

University of Edinburgh
Chaplaincy



Annual Report
2009 - 2010

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Centre photo pages:

Images from the Parliament of the World's Religions and Chaplaincy programming and events throughout the year.

I Introduction

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.

II Executive Summary

“I graduated yesterday from Edinburgh medical school. I wanted to write to say how moving I found your address. Poetic, human, contemplative. Spot on.

I also wanted to express my gratitude for the services that the chaplaincy provides, which I have found so beneficial over the last 6 years as a student.

In particular I have found much solace in the contemplation room above Potterow and have spent many, many hours walking the Labyrinth. Both are invaluable resources for students (and, I imagine, staff) and have quietly contributed to an unquantifiable but very real increase in the peace and wellbeing of our campus community and beyond.

Sincere thanks on behalf of us all for your work in securing and maintaining these precious spaces.”

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.

Quality

In an institutional culture demanding continuous improvement, we resist a purely reactive response which suggests that the same number of staff with similar resources, can year on year “up the ante” on supposed continuous quality improvement. Rather, we celebrate yet again the reality that the Chaplaincy department has continued to offer its usual high standard of service to the University Community in 2009 to 2010 as it has for the last ten years.

The goodwill of our voluntary team of Honorary Chaplains and Belief Contacts, as well as the genuine sense of owned responsibility and “yes we can” attitude of the small paid staff, remain a hallmark of this service provision. This manner of working and service is, I believe, a gift to the University Community. It goes well beyond the limiting language of mere job description and is offered out of real compassion and concern for the well-being of all students and all staff, from the lowest grade to the highest.

Engaging with our wider community

A highlight of the past year was attendance at the Parliament of the World’s Religions in Melbourne by a multi faith team of staff and students from the Chaplaincy. The experience of presenting both a Spiritual Observance on the labyrinth and a workshop, based on the documentary film we had filmed during the year, was very worth while.

Future

This will be my last year as University Chaplain. Ten years ago I arrived with a vision for the work of Chaplaincy based on four main principles - a focus on inclusive spirituality and multifaith development, generous welcome and hospitality in all our pastoral work and space development, the potential of better web communication and a desire (based on an appreciation of the Sacred at the heart of all creation) to develop the reach of Chaplaincy within the whole interest and life of the University,

Looking back to 2000, it is good to see these elements of that early vision embedded in the culture and work of the present Chaplaincy provision.

Thus, developing a general University wide provision for staff and students of all faiths/beliefs and none was never merely a useful tagline – but rather the start of a journey we have made which has led to the University of Edinburgh Chaplaincy being seen as a leader in spirituality and multifaith development in the HE sector in the UK and worldwide.

Our personal pastoral work, a part of the welcome of Chaplaincy, seems to become ever more significant as the pace of life quickens, expectations rise and internationalization expands. The popularity of the Chaplaincy Centre in Bristo Square is due in large part to the generous welcome and hospitality of staff and the ongoing development of the space itself.

The exemplary work of administrator Lesley McCorkindale has ensured that we have enjoyed good Chaplaincy and Labyrinth websites and that we remain high on the list of University Support Services who have made the significant change to the polopoly web system creating highly accessible, visually interesting and communicative sites.

- www.labyrinth.ed.ac.uk
- www.chaplaincy.ed.ac.uk (in transition to polopoly)

Ten years on from my appointment, feedback suggests that the Chaplaincy provision is understood by a wide variety of staff and students to be “for them”, a service that is deeply interested in, and supportive of, their life, study and work within the University Community.

It feels a good time to be thankful for all this last ten years has brought and to hand over the demanding, rich, fascinating and challenging leadership of Chaplaincy to a new University Chaplain for an exciting new phase in the life of this unique provision for staff and students.

Rev Di Williams
University Chaplain
May 2010

III Continuous Quality Improvement

1 Quality People

“Chaplaincy is both a wonderful place for community during the week, with an open auditorium and work place. Meeting with people I would never otherwise meet, in such a relaxed, accepting and ‘free’ atmosphere. As well as being somewhere which wonderfully facilitates multi-faith relationships, and understanding between these different societies. Much of this is thanks to the openness, love, enthusiasm, willingness and care of the Chaplaincy staff for the people of the Chaplaincy and our university.” student

“I’ve been using the contemplation room regularly over the past few months - I think it’s a wonderful resource. The Chaplaincy staff have been unfailingly helpful and friendly, and the building is clean and well-maintained. Thanks” staff member

Our staff continue to be a dedicated and hard-working team, seeking to provide high-quality services and a friendly, welcoming presence within the University.

In the summer of 2009 Associate Chaplain MaryCatherine Burgess was made an Honorary Fellow in the Schools of Health in Social Science and Divinity.

University Chaplain, Di Williams, will be launched as the “Veriditas Master Teacher” for the UK and Europe, training Labyrinth Facilitators in Higher Education and wider.

Following the return of Tamara Knowles to America, we were pleased to welcome our new Chaplaincy Receptionist, Judith Fleming, who took up her post with us in March.

We welcomed Rabbi Garry Wayland as the new Jewish Honorary Chaplain, and said goodbye to Rabbi David Rose whose participation as Acting Honorary Jewish Chaplain was considerable. We also welcomed Rev Fiona Bennett as URC (United Reformed Church) Honorary Chaplain. Rev Kristina Herbold Ross joined us for twelve months as Assistant Church of Scotland Honorary Chaplain.

After several years of creative and committed service, Father Bruno Clifton leaves this summer for further theological study in Rome. He will be sorely missed by the Catholic Chaplaincy in George Square as well as by the University Chaplaincy. We are sad to lose Vajrahriaya Avinash as our Buddhist Belief Contact but are delighted that he will continue to offer Mindfulness Meditation in our weekly Spa for the Soul programme.

Our new Quaker Belief Contacts, Rachel Howell and Dr Sarah Martin are already contributing positively to the growing breadth of team provision within the Chaplaincy.

We continued with our programme of weekly meetings and extended training sessions for Honorary Chaplains and Belief Contacts. Additional away days and chaplains' conferences allowed for more in-depth exploration of areas of common interest, issues and planning. The Scottish Chaplains Conference Day at St Andrews University offered a fascinating hands-on programme of pilgrimage and art therapy.

2 Quality Services and Ceremonies

On behalf of the University the Chaplaincy is involved in numerous ceremonies and services throughout the academic year.

The University Service, marking the beginning of the academic year, took place again in Greyfriars and Highland Tolbooth Kirk. We welcomed Professor David Fergusson, acting head of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, to preach at the service. In the year of the bicentenary of Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of publication of the Origin of Species, he opened up the theme of evolution.

The annual Universities' Remembrance Service and University Anatomy Memorial Service both gave different sections of the University Community the chance to pay respects to those who had given their lives for others. The Anatomy Memorial Service is particularly poignant for both the families of those who have donated their bodies for research and for the students who have the privilege of learning from those who have been so generous.

The Chaplains continued to provide personal services, rituals and celebrations for many members of the University Community.

Graduation Ceremonies and Services continue to offer important moments for students to reflect on their experience at University and celebrate their academic achievements. The Chaplaincy enjoy a significant role in these occasions, both in providing reflections at the ceremonies and in leading worship for those who wish to mark the occasion in this way.

The Associate Chaplain gave reflections at the Honorary Graduations of Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Annie Lennox. The University Chaplain offered the reflection at the Honorary Graduation of HRH Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud.

This year's University Carol Service took place when both the University Chaplain and Associate Chaplain were involved in the Parliament of the World's Religions in Melbourne. In their absence Professor Stuart J Brown gave the address and Reverends Bob Akroyd and Bob Gould facilitated the service. The donation of £1996.34 to Tearfund and the Grassmarket Project surpassed all previous years.

The University Chaplain has led reflections and prayers at the meetings of the General Council throughout 2009/10.

3 Pastoral Support

“Chaplaincy helped me finding friends, finding home and more than that, finding myself. Thanks!” student

Chaplaincy offers pastoral 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 outlines the estimated percentage of work time which individual Chaplaincy staff spend providing personal or group pastoral support.

Personal and Group Pastoral Support

Table 1: Estimated % of time Chaplaincy Staff provide support for individuals

	2009-10	2008-09
<i>University Chaplain</i>	30%	30%
<i>Associate Chaplain</i>	35%	35%
<i>Chaplaincy Receptionist</i>	60%	60%
<i>Chaplaincy Administrators</i>	5%	5%

Table 2: Estimated % of time Chaplaincy staff provide support for groups

	2009-10	2008-09
<i>University Chaplain</i>	35%	35%
<i>Associate Chaplain</i>	50%	40%
<i>Chaplaincy Receptionist</i>	20%	15%
<i>Chaplaincy Administrators</i>	5%	5%

We estimate that more than 50% of the students we support and work with are international students.

4 Enhancing the Staff and Student Experience

“The Chaplaincy are doing a wonderful job of facilitating and providing an atmosphere of openness, peace and dialogue – from their warm and friendly staff to the very building itself providing a place to think and disconnect from the hectic world we live in – Thank you.” student

“I’ve never been somewhere that I felt like I was such a part of something. There is a real sense of community... and I feel privileged to have been able to take part in it.” student

multifaithFORUM and multifaithCOLLOQUY

multifaithFORUM is a formal meeting of the University Chaplain with leaders of those religious and belief societies that are affiliated with Chaplaincy, and it meets twice a semester to share information and raise any common concerns. multifaithCOLLOQUY, the more informal student-led action arm of multifaith, belief, and values events, includes not only religious and belief society leaders, but all students who are interested and want to participate in multifaith, belief, and values initiatives. The

Associate Chaplain provides primary support and facilitation for these students and their activities.

Re-Imagining Economics

In May of 2009 Chaplaincy hosted a seminar entitled 'Re-Imagining Economics: Faith and Belief Perspectives on the Economic Crisis'. It centred on a panel-led discussion initiated by people from various faith/belief perspectives as they examined the context of the current economic crisis, the excesses that led to it, what we can deduce from what's happened, and some comments on the system. Held at New College, this was a collaborative event that included panel members Professor Jonathan Thomas (Economics), Iain McWhirter (Humanist and University Rector), Osama Saeed (Islamic and CEO of Scottish Islamic Foundation), Professor Michael Northcott (Divinity/Christian/ Ethics), Brahmachari Vrajvihari Sharan (Vedic), and Dr. Sepideh Taheri (Baha'i). Lively interaction with the audience followed, and the event was well-received.

multifaithCOLLOQUY Discussion Series

Initiated by the multifaithCOLLOQUY, in January and February of 2010 Chaplaincy supported the multifaithCOLLOQUY Discussion Series. These discussions were held at Costa Coffee, Teviot's alcohol-free area, and they addressed the topics 'Challenges for British Pluralism' and 'The Right to Life and the Right to Die'.

Gifford Lecture Seminars

Starting with the March 2008 series of Gifford Lectures by Professor Alexander Nehamas, 'Because it was he, because it was I: Friendship and its place in life' the Chaplaincy has - in partnership with the Scottish Episcopal Church's Diocese of Edinburgh (Adventures in Faith programme) - facilitated discussions in the Chaplaincy Centre following the Gifford Lectures (series and single). All of these excellent and lively discussions have been chaired by The Right Reverend Brian Smith, Bishop of Edinburgh, and have attracted a variety of people from both within – current and past staff and students – and outwith the University.

In May 2009, we were particularly thrilled and delighted to welcome Professor Diana Eck to our discussion following her final lecture: and, following the success of this discussion with Diana Eck attending, the Gifford Lectureship Committee agreed that future lecturers would be invited to participate in the Chaplaincy's joint seminar with the Bishop if they wished, and would be warmly welcomed (but were under no obligation). The Gifford Lectureship Committee very generously advertises and supports these joint seminars.

Spa for the Soul

We have continued to provide opportunities for stilling and reflection during the working day through "Spa for the Soul".

This programme has included weekly Taize prayer, indoor labyrinth walking, Buddhist-led Mindfulness Meditation, Christian Holy Communion and Shamanic Journeying in the Bristo Square Chaplaincy Centre and Catholic Mass, Quaker Meeting and Taizé Prayer in the KB Centre.

Freshers Week

Freshers Week saw our now annual Chaplaincy Freshers Fair, where freshers could meet with the different religious societies as well as Chaplaincy staff and Honorary Chaplains. 'Drop-ins' with coffee and muffins also took place each day in Freshers Week. They offered a welcome space where freshers could chat with each other or with Chaplaincy staff or just take a rest from the busyness of the induction week.

Chaplaincy Documentary Film

In collaboration with Amy Hardie, filmmaker, Head of Research at the Scottish Documentary Institute within the Edinburgh College of Art, and mentor to our project, students, chaplains, and staff members participated throughout 2009 in the creation of a 21-minute documentary film that was presented at the Parliament of the World's Religions in December of 2009. Amy provided basic film training for those people who wanted to help film their own stories of living with diversity throughout a year of 'Chaplaincy experiences'. The editing process with filmmaker and editor Patricia Delso Lucas (Edinburgh College of Art) and the continued guidance from Amy helped reveal that the film was actually helping those involved explore what really matters when dealing with difference. Eventually entitled 'All We've Got', the documentary identifies the importance of friendship and trust, the significance of feeling part of a 'caring community', and the development of respect for the challenges inherent in addressing 'questions that matter' and 'issues that concern' when faced with personal and collective difference. DVD copies are available for those wishing to see it, and there are plans to make the film available through the Chaplaincy web site.

Festival of Belief, Faith, and Values

Another project that was initiated, planned, organised, and ultimately implemented in February 2010 by the multifaith COLLOQUY was the Festival of Belief, Faith, and Values. Colloquy members wanted to celebrate, share, and learn from each other what people in each of the belief and faith societies hold as core values, beliefs, and philosophical perspectives. Lasting for two weeks, this festival began with an opening ceremony, included excellent presentations from nine different societies - with optional experiential participation, and ended with the annual Multifaith Meal. Students were happy with the event and are discussing the possibility of holding another Festival in 2010/2011.

Chaplaincy Week

We drew together many of the events happening early in the first semester into a focused Chaplaincy Week. This included the University Service, a Labyrinth training workshop, Freshers, Faith and Food, Music for Peace and





Love Letters
Silhouette Papercuts
by Lois Cordelia

القديس
قائلا
ظروف
و

2 Feb - 5 Mar
Mon - Fri, 9.30am - 5pm
Edinburgh University Chaplaincy
1 Bristo Square, EH8 9AL

MESP www.LoisCordelia.com



Justice and concluded with the Multi Faith Public Conversation and workshop Living non-violence – a practical exploration with Arun Gandhi.

Staff lunches

Our regular lunches for staff have been relaxing, warm and welcoming opportunities to meet with colleagues from across the University. In a culture where it is often difficult to get away from your desk at lunch, these simple occasions help consolidate a sense of community and individual well-being. As part of this pattern of gatherings we enjoyed a fun New Year coffee morning.

5 Buildings

Use of Bristo Square Chaplaincy Centre

“The Chaplaincy is an excellent space to work and socialize during the day, where it doesn’t matter what faith group you belong to. Everyone is catered for here, and everybody comes to the table as people first rather than representatives of their groups. As an atheist I have been remarkably welcomed, which is one of the many reasons I come to the Chaplaincy every day.” student

“Basically, I ask that when Potterrow is rebuilt that the Chaplaincy continues to have such a central, accessible presence and that the layout be similar, so it doesn’t become marginalised and only used by particular groups, losing its holistic nature. I think it is important that students have such a space, both for their own benefit - i.e. a calming, supportive environment and because it does such a good job of promoting and demonstrating the positive, tolerant side of religion.” staff

Chaplaincy continually enhances local and international student experiences, hosting 33 different societies/groups per week. These groups come for meetings, to cook food, worship or organize various events.

Table 3 - Groups using Bristo Square Chaplaincy Centre

3.1 University Religious, Spiritual and Meditation Societies and Groups (12)

Anglican Society
Baha’i Society
Buddhist Society
Christian Union
Islamic Society
Jewish Society
Orthodox Christian Society
Tai Chi Society
Taizé Prayer
Tibet Society
Vedic Society
Quakers

3.2 External Religious Groups and Events (7)

Episcopal Diocesan Post-Gifford Lecture Seminars
Free Church of Scotland Annual General Meeting
Ismailis
Shia Prayer Group
Scottish Council of the Liberal Jewish Community
Sector Chaplains' Meeting
Sick Kids Memorial Service

3.3 Other Multi-faith Initiatives (18)

Baha'i Holy Day Event
Chaplaincy Freshers' Fair
Diwali
Edinburgh University Chaplaincy Documentary Film Premiere,
'All we've got'
Festival of Faith, Belief and Values
Festival of Spirituality & Peace Labyrinth
Freshers' Faith and Food
Honorary Chaplains' Meetings
Indoor Labyrinth
Interfaith meals
Islamic Society Freshers' Dinner
Islamic Fun Fair
Mindfulness and Meditation
multifaithCOLLOQUY
multifaithFORUM
Non violence workshop with Dr Arun Gandhi
Shamanic Journey Group
Songs for Peace and Justice

3.4 Non-Religious University Societies (20)

Amnesty International Society
Cheerleading Society
Edinburgh Charity Fashion Show
Edinburgh Malaysian Student Society
Engineers without Borders Society
Fair Trade Society
Feminist Society
First Aid/Red Cross Society
Hellenic Dance Society
Humanist Society
Juggling Society
Kazakhstan Republican Day
Knitting Society
Les Escogriffes Society
Mexican Society
Modern Dance Society
People and Planet Clowning Society
People and Planet Society
Tango Society

Young Greens' Society

3.5 Other Non-Religious Groups and Events (15)

Book Group

College of Humanities and Social Sciences Meeting

Edinburgh University Chaplaincy Staff lunches

Edinburgh University Graduation Receptions

Edinburgh University Retired Staff Association

Edinburgh University Settlement Meeting

Edinburgh University Students Association Refreshers' Fair

Edinburgh University Students Association Staff Training Weekend

Fringe Festival

Gail Carmichael Photography Exhibition

Lois Cordelia Art Exhibition

Save the Children

School of Health in Social Sciences Graduation Reception

Telford College Graduation Photography

University Chaplain's Book Launch

TOTAL of Groups: 72

The Chaplaincy Centre welcomed approximately 2400 students each week; over half of whom are not directly involved with the above mentioned societies/groups but constitute our "drop-in" numbers.

Table 4 - Number of People Coming into Bristo Square Chaplaincy Centre in an average week

Semester 2

Morning (9:30 a.m.–1.00p.m.)	1005
Afternoon (1.00p.m.–5.00 p.m.)	810
Evening (5.00pm – 9.00pm)	599
TOTAL	2414

Plans to install a lift in the Bristo Square Chaplaincy Centre were postponed due to spiralling costs and uncertainty about the future of the site. On the positive side, this enabled us to continue to provide our high standard of welcome and support. However, if the life of the present building continues to be extended this issue may need further consideration.

Kings Buildings Chaplaincy Centre

The University Chaplain has worked with staff and student colleagues to clarify the designation and use of the Chaplaincy Centre on the Kings Building campus. The Centre provides a significant space for Muslim Prayer and bookable space for a range of religious groups based at Kings Buildings. The groups range from a Quaker Meeting, the Islamic Society, staff gatherings and an ecumenical meeting to practice silence. She is supported in responsibility for this site by the Rev Geoffrey Baines, a

member of the Honorary Chaplains team. Additional support is given by Sheikh Mohammed Yasin and the Chaplaincy Receptionist, Judith Fleming.

The University Chaplain is continuing to work with the College of Science and Engineering over provision of replacement facilities when the life of the present centre comes to an end.

Royal Dick (Vet) School

In the midst of extensive building expansion at Easter Bush, a team from the Royal Dick (Vet) School has continued to include Chaplaincy in their discussions and subsequent plans for an indoor 'room for reflection' that can be used as a 'Chaplaincy space' and for an outside Reflection Garden. Collaborating with the Edinburgh College of Art to design the Reflection Garden, the planning team for this project learned in March 2010 that Beechgrove Gardens has chosen to film in the coming summer the actual creation of the Reflection Garden. All involved are very excited. The Associate Chaplain will continue her support for these projects.

6 University Committees

Chaplaincy Committee

The Chaplaincy is well advised and supported by the broad range of staff and students who make up the membership of the University Chaplaincy Committee. This is ably and warmly led by Vice Principal Professor Lorraine Waterhouse.

This last year we filmed the contributions of the committee at one of their meetings as part of our home produced documentary, "All We've Got".

The Race Equality Action Group

During the last year the students who represent their multicultural and multifaith groups on the Chaplaincy multifaithFORUM acted as a focus group for REAG's research.

The University Chaplain is part of this action group.

Other University Committees and Groups

The University Chaplain has remained a corresponding member of the Sustainable Issues and Fair Trade Task Group, a virtual member of the Student Affairs Forum and maintains contact with the Disability Office through her place on the Mental Health Sub-group of the Disability Committee. She is a member of the Welfare Consultative Group, bringing together support and welfare staff across the University. Rev Frances Burberry, Honorary Anglican Chaplain, sits on the University Equality and Diversity Committee.

7 University Collaborations

The International Office and Edinburgh Global focus a developing collaboration with the Chaplaincy. This has included cooperation in supporting the Multi Faith Public Conversation and the film premiere of “All We’ve Got”.

Health in Social Science Postgraduate Supervision

The 2009/10 academic year was the second year in which Associate Chaplain MaryCatherine Burgess served as second supervisor for a Ph.D. student in Counselling, which is within the School of Health in Social Science. It was also the first year in which she assumed the second supervisor role for another counselling Ph.D. student.

Fair Trade Café

The Fair Trade Café continues to be a successful student-led venture. Their Wednesday lunches attract well over 100 students and some staff.

Non-alcoholic Bar

At a meeting of the multifaithFORUM the students raised the issue of lack of social space for those who wish to be in a non-alcoholic environment but still want fun and a regular social space for meeting others. The Chaplaincy took this up with EUSA and are happy to see EUSA’s new non-alcoholic bar in the Mezz, Teviot.

IV Engaging with our wider community

1 Multi Faith Partnerships

“In a world and student / university community where spirituality / faith / religion is a taboo, unsupported and derided, it is essential that the Chaplaincy continue to encourage and support students to participate in and discover their own, and other, faith systems and communities, as well as inter-faith dialogue.” Student

“The Chaplaincy has been a supportive and important help to us as a society and as individuals. It provides a space and time and respect to pursue ideas, share challenges and problems. I have experienced interfaith in a way I never have done before.” Student

Parliament of the World’s Religions

In the spring of 2009 an eight-member multifaith Chaplaincy team, who had submitted proposals to the Parliament of the World’s Religions, received word that the Parliament was inviting them to provide a Labyrinth Daily Spiritual Observance and a Film Workshop centred on their documentary ‘All We’ve Got’. Though team member and Anglican Honorary Chaplain Frances Burberry remained in Edinburgh to help those responsible for maintaining Chaplaincy provision, the other seven team members travelled to Melbourne, Australia, where they successfully provided the Labyrinth Spiritual Observance and the Documentary Film Workshop. They also presented their Documentary Film Workshop at the Higher Education Chaplains’ Conference in Melbourne. Members of the team presenting in Melbourne included students Nurul Hussain, Vijay Ramnarace, and David Wilson; recent graduate Jung Wai Hoi (Axxu); and staff members MaryCatherine Burgess, Tamara Knowles, and Di Williams. Each expressed gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the Parliament and to meet with people from throughout the world. All of them had contributed to the creation of the documentary film. Three members from the Edinburgh Interfaith Council also attended the Parliament and together helped form an impressive Edinburgh delegation.

Parliament Team Members remaining in Edinburgh look forward to Post-Parliament opportunities to share their Parliament experiences and/or to facilitate their Documentary Film Workshop. One of those opportunities will be in early July in response to a community request for reflections on learning and interactions at the Parliament.

Multifaith Public Conversation

In collaboration with the Edinburgh Inter-faith Association and its General Secretary Victor Spence, Dr. Arun Gandhi was the featured speaker at the second Multifaith Public Conversation, which was held in the McEwan Hall on 6 October 2009. Professor Steve Hillier, Vice Principal of Internationalisation, introduced Dr. Gandhi, who is one of Mahatma Gandhi’s grandsons and an advocate of non-violence in his own right. Dr. Gandhi addressed the topic of ‘Living Nonviolently’ and then responded to questions in a dialogue facilitated by Professor Frank Whaling. The

University Chaplain Di Williams introduced and closed the event, and a reception followed in the Chaplaincy Centre auditorium.

Gandhi Workshop in Nonviolence

On the morning following the Multifaith Public Conversation, Dr. Gandhi facilitated a workshop entitled 'Living Nonviolence – A Practical Exploration' for students, staff, and members of the public. Held in the Chaplaincy auditorium, the workshop ended for those who could stay for soup and bread at the Fair Trade Café. This event was also planned in collaboration with the Edinburgh Inter-faith Council and its General Secretary Victor Spence.

2 Labyrinth

The University Chaplain set up a network of folk in Edinburgh and further afield with an interest in working with the Labyrinth. This group, Labyrinth Friends, have been developing work with the Edinburgh Labyrinth and other labyrinth projects including the building of a new labyrinth on the Isle of Lismore and the supporting of new church labyrinths in Edinburgh.

The University Chaplain has continued her own workshops and talks. These included a flame-lit evening walk for one of the University staff unions, and a writers' workshop on labyrinths at Maggie's Centre, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee.

The collaboration with the University of Kent Labyrinth Project has continued. Both universities have worked with a wider steering group to plan the first UK professional Labyrinth Facilitator Training to take place on the Canterbury campus in September 2010. Along with the training there will also be a full day workshop led by Canon Dr Lauren Artress, a leader of the contemporary worldwide labyrinth movement.

Rev Frances Burberry will begin her professional Labyrinth Facilitator Training in Chartres in September 2010.

The University Chaplain took the opportunity to deepen her connections with the Australian labyrinth community, spending time with those developing the use of labyrinth in public parks, health services and retreat centres in Canberra and Melbourne.

The multi faith team who attended the Parliament of the World's Religions in December 2009 facilitated a Labyrinth as a Spiritual Observance. This was done in a welcoming and accessible way such that 40-50 people from many religious and spiritual traditions walked the path together. It was an occasion which was moving for all involved.

The Chaplaincy Centre was the venue for the UK launch of Di Williams's book "Labyrinth – landscape of the soul".

- www.diwilliams.com

3 Exhibitions

We hosted two stunning exhibitions in the Chaplaincy auditorium. The first was a fine art exhibition entitled “Love Letters” by former student Lois Cordelia. The silhouette papercuts were inspired by meditations on divine beauty and harmony, and by mystical love poetry from the Middle East and beyond.

The second was “Walk” - an exhibition of photographic banners and prints by local photographer Gail Carmichael. The images created for Walk express the sense of openness and vibrancy that walking the Edinburgh Labyrinth create for her.

V Plans for Academic Year 2010/11

- From summer 2010 make changes to the graduation services of thanksgiving to include a morning service on each graduation day in the Bristo Square Chaplaincy Centre and a Sunday service of thanksgiving for graduations at Greyfriars and Highland Tolbooth Kirk.
- Change the Multi Faith Public Conversation from a multifaith alternative to the largely Christian University Service at the beginning of the academic year to an event linked with the multifaith COLLOQUY's semester two programme.
- Continue to organise and respond to Post Parliament of the World's Religions events, including facilitation of 'All We've Got' documentary film workshop.
- Continue developing multifaith learning opportunities, especially in response to student requests.
- Explore feasibility of future programming related to environmental issues raised in 'sacred' texts.
- Initiate a series of Postgraduate Network gatherings – two each semester – designed to generate information-sharing and ideas for mutual support among postgraduates.
- Explore Chaplaincy's possible involvement in the international Charter for Compassion.
- Follow up on exploration of international collaborations with chaplains, academics, and community groups in the USA regarding areas of diversity in spirituality, religion, and culture (as described in application to Edinburgh Global Development Fund by the Associate Chaplain).

The above plans have emerged out of the present direction of development, particularly in the area of programming and deepening of a broad multifaith provision. We look forward to new possibilities which will inevitably accompany the appointment of a new head of service.

