



University of Edinburgh
Chaplaincy

Annual Report 2007-2008

Contents

I	Executive Summary	Pg 3-4
II	Introduction	Pg 5
	A Mission Statement	Pg 5
	B Our Services	Pg 5
	C Summary	Pg 5
III	Contributions to University Life	Pg 6
	A Provision for Staff	Pg 6
	B Provision for Students	Pg 7
	C Provision for Wider Community	Pg 8
	D Summary	Pg 9
IV	Achievements 2007 - 2008	Pg 10
	A Bristo Square Chaplaincy Usage	Pg 10-14
	B Personal and Group Pastoral Support	Pg 14
	C Multifaith Development	Pg 15-18
	D Exploring Spiritual Practice	Pg 19
	E Mediation	Pg 19
	F Support for International Students	Pg 19
	G University Services and Ceremonies	Pg 20-21
	H Gifford Lectures	Pg 22
	I Improvement of Chaplaincy Hospitality Facilities	Pg 22
	J Exhibitions	Pg 22-23
	K Scottish Higher Education Chaplains' Conference	Pg 24
	L Effective Collaboration with Other Student Support Services	Pg 25
	M Hosting of Book Launch	Pg 25
	N Labyrinth Project	Pg 25-27
	O Continued Professional Development	Pg 28
	P Feedback from Chaplaincy Users	Pg 28-30
V	Changes at Chaplaincy	Pg 31
	A Goodbyes and Hellos	Pg 31-32
	B The Four Month Plan	Pg 32
VI	Plans for the Academic Year 2008 - 2009	Pg 33

I. Executive Summary

Breadth of Provision

We begin this report with our Mission Statement, which describes our broad remit toward staff, students, Chaplaincy Team and the public. Our achievements over the past year reflect the reality that although we sit within the structure of Student Academic Support Group (SASG) for budgetary and line management purposes, the University of Edinburgh Chaplaincy's remit spans the entire University. This does offer some systemic challenges. However, we work hard to mitigate these and to attend to our all-encompassing sphere of activity.

Quality

The quality of our provision is reflected in the percentage of time spent providing personal and spiritual support for individuals and groups; the numbers of individual and groups using our spaces; the categories of people accessing Chaplaincy services; the number and variety of multifaith contacts maintained and developed; and the satisfaction expressed by those who have given us feedback.

The tables containing usage information were created from figures gathered by student helpers and Chaplaincy staff on a daily basis during two separate weeks – one each semester. They are representative of Chaplaincy Centre usage. That information, along with the lists of groups and multifaith contacts, was compiled by our Administrative Assistant, Kate Langton. Regarding percentage of time spent by Chaplaincy staff in fulfilling various functions, each person assessed that individually.

As seen in the charts reflecting usage of Chaplaincy provision, there has been an increase from last year to this year in the number of groups and individuals accessing our spaces and offerings. We have seen a **47% rise in group usage** and a minimum of **20% rise in individual usage** of the service on 2006/7 figures (we only have comparative figures for Semester 2 in 2006/7).

Another development has been an increase in the number of sessions/gatherings we provided for international students from two per semester to one per month. Building on that, several students have asked us to help with welcoming international students as part of the coming year's Freshers' Week activities. We also have expanded our **multifaith contacts since last year (54% up on**

2006/7) and will continue to increase our support for student initiatives in this area.

Challenges

One of the major challenges facing this University Chaplaincy in the next academic year is that of emergency cover. In accordance with the University's agreed protocol on sudden student death, the full time Chaplains and the Honorary Chaplains serve as frontline provision for responding to emergencies. Despite on-call cover historically being part of the University Chaplain's job description, in recent months this responsibility during out-of-hours has been deemed 'non essential', and moves have been made to withdraw it from the University Chaplain's remit. This constitutes a significant change to the University's emergency provision. It appears as if a system which has worked well throughout the University is being dismantled without widespread consultation with those who have worked hard to provide this service. This may be the first time since the University of Edinburgh has had a Chaplaincy that there is no system of on-call cover in place.

Future

In all other ways we stand on the forefront of Higher Education Chaplaincy provision. Our commitment to spirituality and multifaith development is nationally recognised, and the well-being of all students and all staff from the lowest grade to the highest remains a central feature of our work. We are fortunate to have dedicated teams of Chaplaincy staff, Honorary Chaplains, and Chaplaincy Committee members who continue to collaborate with each other on important Chaplaincy issues. Together we are guided by our mission, inspired and challenged by the opportunities before us, and grateful to have the resources that help us continue offering high quality Chaplaincy provision and leadership.

II. Introduction

A. Mission Statement

The purpose of University Chaplaincy is to provide a presence and a place for those of all faiths and none, amongst staff, students, Chaplaincy Team and the public – embodying a spirituality that affirms the values of generosity, integrity, inclusivity and respectful relationships; recognizes the inherent worth of all life; fosters an environment of personal empowerment and community; and makes decisions in accordance with the greater good.

B. Our Services

The University of Edinburgh Chaplaincy fulfils its mission by focusing on welcome and hospitality; spirituality and multifaith; personal and spiritual support; labyrinth development; holistic learning; communication and administration.

C. Summary

The rest of this report describes how, in the year 2007-2008, the University Chaplaincy has offered the entire University community places for reflection, occasions for meeting others, support for individuals and groups, opportunities for holistic learning and safe spaces for exploring and addressing challenging personal, spiritual and social issues.



University Carol Service (photo by Mike Wilkinson)

III. Contributions to University Life

A. Provision for Staff

1. Regular staff lunches at Kings Buildings Chaplaincy site and Bristo Square Chaplaincy Centre
2. Periodic spirituality retreats – (staff and post graduate)
3. Regular opportunities for learning about and experiencing a variety of spiritual practices such as Christian communion, shamanic journey, Muslim prayer, Buddhist meditation, Sufi chanting and Dances of Universal Peace
4. One-to-one personal and spiritual support
5. Rituals and ceremonies both for individuals and the University Community, such as weddings, blessings, initiation rites, funerals and memorials; University Service, Remembrance Day Service, University Carol Service, Anatomy Memorial Service
6. Reflection, contemplation and prayer spaces and resources
7. Drop-in space
8. Space to exhibit art and photography



Staff & Student (Heart of Flesh) Retreat



Spirituality & Multifaith Resource Centre

B. Provision for Students

1. Drop-in space
2. Meeting space for religious societies and for non-religious societies and groups
3. Reflection, contemplation and prayer spaces and resources
4. Study space in Spirituality and Multifaith Resource Centre
5. International students gatherings
6. Inter-group mediation
7. One-to-one spiritual and personal support
8. Regular opportunities for learning about and experiencing a variety of spiritual practices (see Provision for Staff)
9. Rituals and Ceremonies including Graduation Services and reflections at Graduation Ceremonies
10. Voluntary and leadership opportunities
11. Support for EUSA, when feasible

C. Provision for Wider Community

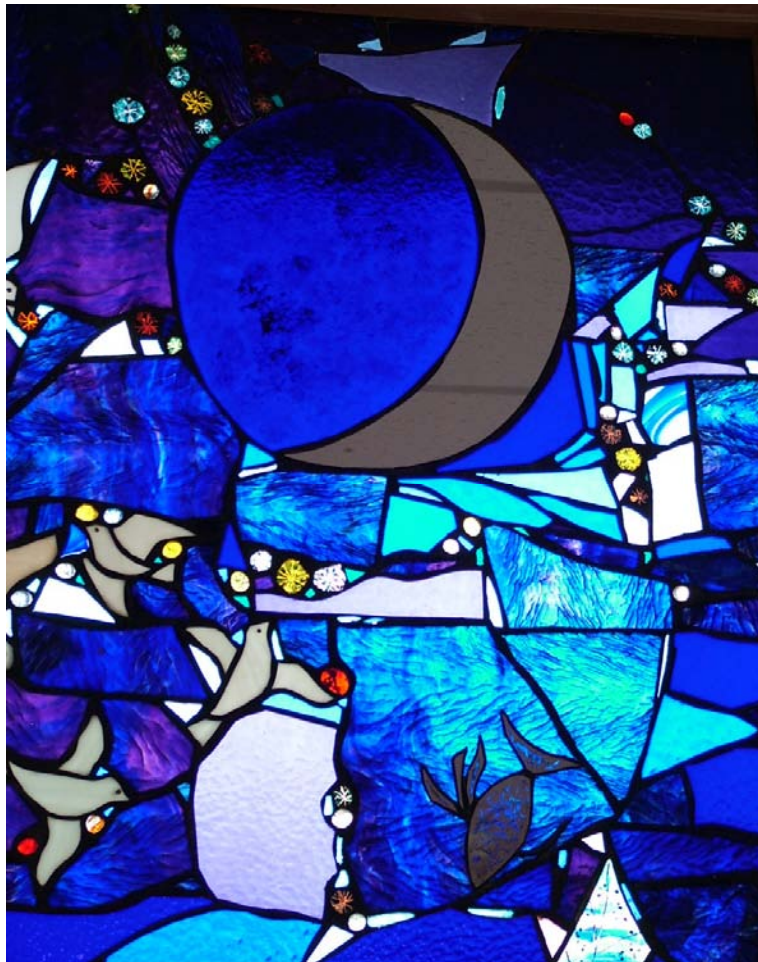
1. Regular meeting space for former staff groups
2. Weekly meeting space for Ismaili Faith Community
3. Host for Scottish Higher Education Chaplains' Conference in February of 2008
4. Alumni – weddings and blessings
5. The Edinburgh Labyrinth and Indoor Labyrinth
6. Collaboration with Edinburgh Interfaith Association (EIFA) and with Scottish Interfaith Council (SIFC)
7. Connection with Edinburgh and the wider Scottish faith communities through our team of Honorary Chaplains
8. Regular opportunities for learning about and experiencing a variety of spiritual practices (see Provisions for Staff and Students)



Staff wedding facilitated by the University and Associate Chaplains

D. Summary

Most of these provisions take place in the Bristo Square Chaplaincy Centre, but others happen in the University Chaplaincy spaces at Kings Buildings, Holyrood, the Edinburgh Labyrinth in George Square and at Summerhall. Almost 2500 students come in and out of the Bristo Square Chaplaincy Centre each week, making it an integral part of the student experience. The variety of groups and individuals using University Chaplaincy spaces reflects the Chaplaincy's ethos of and belief in welcoming people of all faiths and none.



Panel from 'The Cycle of Life' stained glass in Bristo Square Chaplaincy Centre

IV. Achievements 2007-2008

A. Bristo Square Chaplaincy Usage

The Bristo Square Chaplaincy Centre is the well-loved hub of Chaplaincy provision within the University. It functions as the front line face of Chaplaincy and serves as the primary gateway for staff and students to connect with everything that Chaplaincy has to offer:

welcome and personal support intervention in acute situations

safe space for multifaith, social and political dialogue

place of refuge to chill out, reflect or pray

participatory workshops

Table 1.1 Groups using Bristo Square Chaplaincy Centre

University Religious/Spiritual/Meditation Societies (12)

Bahá'í Society	Jewish Society
Buddhist Society	Tai Chi Society
Christian Union	Tibet Society
Heart of Flesh	Vedic Society
Holocaust Memorial	Yoga Society
Islamic Society	Shamanic Journey Group

External Religious Groups (8)

Bahá'í of Edinburgh
Cursillo
Druids of Edinburgh
Edinburgh Interfaith Association
Episcopal Diocesan Gifford Lecture Discussion Night
Higher Education Chaplains' Conference
Ismailis
Methodists

Chaplaincy "Exploring Spiritual Practice" Workshops (12)

Art and Spirituality (Inclusive of All Traditions)
Brahma Kumaris (Hindu)
Dances of Universal Peace (Inclusive of All Traditions)

Ignacian Spirituality (Christian)
Jesus' Prayer in Aramaic (Christian)
Labyrinth (Inclusive of All Traditions)
Meditation (Buddhist)
Sufi Spirituality (Mystical Islam)
The Jesus Prayer (Greek Orthodox)
The Pilgrimage (Inclusive of All Traditions)
The Rosary (Catholic)
Taizé (Christian)

Other Multi-faith Initiatives (10)

Chaplaincy Freshers' Fair
Christian Communion (Inclusive)
Diversity Game
Holocaust Memorial Planning
Honorary Chaplains' Meetings (Regular)
Interfaith Meetings (Student-Led)
Islamic Society Fundraisers
Labyrinth (Indoor and Outdoor)
Multifaith Forum
Taizé Pilgrimage Planning

Non-Religious University Societies (29)

African-Caribbean Society
Amnesty International Society
Country Dancing Society
Edinburgh Students Charities Appeal Society
Edinburgh University First Aiders (Red Cross)
Engineers Without Borders
Fair Trade Café
Fonelisco Society
Habitat for Humanity
Humanists Society
I-Cue Society
Juggling Society
Labour Club
Les Escogriffes (Theatre Group)
Malaysian Society
Mediterranean Gastronomic Society
Modern Dance Society
Palestinian Solidarity Society
People and Planet Society

Persian Society
Physics Society
Politics Society
Rugby Club
Socialist Workers
Stop the War Society
Tango Society
Vixens (Cheerleaders)
Women of the World
Young Greens Society

External Non-Religious Groups/Events (22)

Al-Anon
Associate Chaplain's Book Launch
Basic Life Support Training
Book Group
British Council (International Office)
Corporate Services
Depression Alliance Scotland
Disability Office's Programme Launch
Edinburgh Marathon Meetings
Enneagram Workshop
EUSA Staff Training Weekend
Graduation Receptions
Health and Safety (Academic)
International Student Gatherings
LEAPS
Listening to Children Training Course
Photography Exhibits (Various)
Retired Staff (URSA)
Sick Kids Memorial Service
Social Work EAL Group
Spanish Student Play Rehearsals
Student Recruitment (Admissions)

TOTAL of 93 Groups

In 2006-2007 the Total Number of Groups was 64.



Bristo Square Auditorium

Table 1.2 Number of People Coming Into Bristo Square Chaplaincy Centre in a Given Week

	<u>Semester 1</u>	<u>Semester 2</u>
Daytime (9:30 a.m.–5 p.m).	2225	1173
Evening (5–9 p.m.)	<u>624</u>	<u>844</u>
TOTAL	2849	2017

In 2006-2007, the total number of people for Semester 2 was 1680.

Table 1.3 Number of People Coming Into Bristo Square Chaplaincy Centre on a Given Day of the Week

	<u>Semester 1</u>	<u>Semester 2</u>
Monday	866	336
Tuesday	802	399
Wednesday	481	383
Thursday	286	391
Friday	392	438
Saturday	0	45
Sunday	<u>22</u>	<u>25</u>
TOTAL	2849	2017

NOTE: These figures refer only to Bristo Square Chaplaincy Centre and do not include other Chaplaincy sites.

This breakdown by day of the week was not included in last year's report.

Table 1.4 Categories of Chaplaincy Usage by University Community

Staff
 Students – Undergraduate, Postgraduate (PG) Taught and PG Research
 Religious Societies
 People wanting a relaxed, drop-in, de-stressing, meeting or prayer space (Bristo Square Chaplaincy Centre, K.B., Moray House, and Summerhall)
 International Students
 Vulnerable Students and Staff
 Students and Staff seeking non-alcoholic space for social meeting
 Alumni and Former Staff
This list of categories was not included in last year's report.

B. Personal and Group Pastoral Support

Chaplaincy offers continuous support to individuals and university staff/student groups during day to day times of stress, as well as during times of acute need. Table 1.5 outlines the approximate percentage which individual chaplaincy staff spend providing personal or group support.

Table 1.5 Personal and Group Pastoral Support

% of time Chaplaincy Staff Provide Support for Individuals

	<u>2007-2008</u>	<u>2006-2007</u>
University Chaplain	30%	40%
Associate Chaplain	30%	50%
Administrative Assistant	25%	70%
Chaplaincy Administrators	15%	15%

% of time Chaplaincy Staff Provide Support for Groups

	<u>2007-2008</u>	<u>2006-2007</u>
University Chaplain	30%	40%
Associate Chaplain	45%	50%
Administrative Assistant	60%	15%
Chaplaincy Administrators	5%	5%

This year Honorary (Voluntary) Chaplains provided weekly surgery hours in the Chaplaincy sites as well as offering pastoral support to staff and students in their own communities.



Multifaith Dinner Conversation

C. Multifaith Development

1. Around 70 students from seven religious/belief societies attended a Multifaith Dinner that was planned, prepared and hosted by student leaders of these societies. Good food, fun and sharing from each others traditions characterised the event, which took place in the Bristo Square Chaplaincy Centre.
2. The Chaplaincy continues to support a Multifaith Forum composed of leaders from each of the student religious societies. One outcome of these meetings was the Multifaith Dinner. Another was their decision to begin planning multifaith learning events during the 2008-09 academic year. Some of this planning will be in collaboration with the multifaith team of Honorary Chaplains. A few of the Forum members also have offered to contribute to the Exploring Spiritual Practice sessions for 2008-09. One member of Forum, Nurul Hussain, wrote about her experience in the student newspaper, *Student*. Here is an excerpt from Nurul's article on page 11 of the 26 February 2008 edition:

'Interfaith, at least in the University of Edinburgh, is about courage. During my conversations with those involved in planning an interfaith dinner, I realised that most people, whatever their religious background, face the same problems...

The event began when a group of students from religious societies sat down one convivial day and decided that we needed to have a get-together where we could have meaningful conversations with people that we would never have otherwise met. We really thought hard about what we wanted out of this occasion; that includes the amazing Vedic Society's cooking of vast amounts of mouth-watering vegetarian Indian food!

It was on the much anticipated evening of Saturday 16th of February that the Chaplaincy hosted an interfaith dinner. It was happily attended by members of the University's Bahá'í, Islamic, Buddhist, Vedic, Humanist society, Catholic Students' Union and Christian Union.

. . . It doesn't matter if you're a Buddhist or a Humanist, if you're trying to live your life according to a certain set value system at University then you're in the minority. This being the case, how does one try to lead their life according to the values they hold?

While being involved in interfaith I met many people who all faced the same problems, and asked the same questions, as me; what shapes your everyday decisions? How do you explain that you do or do not do certain things because of your value systems without sounding completely out of touch with the rest of the world?

These are not easy questions, and they have no easy answers. Yet these are issues which anyone who believes in a particular belief system faces everyday. Personally, I felt I made friends and met people during the dinner with whom I had more in common due to the similar moral outlook which religious belief provided. The atmosphere was warm and accepting; everyone at the dinner had the right to believe in what they believed and we respected and accepted one another for that. There was no sense of blind self-righteousness, preaching, or judging. It was about learning, interacting and debating. It was all about maintaining dialogue and not insulating oneself with preconceived ideas. . . . I'd like to think that this event opened some minds and hearts to the truth of Archbishop Desmond Tutu's words when he said: "My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together."



2. We engaged in learning, networking and community-building to prevent violent extremism through attendance by Chaplains at a number of meetings and conferences:
 - a. 'Critical Incidents and Community Reassurance' meeting with Lothian and Borders Police
 - b. 'Preventing Violent Extremism' Conference, London
 - c. 'Faith versus Fear: Managing Interfaith Conflict' Conference in Newcastle – sponsored by the Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ)
 - d. 'Chaplaincy for All' Conference, London Sponsored by the Church of England
3. The University Chaplaincy sponsored and facilitated the 'The Diversity Game' as part of the Edinburgh Interfaith Week programme.
4. The Chaplaincy team facilitated a guided walk in August on The Edinburgh Labyrinth for the Festival of Spirituality and Peace as part of the larger Edinburgh Festival.
5. The Associate Chaplain planned and facilitated a day workshop on 'Re-Membering the Divine Feminine' as part of the Middle Eastern Festival of Spirituality and Peace in March of 2008.
7. We hosted the film 'The Imam and the Pastor' in order to heighten awareness of the challenges presented by interfaith dialogue.
8. We welcomed a national gathering of the Bahá'í Community.
9. We hosted a daylong workshop for the Edinburgh and Forth Methodist Circuit, which was planned and facilitated by the Methodist Honorary Chaplain.
10. We welcomed The Gododdin Seed Group (Order of Bards, Ovates and Druids) for their Winter Solstice Ceremony.
11. We hosted The Islamic Society and local Muslim community as they celebrated their annual Eid-ul-Adha

meal in the Bristo Square Chaplaincy Centre in January 2008

12. We welcomed the new student Vedic Society into the Bristo Square Chaplaincy Centre by way of support for their ceremonies and activities

Table 1.6 Spirituality and Multifaith Contacts Maintained and Developed 2007-2008 (Total of 37)

Afro-Caribbean Christian Group	Iona Community
Bahá'í	Ismailis
Baptists	Jewish - Liberal
Brahma Kumaris	Jewish - Orthodox
Buddhists	Methodists
Catholic Student Union	Muslims
Chinese Christian Fellowship	Orthodox - Greek
	Orthodox - Russian
Church of Scotland	Quaker
Christian Union	Shamanic
Coptic	Sikh
Cursillo	Student Christian Movement
Dances of Universal Peace	Sufis
Divine Feminine	Tai Chi
Druids	Taizé Community
Episcopalians	Unitarians
Feminist Spirituality	United Reform
Free Church of Scotland	Vedic Society
Hindus	Yoga
Humanists	

The number of these contacts for 2006-2007 was 24.



Hindu Dialogue

D. Exploring Spiritual Practice (ESP)

The University Chaplaincy offered monthly ESP sessions for students, staff and the wider multifaith community to learn about diverse spiritual traditions and to build positive community.

E. Mediation

The University Chaplain continued her involvement in facilitating conversations between groups with conflicting perspectives. In one case she and the Associate Chaplain were invited to a conversation initiated by students who wanted to avoid ending up in the same situation of acute conflict they had experienced the previous year. The Chaplaincy Administrative Assistant regularly facilitates dialogue to support healthy relationships and build stronger bridges between Chaplaincy and religious groups that feel marginalised.

F. Support for International Students

Our monthly gatherings for international students helped to provide support, connection and a relaxed, non alcoholic, social environment, to help people feel included in the University Community.

G. University Services and Ceremonies

A significant responsibility of the University Chaplaincy is to facilitate and support the official University Services and ceremonies. During the past year those included:

1. The University Annual Opening Ceremony, a welcoming for Freshers
2. The University Service, a welcome for all students and staff at the beginning of the academic year
3. Universities Remembrance Service in collaboration with Heriot Watt University, Napier University, Queen Margaret University and Officer Training Corps from participating universities
4. Summer and winter Graduation Services of Thanksgiving at Greyfriars and Highland Toolbooth Kirk, held daily between Graduation Ceremonies for all graduating students and their parents.



*Festive Fun at the University Carol Service!
(photo by Mike Wilkinson)*

5. University Carol Service - followed by a reception at Bristo Square Chaplaincy Centre
This year's attendance was so great that next year's overspill will be accommodated in the Reid Hall.

6. University Anatomy Memorial Service, designed to remember and give thanks for the generosity of those who gave their bodies for teaching anatomy and the furtherance of medical education. This service welcomed the families and friends of those who had died, as well as the staff and students of the School of Medicine.
7. Graduation Ceremonies, at which the Chaplaincy occasionally provided the reflection.
8. General Council Meetings, at which the Chaplaincy Team provided reflection and prayer.
9. Holocaust Memorial Event, a student and staff initiative supported by the Chaplaincy in planning and in offering space where it could be held.
10. Chaplaincy were invited by the University of Edinburgh Law School to collaborate in preparing and leading a service in Greyfriar's Kirk to mark the Tercentenary of the teaching of law in the University.



Clergy, Judges and Academics who ministered at the Law Tercentenary Service

H. Gifford Lectures

Through the Episcopalian Honorary Chaplain, the University Chaplaincy and the Episcopal Diocese co-sponsored a post lecture reception and discussion.

I. Improvement of Chaplaincy Hospitality Facilities

The Chaplaincy were pleased to win a small capital equipment bid, which allowed us to refurbish our main kitchen. This supports the ongoing student led ceremonially and charity related food events, such as the weekly Fair Trade Café, religious society fundraisers, interfaith meals and Muslim Ramadan. This upgraded facility will greatly enhance our daily drop-in refreshment provision.



Bristo Square Auditorium Exhibition Space

J. Exhibitions

The University Chaplaincy provides space and staff time to selected staff, students and members of the wider community for photographic exhibitions. During this past year those included:

1. Engineers Without Borders, October 2007
2. Fonelisco Society, December 2007
3. STAR (Student Action for Refugees), January 2008

4. Peace and Tranquility: *Graham Riddell* photographer, as part of the Middle Eastern Festival of Spirituality & Peace, February to March 2008
5. 2008 Hip & Zen : Fashion, Culture and Spy WIFIE, April 2008
6. Forgotten Friends : The Burma Education Partnership, May 2008



'Smailholm Tower, Scottish Borders'
from the exhibition Peace and Tranquility (by Graham Riddell)

K. Scottish Higher Education Chaplains' Conference



Conference Lunch – Chaplains, Staff, Students and Guests

In February 2008 the University Chaplaincy hosted the Annual Scottish Higher Education Chaplains' Conference which had as the theme, 'Fostering Dialogue and Relationships through the lens of Unity in Diversity.' The programme included 'Global and Local Cafes' and speaker Sheykh Ibrahim Mogra from the Muslim Council of Britain. Chaplaincy staff and Honorary Chaplains joined together to host and facilitate the day. The Principal's Office welcomed conference participants and local civic and multifaith guests. Coming from all over Scotland, this was the largest gathering of Higher Education Chaplains for many years. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

See www.chaplaincy.ed.ac.uk/conference.



Sheykh Ibrahim Mogra

L. Effective Collaboration with Other Student Support Services

1. Planned and implemented joint programmes with Student Counselling Service
2. Communicated and consulted with Staff Counsellors
3. Liaised with Health Services
4. Provided space and support for the Disability Office's Programme Launch
5. Conferred with the Advice Place
6. Supported EUSA's programmes
7. Continued membership of the University Equality and Diversity Committee, the Disability Committee, the Mental Health Subgroup, the Welfare Consultancy Group and virtual member of the Student Affairs Forum.

M. Hosting of Book Launch

In April 2008 the Chaplaincy Centre hosted a celebration and launch for the Associate Chaplain Dr. Mary Catherine Burgess's book, *A New Paradigm of Spirituality and Religion*, which was published by Continuum.

N. Labyrinth Project



The Edinburgh Labyrinth, George Square Gardens

1. The University Chaplain has had a labyrinth workshop accepted for the Global Higher Education Chaplains' Conference in Finland in June 2008.
2. As part of developing consultancy work with HEIs, in February 2008 she trained a range of staff from the University of Kent in working with the labyrinth particularly in the areas of Teaching and Learning, Student Counselling and Chaplaincy.
3. The launch of Spring Fling, Scotland's premiere art and craft open studio event, took place on the Edinburgh Labyrinth in April 2008. This was a lovely connection with Dumfriesshire land artist Jim Buchanan, who was a consultant to the Edinburgh Labyrinth Build.



Spring Fling Launch

4. The indoor Labyrinth continued to be offered monthly in Bristo Square Chaplaincy Centre, and the George Square Edinburgh Labyrinth has been well used by the University and local communities.
5. The University Chaplain received Advanced Facilitator Labyrinth Training in January 2008 with Veriditas, a not-for-profit organisation, which pioneered the revival of the labyrinth in the twentieth century. This was held in Burlingame, California.



Mercy Centre Labyrinth, Burlingame, California

She is one of two people in the US and Europe who have been accepted to join Veriditas in training new Labyrinth Facilitators in Chartres, France



Medieval Labyrinth, Chartres Cathedral, France

O. Continued Professional Development

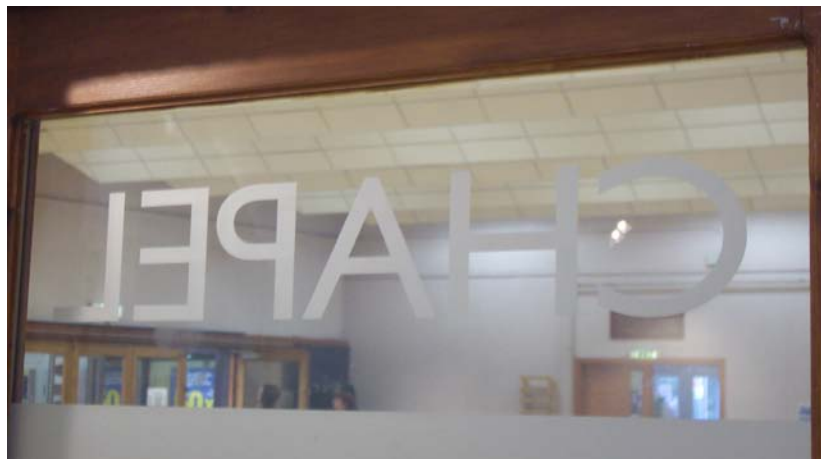
1. Throughout the past year, the University Chaplain has participated in a Spiritual Accompaniment training programme designed to support staff and students on their own spiritual journey within the context of their working and studying life.
2. The Associate Chaplain is completing her second year of preparation for certification as Trainer in the areas of psychodrama, sociometry and group psychotherapy. She, too, continues to use those skills at Chaplaincy group events and programmes designed to help build effective community and develop quality relationships among those with diverse perspectives.

P. Feedback from Chaplaincy Users

1. *'The Chaplaincy has been a great space to use for our society meetings in being an accessible and welcoming facility, central to Uni Buildings. The staff have gone out of their way not only to accommodate us as a society, but invested their time and effort in building relationships, in some cases enabling and facilitating leadership.'*
(Hannah Kelly, undergraduate, new CU president)
2. *'Having a chaplaincy has provided the Baha'i Society with a venue for our events; it's given us a friendly and informal place to meet and relax; and the support structure in place is great for our needs. On a more personal note, it's a great place – a sort of "neutral ground", not associated with EUSA or any particular religion – where I can relax, study, chat with people, and make new friends.'*
(Rory Turnbull, undergraduate, former president of the Baha'i Society)
3. *'The Chaplaincy has provided a supportive and stimulating environment for me to explore ideas about the practice of spirituality. I have found the labyrinth, especially, to be a source of both peace and meditative insight. The Chaplains and staff are welcoming and ready to help; the community which has evolved from things such as the Heart of Flesh group or the people I used to see at the Gatherings have added*

richness and new dimensions to the way I relate to others. I've learned a lot and found great resources whenever I walked in.'
(Amy Norton, PG research student – Ph.D.)

4. *'As a member of staff here at Edinburgh University I continue to enjoy every benefit that the Chaplaincy Centre offered to me as a student. The Centre remains a welcoming and peaceful place to socialise and study/work. As a student here at the University, the Centre was a big part of my University experience and the Chaplaincy staff became some of my best friends. This is still true today. Long may the Chaplaincy Centre and the indispensable services it provides continue!'*
(Lawrence Mercer, Student Support Assistant, Main Library)
5. *'For me, the Chaplaincy has meant so much during my university years. I have so many good memories of the times spent there (and I'm still making new ones!). I first found myself taking part in a lot of activities there during a particularly difficult time in my life and the people I shared time with at the Chaplaincy were there during many of my important transitions. My soul has been nurtured in that place and for that I will always be grateful!'* (Emma Dymock, PG Research student – Ph.D.)
6. *'The Chaplaincy is the place I go to escape the hussle and bussle of University life. I find the environment comforting and the staff incredibly helpful, making you feel right at home. Whether you choose to eat your lunch there, catch up with friends, read the paper or contemplate, it is the perfect place.'*
(David Trousdale, undergraduate, member of Amnesty International Society)



'Wee White Room', a place of contemplation and prayer

7. *(Chaplaincy)... provided a safe and welcoming atmosphere in which to explore my ever-changing self and an encouraging place to experiment with new experiences. I honestly believe that one of the things that helped me to accomplish what I did during my stay in Scotland was the support and community that I found in the other people who participated in the (Chaplaincy)Heart of Flesh activities... I have no idea where I would be today if Di and MaryCatherine had not decided to offer Heart of Flesh through the Chaplaincy and who knows what it would have developed into without the participation and efforts of all those who attended.
(Stephanie Barger, post graduate research)*

8. *The chaplaincy provides a space that is unique on the university campus; it's a place of respect, trust and openness. Whether working, talking with others or meeting as a society, it's a place where everyone is accepted and listened to. As a founding member of the Humanist Society we have found the support of the chaplaincy invaluable for allowing us to explore our thoughts and form a community.
(Clare Huxley, 4th year, PhD. Psycholinguistics)*

V. Changes at the Chaplaincy

A. Goodbyes and Hellos

1. We said goodbye to Chaplaincy Receptionist Elizabeth Forrester as we said hello to Kate Langton who took up the post in August 2007. Kate brings with her an M.A. in Oriental and African Religions and a broad background in multifaith study and experience.



MaryCatherine, Valery, Di, Kate

2. In July 07, Lesley McCorkindale and Valery Cowan began job-sharing the post of Chaplaincy Administrator. Valery has returned to the University with a BSc in Sociology, having previously worked in the University's Quality Assurance section.
3. In March 2008 Lesley gave birth to another wee baby boy. We look forward to her return in the autumn after her maternity leave.
4. We were delighted when the University created a new fulltime Associate Chaplain post, which we were able to offer to Dr. MaryCatherine Burgess our former Intern Chaplain. She took up the post in September 2007.

We are extremely grateful for the continued hard work, input and support of our Honorary Chaplains. This year we welcomed Jane Blackley (Church of Scotland) and Bruno Clifton O.P. (Roman Catholic). We now have a dedicated room in Bristo Square Chaplaincy Centre which Honorary Chaplains can use as part of their pastoral support for the University community.



Chaplaincy Team Meeting

B. The Four Month Plan

1. The University Chaplain will be on sabbatical from May - August of 2008 doing developmental work and writing related to the labyrinth.
2. The Associate Chaplain will participate with the General Council at their June meeting in Washington, D.C. She will also be offering reflections at some of the summer graduation ceremonies.
3. The Chaplaincy Team worked diligently to complete next year's planning and programming prior to the University Chaplain's sabbatical.

VI. Plans for the Academic Year 2008-2009

- A. The first annual Multifaith Public Conversation will be held in October to mark the beginning of the academic year. Principal Sir Timothy O'Shea will welcome the University Community and speakers from, the three Abrahamic faiths, who will address 'The Richness of Diversity' (in a Higher Education context).
- B. We plan to expand the frequency of student-led multicultural events.
- C. We will be initiating a series of World Café conversations focused on questions that matter.
- D. We also plan to initiate phase one in the development of a supportive labyrinth community made up of staff and students. The purpose of this project is to embed within the University and in other Higher Education Institutions throughout the UK an understanding of the labyrinth as a reflective tool.
- E. The Honorary Chaplains and some representatives of various religious societies have indicated an interest in developing some multifaith learning opportunities in the coming year. The University Chaplaincy will support and encourage this initiative.
- F. We will continue with our existing successful programmes.

University Chaplaincy
April 2008