

Chaplaincy

Kingston University Chaplaincy

Annual Report: September 2009 - August 2010

Mission Statement:

To offer care and confidential guidance to all students and staff; to meet, where possible, the diverse faith needs of members of the University; to encourage discussion about Christian faith and to promote inter-faith dialogue.

Highlights of the Year:

The University Chaplaincy opened new prayer space at the Kingston Hill Campus, surveyed prayer room use across the university, ran an International Students Café and took steps forward in developing its team of Faith Advisers.

Welcome for Students

Once again we worked with the local Churches to provide a welcome programme for new students arriving at KU.

Spaces for Spirituality and Prayer in the University



Prayer Rooms – Kingston Hill: Two new prayer rooms at Kingston Hill were opened at the beginning of the academic year. These male and female rooms are available to all staff and students but have been designed with Islamic prayer primarily in mind. There have been a number of conversations about creating specialist *wudu* washing facilities, but resources have not yet been found for this.

Spirituality and Faith Centre Penrhyn Road: At peak times the Prayer Room is completely full and overflow space is often needed for Friday prayers. The use of the Quiet Room is very varied with individuals, student groups and chaplaincy led activities taking place.

Roehampton Vale: Work has been done during the year to establish the need for prayer facilities at Roehampton Vale Campus. Meetings have taken place with potential users but so far we have not been able to identify any available space. This remains a development issue for 2010-2011.

Prayer Room Survey: In Nov. 2009 the existing prayer rooms at Kingston Hill and Penrhyn Road were surveyed together with potential users for a Roehampton Vale prayer room. The results showed a minimum of 1500 visits per week at PR and 500 visits per week at KH. Levels of user satisfaction were generally good with the main concerns being lack of space at peak periods, improving separation for men and women at PR, and washing facilities at KH.

"It's great, I'm very grateful for it, the Uni. did a good job, thank you." Penrhyn Road

"Thank you for the facilities! Very appreciated. They meet my needs to live a happy life at University." Kingston Hill

"The room provided is really good but during Jummah time it gets very packed." Kingston Hill



National Inter Faith Week

The chaplaincy played an active role in the Kingston celebrations of the first national Inter Faith Week in November 2009. Chaplain Stan Brown headed the Kingston Inter Faith Forum planning group for the week and two of the Kingston events were hosted by the chaplaincy.

International Students Café

The International Students Café runs monthly during term time at the Rose Theatre. Beginning at the start of the 2009 academic year the cafes are run jointly by International Students Events and the chaplaincy. With a programme of social events and informal learning about UK culture the cafes have proved popular to the point of overcrowding with as many as 120 students attending. Kim Pearson of the International Office worked very hard to develop the café this year and we send her good wishes as she moves to a new job in summer 2010.



"It was cool! Nice to meet people from all over the world!" International Student

"Thanks for organising – it was a lot of fun ☺!" International Student

Personal and Pastoral Support

The chaplaincy provides personal support on an individual and confidential basis to both students and staff. Chaplaincy pastoral work ranges from the very informal - in coffee bars, corridors, drop ins and e mails; through to referrals and arranged pastoral counselling sessions. Student concerns often interweave emotional and spiritual needs with issues such as finance, accommodation, academic performance or visas and the chaplaincy policy is always to encourage the use of the specialist support and advice services in the university alongside pastoral counselling.

Advisory Group on Faith and Religion

With a more established pattern of meeting in the Advisory Group we have been able to focus on strengthening the role of our Faith Advisers. A new role description has been prepared and future chaplaincy publicity will make the advisers much more prominent. The work of the Advisers has been invaluable in building bridges with local communities and in supporting the University on a whole range of faith based issues. The Advisers are volunteers and we are deeply grateful for their support.

What Else?

Chaplaincy Lectures, Lent Course, Bible Studies, Inter Faith Dialogue Group, Pancakes, Carol Services, Remembrance Day, Holocaust Memorial Day, Interfaith Panel for local School, Campus Drop In Sessions, Ordination Student Placement and of course lots of meetings.

Appendix 1 – About the Chaplaincy

What is the University Chaplaincy?

The Chaplaincy is a small department in the University which supports the religious and spiritual needs of students and staff and builds links between the University and the local faith communities. Although the Chaplaincy is a service to everyone in the University it is paid for in part by the Christian churches, and its main staff member is a Christian minister

Who Pays for the University Chaplaincy?

The chaplaincy is funded by the University and a group of Churches:

Kingston University
The Diocese of Southwark (Church of England)
The Methodist Church
The United Reformed Church

Community Partners

Many local faith communities give active support to students and staff at the University. The Chaplaincy seeks to work in partnership with them as a member of the Kingston Inter Faith Forum and of Churches Together in Kingston. We also work closely with the student religious groups and Kingston University Students Union.

Contact

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Appendix 2 – Chaplaincy Team

Staff



Ecumenical Chaplain
Rev Stan Brown



Administrator
Mrs. Rose Dallison

Faith Advisers



Buddhist
Dr. Ruediger Oehlmann



Christian (Roman Catholic)
Fr. Vincent Flynn



Hindu
Vacancy



Jewish
Rabbi Danny Rich



Muslim
Mr. Rashid Laher



Sikh
Mr. Baldev Maghera