite LAU to events at Emmanuel or to drop in on chaplains or use the chapel. However, much of my work as Lead Chaplain to Leeds Arts is being that relational presence where staff and students are, and that generally is the café in front of the Students' Union.

So I usually set myself up with a chaplaincy banner and a sign inviting anyone to join me for a chat, usually on a Thursday lunchtime. I have noticed this year that conversations often start as I am actually putting the banner down and packing up any leaflets I have brought with me, so I have got into the habit of leaving myself some "buffer time" after I am due to finish. As well as being near the Union, my pop-up surgery, for want of a better name, is also close to the Wellbeing office, enabling me to have conversations about how we as a chaplaincy can help in wellbeing and union activities. LAU have long treasured the pastoral lifeline we offer – for example the out of hours service – and are increasingly seeing our relevance in staff and student wellbeing. I think a growth area for next year will be about promoting our services in spiritual accompaniment. That might well include an element of encouraging the recognition of spirituality as something innate to the human condition.

University of Law (Leeds): Fr Marc Homsey

I took over as the lead chaplain for the University of Law in September 2023. During the year I was able to make links with the Safeguarding and Wellbeing team. We focused on planning for the academic year beginning September 2024. I plan to be present on campus throughout the year, including at the Welcome Fair. I will provide a monthly drop-in service on campus, and I will come in for any other event as required.

University of Leeds: Revd Samantha Sheehan

We said good-bye to our colleague and longstanding lead chaplain for the University of Leeds – Revd Anthea Colledge - at the end of November. I hope I will be able to continue the ministry she began. It has been great to be able to welcome Sister Jaan Malik and we look forward to working with her as part of the Unity Project as we continue to seek to build a sense of community across the University Campus, as well as look for opportunities to build upon this interfaith collaboration.

Highlights from this year include hosting the Post Graduate Researcher (PGR) Network at the Emmanuel Centre – supplying hot drinks, biscuits and fruit and sharing in the sessions and discussions. I'm grateful to Dr Kristi Boone for leading the input as we seek to provide a space for those undertaking a post-graduate research project and PhD's to come together for open conversation and a gentle reminder that there is more to them than their project.

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

Student - feedback on PGR network sessions 2023

Looking Forward: Revd Prof. Simon Robinson



Futurology is a thing[2]. In 2007 an Economist article suggested that it was a thing of the present, with the strapline 'Think small, think short and listen'. This is precisely what next year's Chaplaincy review aims to do, focusing on the future through different lenses (forgive the mixed metaphors).

- Through the lens of finance our short- and medium-term future is assured. Nonetheless, other sources of finance can and will be explored.

- Through the interfaith lens we need to continue to build trust. The test of inter-faith dialogue is how we respond with care (both careful and caring) to binary thinking, from right and left, which seeks to pit groups against each other, silencing different voices. This was precisely the conclusion of the Review of university Chaplaincy in Leeds in 2007. Now is the time to take this seriously.

- Through the lens of the universities, we need to reflect on the future identity and values of Higher Education. Just what is a community of learning and how does student and staff wellbeing relate to that. How does Chaplaincy contribute to that?

- Through the lens of the Christian faith, we need to explore further how Chaplaincy embodies Christian presence with humility, in pastoral care, prophetic dialogue (remembering we are not the only prophets!), peace-building and worship.

- Through the lens of the wider Christian church, we need to explore how Chaplaincy fits into the churches' mission and strategy (another nudge from the 2007 Review). There is a temptation to see university Chaplaincy and Chaplaincy in general as discrete, not a part of 'the church'. Is that the case?

Of course, answering that question would move beyond the remit of a university Chaplaincy review. Moreover, it might make the futurological task far from 'small' and 'short'. Ironically, though, the data about wider Chaplaincy is right there if we look and listen. Ben Ryan's fascinating report (A Very Modern Ministry: Chaplaincy in the UK[3]) focused on the area of Luton and found that there were 169 chaplains in action there in 2015, including one in Luton Casino (!). [Casino alert: there are several Casinos in the city of Leeds some of which serve free coffee for pensioners in the mornings]. Shades of Monty Python; nobody expects a chaplain to turn up in a casino, or rugby league ground, or to a university debate about transgender, or a police station, and so on and so on. This sounds like the beginning of an Incarnational theology (nobody expected Jesus not even with John the Baptist's help!) linking Chaplaincy and church in all its manifestations, not just around students but around institutions and communities that make up our world.

In that light all the very best for Christmas and the New Year,

Simon Robinson, Chair, Universities in Leeds Chaplaincy Trust

---

[2] https://www.britannica.com/topic/futurology

[3] https://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/cmsfiles/archive/files/Modern%20Ministry%20combined.pdf



(Above) Revision Snacks Trolley pictured with Fr Homsey, Ryan Lindsey, Revd Enwerem and Robin Fishwick, 2023



(Above) Podcast recording at Emmanuel Centre, 2024

(Below) Wellbeing Award for The Chaplaincy Team, 2024



Our Locations

Emmanuel Centre
183 Woodhouse Lane, Woodhouse, Leeds, LS2 3AR

Leeds Beckett University Chaplaincy,
1st Floor, Campus Central - Headingley Campus, Church Wood Avenue Headingley Leeds LS6 3QS.

Catholic Chaplaincy
5 St Marks Avenue, Leeds, LS2 9BN

The Universities Chaplaincy in Leeds Trust is a Registered Charity (Number: **1128626**) and Registered Company (Number: **03848337**).

Our Contact Details

Office hours: 0113 343 5071
Out of hours: 07780 613862
www.unichaplaincy.org.uk
chaplaincy@leeds.ac.uk
chaplaincy@leedsbeckett.ac.uk