

# Some of the Things we do. cont...

## Live and Learn

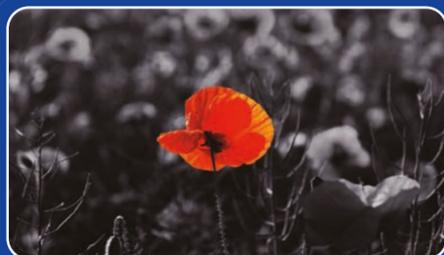
At the Meeting House we learn most by meeting each other. We also have particular events that help us to know more about our own faith and others' faith. Among regular events are:

- Inter-Faith Week in November, when students fire questions at a panel representing different faiths
- a weekly lunchtime conversation where we air our questions about the Bible
- An annual Chaplaincy Lecture

If you have any suggestions about an event or a course that would be helpful to you, please let us know.



## Times to Remember



The First World War ended on November 11th, 1918 at 11.00 am. Ever since then, there has been an act of remembrance with two minutes' silence at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month

The University traditionally observes this in front of the War Memorial plaque at Tŷ Crawshay and at the Glyntaf and Newport campuses. This year is the hundredth anniversary,

so we are holding a special remembrance service at the Meeting House. Because November 11th this year is a Saturday, we shall be holding the service on Friday 9th at 10.00 am, followed by the laying of a wreath and the two minutes' silence at Tŷ Crawshay at 11.00, and on other campuses later in the day. We observe Holocaust Memorial Day (January 27th), but as this is a Sunday next year we will be offering an opportunity to remember on Friday 25th. We sometimes hold other acts of remembrance as occasion demands.

## 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 help to lighten the load.

For this reason, at the Meeting House 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. If you would like a name entered into the book please contact the Chaplaincy. Also, we will be holding a 'Time to Remember' service during the year, to which we invite all who have lost a loved one to come and reflect on that person's life in the company of others who share the experience of bereavement.

Even if you are not able to come to the service, there will be a chance to hang a name or token on the Tree of Memories in the Meeting House. If you would find it helpful to talk with someone about your experience of grief, no matter how recent or long ago, please feel free to get in touch with a Chaplain at any time.



## Times to be Thankful

The Chaplaincy in partnership with the Students Union has collection points on our campuses for local Foodbanks all year round.

For one week in October we have a special Foodbank promotion, culminating in our Global Harvest celebration, when we give thanks in our different ways, dedicate the gifts and pray for those receiving them, and then have a party! Our American-style Thanksgiving dinner in November is very popular, and another opportunity to express gratitude.



## Contact Us

Telephone: 01443 654 060 | Email: [chaplaincy@southwales.ac.uk](mailto:chaplaincy@southwales.ac.uk)

Facebook: [facebook.com/southwaleschaplaincy](https://www.facebook.com/southwaleschaplaincy) | Twitter: @USWChaplaincy

Website: [chaplaincy.southwales.ac.uk](http://chaplaincy.southwales.ac.uk) | Emergency out of hours telephone number: 03455 760 101

# Welcome to the Chaplaincy

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University of South Wales Prifysgol De Cymru

Chaplaincy Newyddion Caplaniaeth

@ Meeting House | y Tŷ Cwrdd

Embracing Diversity, Celebrating Faith

# Introducing the Chaplaincy

This magazine will give you a taste of who we are and what we do. We hope that whatever your interests, whatever your faith or belief, or even if you are not “religious” at all, you will find something in it to suit your tastes and interests.

The Meeting House is what its name says – a place for people of all kinds to meet each other. Feel free to drop in at any time.

We have lots of interesting and fun activities. This magazine will tell you about those already planned, but by ‘liking’ our Facebook page you can stay informed of the latest plans all through the year. Some of our events happen as a result of suggestions from students, so if you have any ideas come in and tell us.

You may become part of our family of regular visitors. You may go a step further and become a Chaplaincy volunteer. But you are just as welcome if all you do is drop in occasionally or join an activity that appeals to you.

Our team of experienced Chaplains are always available for anyone who wants to talk, either in a group or one-to-one. If something is troubling you, or you want to talk something through, don’t hesitate to turn to us at any time.

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, nationality, culture, belief, gender, sexual orientation, age or ability. We want to do more than tolerate each other – we want to embrace our diversity. We aim to nurture friendship and true community and encourage people in all their variety to build strong relationships with each other. If you are a returning student, welcome back! If you are new, we look forward to getting to know you.

Vaughan Rees | Director of Chaplaincy Services



## Who are we?



The Rev Vaughan Rees  
Director of Chaplaincy  
Services/University Chaplain



The Rev Ray Vincent  
Senior Chaplain



Fftr Allan Davies-Hale  
Associate Chaplain (Roman  
Catholic)



The Rev Michelle Romaniw  
Assistant Chaplain



Jan Harris  
Resource Officer



Shereen Williams  
Honorary Muslim Chaplain



John Lipscomb  
Chaplaincy Administrative  
Officer



John Smith  
Chaplaincy Support Officer

## Chaplaincy Across the Campuses

Chaplaincy has a presence on each of the USW campuses, so wherever you happen to be you can always get in touch. Here’s how to find us:

**Treforest:** We’re based at The Meeting House, home of chaplaincy services at USW. Pop in to relax, unwind, have a cup of coffee or speak confidentially to a Chaplain.

**Glyntaff, Newport City, Merthyr College, the Atrium, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama:** A Chaplain can often be found around campus, but if not you can ask at reception or contact us directly.



## Embracing Diversity, Celebrating Faith

There are a number of faith groups open to students:

- The Christian Union meets at the Meeting House, and other groups form and meet from time to time such as :
- The Christ Heir Fellowship
- The Chinese Christian Fellowship
- The Jewish Society
- Wells of Salvation
- There is also a Catholic Society and an Islamic Society, affiliated to FOSIS.

There is a website, [faithwales.org.uk](http://faithwales.org.uk), which gives information about the different faiths and details of local places of worship and other facilities.

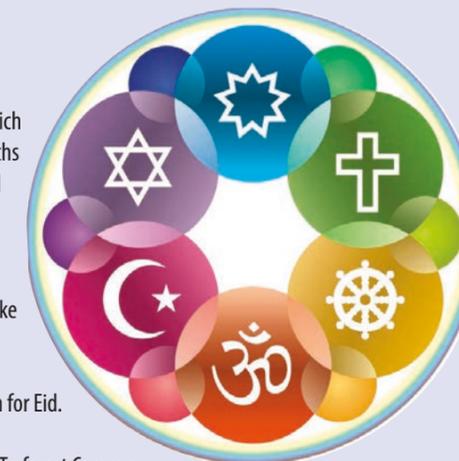
The Chaplaincy’s events are open to all faiths, and are a great opportunity to make a diverse set of new friends.

The Chaplaincy holds a celebration lunch for Eid.

The Chaplaincy has Prayer Rooms on the Treforest Campus with Wudu facilities and separate rooms for men and women. Friday prayers are held every week.

We have an open Communion service at the Meeting House every Wednesday during term, 12.15 – 12.45. You are welcome to bring your sandwiches and join us for lunch afterwards. Roman Catholic Mass is celebrated every Thursday during term at 12.15.

There is a Reflection Room in the Meeting House that can be used for quiet and meditation



## Need to Talk?

The Chaplaincy is here to offer completely non-judgemental and confidential support, whatever your background and whatever the issue, big or small.

You can arrange to meet one of the team either by ringing the Chaplaincy on 01443 654060, sending an e-mail to [chaplaincy@southwales.ac.uk](mailto:chaplaincy@southwales.ac.uk), or by popping into the Meeting House.

We also have a 24 hour emergency service that can be accessed by calling the University’s main reception on 03455 760101. The duty operator will then take your details and contact a Chaplain who will get back to you. The Chaplaincy can also point you towards other services in the university that may be able to help with your particular issue.



# 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

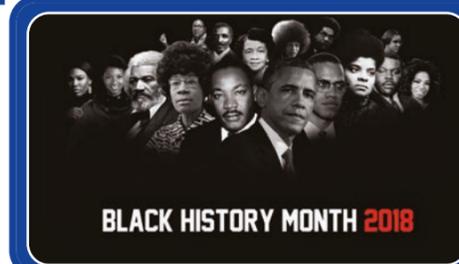
All we ask is that you treat each other kindly”



## Some of the Things we do Parties!

Hospitality and getting people to meet each other is a vital part of what the Chaplaincy is about – we specialise in parties! We have

- welcome events for new students
- a Global Harvest party
- an autumn celebration with fancy dress and pumpkin carving
- a pancake party on Shrove Tuesday
- a Welsh Night to celebrate St David's Day
- Quizzes
- Games evenings
- Lounge Nights. However you like to relax, we have something for everyone: contemporary and classic board games, a PS4, live acoustic music, karaoke – you name it, we've got it at our lounge nights!



## Black History Month

October is the month when we focus on racial harmony and the contribution of black and ethnic minority people to history. Watch out for this year's events, and feel free to make your own suggestions.

## Christmas

The Chaplaincy's Christmas is always a fun time.

We have a day of decorating the Meeting House, carol singing around the campuses, and a Carol Service (organised last year jointly by the Chaplaincy, the Christian Union and the Students' Union) and on Christmas Eve we have a dinner for those who are still here during the holidays, complete with a visit by Santa!



## LGBT History Month

The Chaplaincy is committed to the open acceptance of people of different sexualities and gender entities and proactively working to overcome prejudice. We celebrate LGBT History Month in February. Keep in touch with the Chaplaincy to find out details of events – or make your own suggestions.

see back page for more.....

# What they're saying

## See what people have said about us here at the Chaplaincy

"The chaplaincy is like an oasis in the desert. No matter how hectic it is outside, within the Meeting House you will always find calm and peace. When you walk through the door, you feel relaxed and tranquil. The best thing about it for me though, is that any student or member of staff we refer always comes away feeling better. The Meeting House is one of USW's greatest assets and successes. The service it provides is both essential and brilliant. The staff are outstanding, and I will continue to support it in any way I can."



**Eric Llewellyn**  
Associate Head of Computing & Mathematics, Faculty of Computing.



**Nart Paksamut**  
FBS Student



**Nilufa Rupa**  
FCES Student.

"Hey! Have you ever thought about a place where every time you enter someone will welcome you with a big smile? Where people from all over the world sit together and share their own unique stories. Where you can share your own thoughts and feelings, where no one need to worry about being judged and in times where you can be on your own without being interrupted? I thought it too. Guess what, I found it and ended up making some amazing friends and memories. That place is called Meeting House and its door is open to everyone. All you have to do is to open your heart. So why not give it a try? You are always welcome."

"When I first came into USW, I was really scared and afraid, since I came a long way from home. Little did I know, just by going into the Meeting House on International Welcome Week - I found home away from home. I found everyone in which I could call family here, and they are the ounces of strength I never knew I needed. I honestly can't imagine university without them! For that, I am incredibly thankful for the Chaplaincy for giving me a home."



**Ramadhan Mohamed Rajab**  
MSc. Computer Systems Security



**Jia Wei Lee**  
FCES Student

The USW Chaplaincy Services is a profound department in the University of South Wales that brings students together in union as one serene community. It advocates for the welfare of all students and their respective societies regardless of their background, especially students who have come from far and wide to pursue their studies within the institution. Personally, as an International Student, I feel having benefitted a lot from the Chaplaincy Services, especially in The Meeting House where I get to meet and network with fellow students, build friendships, and also interact as well with staff members of the chaplaincy who are warm-hearted and very welcoming, making the environment around the campus very friendly, and feeling at home away from home.

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.



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



**William Callaway**  
University Secretary

"The Chaplaincy offers kind, caring, non-judgemental support to all students & staff of the University. All of the team are welcoming those of all faiths and of none. I have seen colleagues from the Chaplaincy again and again provide generous support (often out of normal hours) to members of the University community in their time of need."

"The Meeting House is a wonderful, quiet, peaceful resource in the heart of Treforest Campus. I always feel better when my day takes me into the Meeting House. I do not know what it is that makes it so tranquil but it must be the people!"

"I really enjoyed working with the Chaplaincy Service. It was a privilege to be part of a community within USW that offers a compassionate and humanitarian service. Regardless of faith, culture, background and race, the Chaplaincy works tirelessly to build and maintain positive relations among the USW student community, especially at a significant time".

**Shakiela Davies**  
Lecturer in Clinical Psychology and Mental Health



**Shahla Abdelbasit**  
MSc. Aviation Engineering and Management

Moving away from my family to start my postgraduate study put a huge stress and increased the responsibility on me. When I started to come to The Meeting houses every now and then for a short time and after that this MARVELOUS place became my favourite place in the Uni in fact in the whole UK. The Meeting House has a very dynamic environment and by volunteering in it I get engaged in different events I learned and enjoyed a lot from each one of them, I also interact with people of different ages, faith, and background and that taught me how to accept the differences, respect all people and gingerly listen and learn. I found there all the things that family offers like love, care, support, encouragement, valuable advice, lots of laughs, food, good times and of course unforgettable memories.

"The staff and volunteers at the meeting house are always so welcoming and supportive towards the Christian union! The Meeting House has been such a great building to hold the Christian Union's events. It has been great this year to have joint events with the Chaplaincy, such as our carol service and our Church Search Event".



**Becky Cane**  
Christian Union

The Chaplaincy at the Meeting House provide an amazingly friendly and welcoming space for students and staff of all faiths and none. It's a space where diversity is celebrated and where you will always find a reassuring smile and a friendly face to talk to. I can't thank the Chaplaincy team enough for the support that they offer many of our international students as they make South Wales their second home. It's a safe space, a positive space, where everyone is welcomed and everyone is respected.



**Dr Lisa Davies**  
USW International.

The Meeting House is a great place to go if you just want to get away from everything. It's so helpful for students to know there's a place they can go any time just to relax, read a book or talk to people without fear of judgement or expectation. Whatever your race, religion or nationality, you'll feel welcome at The Meeting House.



**Rhys Pewtner**  
Students Union.