

University of
South Wales
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...Some of the things we do

...The spirit of the Chaplaincy



to the Chaplaincy



Chaplaincy News

Newyddion Caplaniaeth

@ Meeting House | y Tŷ Cwrdd

Embracing Diversity, Celebrating Faith

The Chaplaincy promises:

- to serve others and to expect nothing in return, not even faith
- to live lives of extravagant kindness and to encourage others to do so too.

Who are we?



The Rev Vaughan Rees
Director of Chaplaincy
Services/University Chaplain



The Rev Ray Vincent
Senior Chaplain



Fthr Allan Davies-Hale
Associate Chaplain (Roman
Catholic)



The Rev Michelle Romaniw
Assistant Chaplain



Sumayah Hussain
Chaplaincy Support Officer



Jan Harris
Resource Officer



Shereen Aziz Williams
Honorary Muslim Chaplain



John Lipscomb
Chaplaincy Administrative Officer



Faisal Khajjou
Chaplaincy Imam

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The Spirit of the Chaplaincy

Contact us

Telephone: **01443 654 060**

Email: chaplaincy@southwales.ac.uk

[facebook.com/southwaleschaplaincy](https://www.facebook.com/southwaleschaplaincy)

[@USWChaplaincy](https://twitter.com/USWChaplaincy)

Website: chaplaincy.southwales.ac.uk

Emergency out of hours telephone
number: **03455 760 101**



Need to Talk?

Our team of experienced Chaplains are always available for anyone who wants to talk. If something is troubling you in your work, your relationships or your personal life, don't hesitate to turn to us for a confidential chat.

As we are not involved in teaching or supervision, you need not fear that confiding in us will have a detrimental effect on your progress as a student. You are also welcome to contact us just for a chat or to share an idea.

The Chaplaincy can also point you towards other services in the University that may be able to help with your particular issue.



You can contact us by ringing the Chaplaincy on 01443 654060, or by sending an e-mail to chaplaincy@southwales.ac.uk. We can chat with you over the phone, or via video link or we can arrange to meet you (by appointment) in the Meeting House on the Treforest campus or a place on one of the other campuses. We will be practising social distancing for the foreseeable future.

We also have a 24 hour emergency service that can be accessed by calling the University's main reception on 03455 760101 out of hours. The Duty Officer will take your name and phone number and contact a Chaplain who will get back to you.



Introducing the Chaplaincy

Welcome back to all the students we have met in previous years.

If you are new – welcome, and we look forward to getting to know you. Becoming a student is always a new and challenging experience. It is even more so this year in these unusual circumstances. We hope that, whether you are on campus or studying at home or elsewhere, you will find the challenges more exciting than daunting, and will soon feel at home studying at the University.

The Chaplaincy has a full programme of interesting and fun activities. Whatever your interests, your culture or your faith, and whether you are 'religious' or not, we hope you will find something in it to suit your interests and tastes. This year we have planned a programme of virtual events that you can join in on line. By 'liking' our Facebook page you can stay informed of all our activities and news. Some of our activities happen as a result of suggestions from students, so feel free to share your ideas.

What we do springs from what we are – an open and inclusive service to the whole University community. We are here for students and staff whatever their race, culture, belief, gender, sexual orientation, age or ability. We aim to nurture friendship and true community and encourage people in all their variety to build strong relationships with each other.

Embracing Diversity, Celebrating Faith

We believe that questions of faith and the meaning of life are important.

You may have a firm faith which you will want to maintain and practise while you are in University, or you may be still questioning and looking for opportunities to explore the meaning of life and the universe. Whichever is the case, we have ways of helping you.

There are a number of faith groups open to students in the University, including:

- [the Christian Union](#)
- [the Catholic Society](#)
- [the Islamic Society, affiliated to FOSIS](#)

If you want to know more about these, or want to start a new faith society, contact the Chaplaincy for help and advice. There is a website, faithwales.org.uk, which gives

information about the different faiths and details of local places of worship and other facilities.

The Chaplaincy itself offers courses for anyone seeking to learn more about religious issues, and opportunities for open discussion. At the beginning of term there will be a session on 'Introducing the Chaplaincy', and a Christian service in which you can find out about local churches.

The Khutbah for Friday prayers will be published on Facebook and Whatsapp. There will be a Seerah class every Friday during term. Look out also for our 'Being a Muslim at University' session at the beginning of term. We have held celebrations of Hindu, Buddhist and other festivals, including the cultural and international occasions like Harvest, Thanksgiving and the Chinese New Year. These are often the result of suggestions made by

students, so feel free to air any ideas you may have.

During Interfaith Week in November we hold a panel at which representatives of different religions talk about what they believe, and take question from the audience. We will be doing this live on video in the autumn term so feel free to join us or to submit your questions in advance at chaplaincy@southwales.ac.uk

For a quiet time of meditation, see our Tranquillity Zone site.



Some of the Things we do

Events

We specialise in parties!

We have on-line welcome events, quizzes and other celebrations throughout the year. Sign up to our Facebook page to be kept in touch.



The Lounge is usually a hive of activity, bustling with staff, student and visitors



Chinese International Lantern Night

LGBT History Month

Last year USW was well within the top 100 in Stonewall UK's Workplace Equality Index.

Ray, one of our Chaplaincy team, is one of our LGBT+ Role Models, and Convenor of SPECTRUM, the University's LGBT+ staff network. Last year Ray was named Stonewall Gay Role Model of the year. Most of its events are open to students.

Chaplaincy holds its own events for the LGBT History Month in February and at other times too. It also supports the Student LGBT+ Society.



Black History Month!



On the 14th October between 12.30 - 2 pm we will welcome The Revd Professor Teddy Kalongo as our guest on an online session.

Teddy is Zambian born but had to leave his home country because of difficulties there. He now lives in South Wales. Teddy will talk to us about his journey and experiences and address any questions we might have. To join us you can either email the Chaplaincy for a joining link or keep an eye on our social media channels where we will post the necessary link.

Volunteering at USW Chaplaincy



St Davids day quiz

Why not develop new skills, improve your CV and help people at the same time by becoming a Chaplaincy Volunteer?

Student volunteers have always been very helpful in running the Meeting House, the home of Chaplaincy on the Treforest Campus. Though the Meeting House will not be opening normally for some months yet, you may have skills you can offer that will help us organise events and build a friendly community. You could be part of our online presence. So, if you have IT or social media skills or if you can edit video or music or just have great ideas helping to develop our online profile please just let us know!

Live and Learn

All Chaplaincy events help people...

to learn by talking with others, the chaplaincy supports people to learn by talking to others who have different experiences and ideas. We also hold online events to help us know more of our faith and the world.



Chaplaincy Space and Prayer Facilities.

We have a Chaplaincy Centre and large prayer facility complete with Wudu facilities ...

on the Treforest Campus along with smaller prayer rooms on our other campuses. Because most of the religious activity based in these facilities is based on being in close proximity with others, the Meeting House and the main Prayer Facilities will remain closed for gathering. We would encourage students to continue their prayers privately during this period. We will keep this matter under review!



Brothers Wudu Area

Sisters Wudu Area



Bangladeshi Society Celebrations

Times to Remember



Remembrance Day (November 11th) is the anniversary of the end of the First World War in 1918, and on that day the people of Britain honour those who gave their lives in the two World Wars and other conflicts.

As an international University community, we ensure that our Remembrance includes people all over the world who have suffered and still suffer in war, and we pledge ourselves to the building of a peaceful world.

We hold a short Act of Remembrance including two minutes' silence at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. This year the Remembrance Service will be streamed live from the War memorial plaque at Ty Crawshays and will also be available for viewing later on the chaplaincy YouTube Channel.

We observe Holocaust Memorial Day on January 27th. We sometimes hold other acts of remembrance as occasion demands. Many of us know the pain of losing someone we love. Grief can cause a heavy weight in our lives, but having opportunity to remember and honour them can lighten the load.

Book of Remembering

Many of us know the pain of losing someone we love.

Grief can cause a heavy weight in our lives, but having opportunity to remember and honour them can lighten the load.

For this reason, we keep a Book of Remembering, in which students and staff can make a permanent memorial to someone who has meant a lot to them. This is particularly poignant for many people this year.

If you would like a name entered into the book please contact the Chaplaincy.

Foodbank

We support the local food bank and we will be talking...

to them about how we can continue to do so during the current restrictions. For further details contact us at the Chaplaincy.



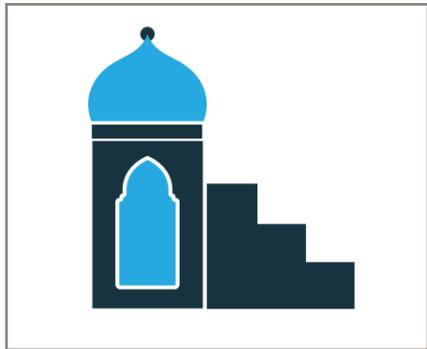
More of the Things we do

Pause for Thought

We have a weekly Pause for Thought which is posted lunchtime Wednesday at 12 pm, onto Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

This is led by our chaplains and is an opportunity to gather your thoughts. These are opportunities to focus and think about wider issues. Do not forget to subscribe to our YouTube Channel and keep in touch with new content! Feel free to share our videos with family and friends.

Friday Khutbah



The Friday Khutbah is published on the Chaplaincy Facebook page along with a weekly Seerah class, both led by our Chaplaincy Imam. You can also find a repository of Khutbahs and Seerah classes on our YouTube Channel. Feel free to share the videos with friends and family or to invite them to watch them.

Online Quiz

The Chaplaincy will be hosting an online quiz so why not join us? You'll be able to meet new friends, have fun and even possibly win! Details will be posted on our social media channels. (Please download the Kahoot app in readiness for the quiz).



Student Skype Group

Join us at our weekly Student Skype group.

Sessions are on Wednesday at 2pm. This is a great way to catch up with other students and staff. There is always a chaplain team member, for extra support to get the conversation going. If this sounds like something you're interested in, scan the QR code to get the direct link.



Tips and tricks

Chaplaincy Tips & Tricks

The Chaplaincy is making a series of tips and tricks short videos.

If you would like to send a short video of any natty or interesting ideas you have, we will include them in our Chaplaincy YouTube channel, now is your time to shine!

Suggestion Box

If you have any suggestion for events or ideas you would like us to try, just click the suggestion box and send us your suggestion and ideas.



Being a Muslim on Campus video 2020

The Chaplaincy has produced a "Being a Muslim on Campus 2020" video which you see on our YouTube.

During an interactive session on teams, we had a detailed discussion for the future of USW ISOC. If you're a new, ex or even current student at USW feel free to join in with our next session. If you have any questions do not hesitate, Imam Faisal and Vaughan Rees and Sumayah can help to answer them.

Playing Board Games Separately Together.

We will be arranging Board games online. Please let us know if you are interested in joining us and we'll send you a link.



Thanksgiving

We will be arranging a thanksgiving event later in November...

and will post further details on our social media. Sign up to keep in touch.

Diversity and place for all



The ethos of the Chaplaincy is fundamentally to accept one another, treating others how you wish to be treated at all times.

What they say

See what people have said about us here at the Chaplaincy



Terry Driscoll
Principal Lecturer Business School

Universities are institutions of knowledge generation and transmission and individual intellectual development. At the heart of USW is the Meeting House, a place for meeting others from different cultures and faiths, a place for reflection and thinking. Whether through formal events or individual engagement with the Meeting House team, visitors and regular users, both staff and students, are always welcome. Given its open and inclusive ethos I would suggest it's our jewel in the crown.



Junayed Hoque
BSc Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Student

As soon as I started Uni life in 2017 I found the environment is very unfriendly to me and life is very busy here. I got to know about Meeting House by a friend. This is the only place in the uni where people come to talk, spend a social life. I got many international friends from Meeting House. Then I became a Volunteer and started joining different cultural events with them. Now, Chaplaincy (Meeting House) is a part of my daily life. I feel proud to be a part of Chaplaincy.

Although the Chaplaincy has lots of activities going on during the daytime and in the evenings, there's always a quiet corner, a friendly face and a cup of coffee to greet you when you walk through the doors. Amid the busyness of the University campus the Chaplaincy provides a haven where you can take a moment out of your day to just chill. All the staff who work or volunteer there are so dedicated and committed to what they do, and it's great to be able to help out at events such as Ramadan meals and carol services where you get to meet lots of new people from so many different walks of life, countries, faiths, beliefs and cultures in such a lovely relaxed environment.

The Chaplaincy's ethos is to embrace diversity and the Chaplaincy team really do embed this principle in all that they do, providing a warm welcoming environment for all staff and students and a comfortable space to meet with others over a cup of tea. I recommend attending the many interesting and engaging events the Chaplaincy host, including film nights, talks, lectures and training sessions. The Chaplaincy also convene the LGBT+ Staff Network Spectrum, which has grown in strength and numbers over the last couple of years and is now a thriving network which is playing a key role in furthering LGBT+ equality at USW.



The Chaplaincy is such a warm welcoming family. I have used the Meeting House for events and also attended so many occasions there. The Meeting House has rooms to suit the purpose of every gathering. I loved every second I spent at the Meeting House! The warm welcome and feeling of belonging made a building feel like a home.



Maggie Dzuma
BA Accounting & Finance

I was introduced to the Chaplaincy by a friend. It has since become like my 2nd home. I spent much of my time there. I have made many friends from all over the world and felt very much at home. People are kind, friendly and welcoming. I am glad I found such a place and look forward to visiting it again. Thank you to everyone.

I can't begin to tell you how warm, open and welcoming the Meeting House is. Being part of the LGBTQ community, I became used to assuming that a place related to religion has challenges with my identity, but this couldn't be further from the truth when it comes to the Meeting House. Our LGBTQ meetings are held here, as well as various LGBTQ talks & events. I am not just 'tolerated' here. I am actively supported. We as a university are so fortunate to have a place like this on campus!

Alison Jones
PA to Dean of Faculty of Computing, Engineering, & Science



Clare Payton-Stagg
Equality & Diversity Partner, Human Resources.



The Chaplaincy is a 'family with open doors'. Being an active volunteer back home in Nigeria, I have always wanted to give a helping hand in any environment I find myself. The Chaplaincy provided a platform not only to serve but a lovely environment to meet warm and welcoming staff, helpful and fantastic new friends. The support from the Chaplaincy kept me going in my blended learning experience during this pandemic. Are you far away from home and looking to get to know new friends? The Chaplaincy is always available.

Catherine Nwachukwu
MBA Masters of Business Administration.

University can often be a very demanding and busy time however; the Chaplaincy is a welcome change of pace. The relaxed and welcoming atmosphere creates an ideal place to study or to take a break after a particularly tiring lecture. As the Meeting House will not be open for social events during this term you can be sure that the Chaplaincy team will be around to help you when you need them. The staff have always been very helpful, always offering solutions when I'm struggling to sort out events for the Christian Union. Thanks for all your help.



Benny King Azangisa
BSc Psychology with Behaviour Analysis



Stewart Eyres
Dean of Faculty of Computing Engineering & Science

The Chaplaincy touches on so many aspects of University life, and always in a supportive and inclusive manner. In my first two years at USW I've seen Chaplaincy staff support individual students at difficult points in their lives, been privileged to volunteer as they serve food to those observing Ramadan and participated in a range of events such as supporting our Sri Lankan staff and students in the aftermath of attacks in their home land. They have supported the work of Spectrum, providing a venue for activities and leadership of staff involvement in our work on LGBT+ issues. The Chaplaincy provides an essential complement to Student Services, allowing students to draw down support from either in the way that suits them.

Josh Whittington
BSc Chemistry



The Chaplaincy is a beautiful place. It has shown me the world under one roof, where everyone, no matter where you come from, are just fascinated with one another. Sharing cultures, languages and having fun - whether it's playing the piano together or laughing over a cup of coffee. Where friendships are born and walls are broken, help is given and no judgements are taken. It is our safe place, my safe place, and I am always grateful for it no matter where I go in life.



Jia Wei Lee
BSc. International Wildlife Biology



Mair Jones
Treforest Advice Zone

The Meeting House is the place to go to relax, unwind and enjoy. It's a place you always feel welcome and at home in. This is due to the atmosphere created by the friendly, cheerful and helpful staff. Thank you



Atul Jai Shyam
Master of Business Administration (2019/2020)

I cannot stress how much The Chaplaincy has helped me emotionally. It has played a massive role both in my personal life and university experience. The folks at the Chaplaincy welcomes absolutely everyone. I genuinely believe that it is the heart of the university. I highly recommend it to all the students at the University of South Wales to join the Chaplaincy family, you won't regret it. It's a community that everyone can be part of. The atmosphere is fantastic whether you are worrying about your studies, something personal or missing home whoever you are, wherever you are from they will always help you.

The Spirit of the Chaplaincy

“Here we embrace diversity and celebrate faith.

You will be mixing with

Tax-collectors and sinners, hypocrites and heretics, Greeks and Jews, women and men, old and young, black and Asian, Muslims and Buddhists, Sikhs and Hindus, people of other faiths and none, strangers and visitors from all around the world, bishops and bigots, female and male priests, homosexuals, transsexuals, bisexuals and heterosexuals, people with disability and people with diseases, rich and poor, thieves and adulterers.

The only thing we are intolerant of is intolerance
And yes you too are welcome as our guest
As is anyone like those with whom Jesus mixed –
And whom he invites to have their lives made new by the
transforming love of God.

**Welcome to all
All we ask is that you treat each other kindly”**

