

INTERFAITH UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY RESEARCH PROJECT

March 2018 - May 2019



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year of young people
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BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

In March 2018 Interfaith Scotland received funding as part of the **Year of Young People Programme**, developed by the Scottish Government, to encourage and support young people in interfaith activities and engagement. There were a number of key objectives and outcomes of the Interfaith Scotland project, one of which was to ascertain how good interfaith relations are currently being promoted on university campuses in Scotland and to identify best practice and future opportunities.

It was decided that the most effective way to ascertain how good relations were being promoted at universities in Scotland was to undertake a **research project**, targeting nine universities and working closely with the Chaplains at the universities identified. This report is an outcome of that research project. It was made possible by the Chaplains and others who gave generously of their time and we hope that the project assists both ourselves and the University Chaplains to attain the outcomes identified as key to the research.

Outcomes

- Universities in Scotland are better inspired and resourced to support good interfaith relations on campus
- Universities in Scotland are better able to link with, and support each other in building good interfaith relations on campus
- Better links are formed between universities and interfaith organisations operating at the local and national level in Scotland
- Interfaith Scotland is better able to assist universities in Scotland to promote good relations

Methodology

Interfaith Scotland coordinated the project and Interfaith Glasgow worked as partners in designing the project and undertaking the research in two Glasgow universities. The following universities were identified as covering a wide demographic and included a selection of universities in the main Scottish cities and more rural campuses:

1. University of Edinburgh
2. University of Aberdeen
3. University of Dundee
4. University of Stirling
5. University of the Highlands and Islands (Moray Campus)
6. University of St Andrews
7. University of Glasgow
8. University of Strathclyde
9. Heriot-Watt University

Interfaith Scotland and Interfaith Glasgow designed a questionnaire to be used with each Chaplain (or equivalent) and this questionnaire can be found in Appendix 1. Following on from preparing the questionnaire the key Chaplain (or equivalent) was contacted at each University and an initial meeting was set up.

This initial in-depth interview was held with the key Chaplain (or equivalent) and was based on the questions in the questionnaire. These interviews were transcribed and returned to the Chaplains for verification and amendment. A further interview was held with each Chaplain (or equivalent) to fill in any gaps, dig a bit deeper, and highlight some of the best practice that the research had revealed.

Activities from each of the universities were recorded. These are by no means exhaustive but reflect those that were listed at the time of interview.

Finally a round-table face to face meeting was arranged and 70% of the Chaplains interviewed were able to attend the meeting for further discussion and clarification. This final report is the result of the interviews and round-table discussions.

Interfaith Scotland and Interfaith Glasgow are extremely grateful to all the Chaplains (and equivalents) who took part and look forward to further and fruitful engagement with the universities and students of Scotland.



Picture from University of Edinburgh

1. UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY IN SCOTLAND

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

Rev Marylee Anderson is the current Chaplain of the University of Aberdeen. Rev David Hutchison is the part-time Chaplain.

1.1 Roles and aims of the Chaplain/Chaplaincy

- 1) Liturgical life – the university has a chapel and the Chaplain will officiate at graduation, weddings, memorials, funerals, graces, leading Wednesday worship (a 45 minute service with chapel choir and a sermon) for staff, students and alumni
- 2) Administration – sitting on university committees – health and wellbeing, religion and belief, employee and engagement strategy, equality and diversity, and meeting with student support services
- 3) Pastoral care for people of all faiths and none – one to one support, hospital visits, responding to needs as they arise, for staff, students and alumni
- 4) Community outreach – creating a social space at the Chaplaincy. Connecting people together to combat loneliness through, for example, a postgraduate café and free doughnuts at halls of residences. Behind the scenes relationship building with the different faith communities to assist them in supporting students
- 5) Multi-faith – looking after students and staff of all faiths, providing practical support such as procuring kosher food and generating positive experiences of different faiths. The Chaplaincy assistant builds relationships with different faiths on campus, gives advice to lecturers on days of worship and holy days (e.g. if students request time off) and works on policy.

1.2 Building and spaces

The university has its own designated chapel. There is a separate Inter-Faith Centre which houses the multi-faith Chaplaincy team. The centre is not purpose built as an interfaith centre. A purpose built space has been on hold for 20 years. While there is not a specific designated multi-faith space, there is a quiet room used for meditation and Muslim prayer which has recently been revitalised. Upstairs there is a hall that takes 50 people, plus a meeting room and lounge that holds 20-30 people each. All societies can book the space for their meetings for free, or pay £5 to also have use of the kitchen facilities.

1.3 Chaplaincy teams

Rev Marylee Anderson is a full time Chaplain, ordained as a Baptist minister. Rev David Hutchison is the part-time Chaplain (2.5 days a week) and is a Church of Scotland minister. There is a team of Honorary Chaplains. These include those from the following Christian denominations – Baptist, Church of Scotland, Free Church, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Episcopal, United Reformed and Quaker – and those from other faiths – Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim. There is also an Interfaith Chaplain and an International Students' Chaplain. The Chaplains meet with the Honorary Chaplains three times a year. They update each other on what is happening in the Chaplaincy and discuss any issues arising. The Chaplains provide advice and support to the Honorary Chaplains and students.

UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE

Rev Fiona Douglas is the current Chaplain of the University of Dundee.

1.1 Roles and aims of the Chaplain/Chaplaincy

- a) Leading worship such as weddings, funerals, baptisms, prayers at graduation which are interfaith / faith neutral, daily and annual services such as the start of the university year and remembrance (HMD, Remembrance Sunday)
- b) Pastoral support for students and staff
- c) Educative – dispelling myths about religions and sharing knowledge
- d) Building community – building value and purpose, encouraging people to make connections, sharing what we have in common
- e) Multi-faith – the role of multi-faith has increased over the years. There are many more international students
- f) Running the Chaplaincy Centre and providing space for meetings
- g) Running events led by the Chaplaincy Centre
- h) Working closely with student services
- i) Supporting students with events, including publicity, attending events, giving advice and support and helping with practical arrangements

1.2 Building and spaces

The whole Chaplaincy is multi-faith with meeting rooms, a quiet room and a common room which is a large space with a kitchen off it. It is a purpose-built building. There is also a café and rooms for Muslim prayer. The building was created 'for all faiths and none'. There isn't a separate chapel for the university but there is a large open-plan space at the Chaplaincy Centre with a Christian cross imbedded in the wall. The cross cannot be removed for events but it doesn't seem to be a barrier and different faith groups use it, for example, facing the other way round from the cross for the meeting.

1.3 Chaplaincy teams

All the Chaplains must work as a multi-faith team. There are 10 Honorary Chaplains from the Christian (Church of Scotland, Anglican, Methodist and Roman Catholic), Muslim and Baha'i faiths. There are also representatives who are Hindu, Jewish, Greek Orthodox, Buddhist, Quaker, Humanist and Baptist Christians. The Chaplains meet twice a semester and have retreat days, looking at practical details of the programme and assessing the work.

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Rev Harriet Harris is the current Chaplain of the University of Edinburgh. There are two Associate Chaplains, Rev Ali Newell and Rev Geoffrey Baines.

1.1 Roles and aims of the Chaplain/Chaplaincy

- a) Managing the Chaplaincy Centre which is a multi-faith and belief Chaplaincy (formerly a Church of Scotland Chaplaincy).

- b) Managing the Chaplaincy service, staff team and the Honorary Chaplains. The paid team meets weekly
- c) Multifaith and belief work which is educative and community building
- d) Pastoral work
- e) The Chaplaincy runs the University Listening service. The Honorary team are trained to offer this one to one work. The Chaplain envisions what the university needs in terms of pastoral support and group work, running sessions to address loneliness amongst students.
- f) The Chaplaincy runs a wellbeing and compassion programme. This includes the Edinburgh University Mindfulness Initiative offering 8 week mindfulness courses for staff and students, and weekly drop-in sessions of mindfulness, yoga and tai-chi.
- g) The Chaplains are on call 24/7 and deal with emergency response for death or accident. The paid Chaplains are on a rota for this, with Honorary Chaplains stepping in if the paid Chaplains are unavailable.
- h) A weekly communion service in the Sanctuary and fortnightly Taize prayer is offered by Chaplaincy staff
- i) Building community and developing programmes which reflect inclusivity, diversity and welcome
- j) The Chaplaincy is active in helping staff and students explore environmental issues, peace and justice issues, ethics and values.

1.2 Building and Spaces

The whole Chaplaincy is multi-faith. In the central Chaplaincy, there is a large auditorium and Sanctuary, and upstairs a resource area, team meeting room, and two large spaces for groups. There is a multi-faith space at the Vet School, Dental Institute, Murray House (School of Education) and there is a suite of Chaplaincy rooms at the Kings Buildings science area, a common room and Muslim prayer rooms with ablution facilities. The common room is also used for personal meditation, and Quaker quiet meetings.

1.3 Chaplaincy teams

There is an Honorary team of about 25 – 30 Chaplains from the following faiths and beliefs: Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian (East Asian, Church of Scotland, Episcopalian, Methodist, Orthodox, Roman Catholic, United Reformed Church), Daoist, Hindu, Humanist, Jewish, Muslim, Pagan, Quaker, Sikh and Unitarian. They now have an LGBT+ Chaplain and a Mindfulness Chaplain. The Chaplain makes sure that they get appropriate training and meet appropriate people in terms of university students and staff. The Honorary team meets fortnightly and about half of the Honorary team is available at any one meeting. The team helps with one to one support for students. The Jewish Chaplain comes up once a month from London. There is also a receptionist at the door welcoming and assisting downstairs and an administrator upstairs.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

Rev Stuart MacQuarrie is the current Chaplain of the University of Glasgow.

1.1 Roles and aims of the Chaplain/Chaplaincy

- a) Providing pastoral support, including crisis and personal support
- b) Facilitating religious observance for students and staff on campus
- c) Support of network of Honorary Chaplains
- d) Management of the University Chapel as a sacred space open to all people whatever religion or belief position they may hold
- e) Development and assistance with local management of network of Prayer and Reflection spaces across campus (currently Interfaith Room, Dental School, Vet School, Queen Margaret Union, and shortly James McCune Smith Building and Stevenson Sports Building)
- f) Support of student faith societies and assisting their programmes
- g) Leading worship such as weddings, funerals, daily and annual services such as the start of the university year and Remembrance Sunday
- h) Engaging with students, staff and alumni on a personal level and through events including life events
- i) Engaging with the civic community through services, concerts, exhibitions and in events in the University Chapel
- j) Reporting to the Director of Student Support, who reports to the Executive Director of Student and Academic Affairs and in this way to the Chief Operating Officer

1.2 Building and spaces

“The Interfaith Room” in the Chaplaincy Centre is always available as a prayer space and has a section that can be booked for meetings. There are seven Prayer and Reflection rooms at the moment and there are more planned (10-12 total). The new £80 million Learning and Teaching Hub named after James McCune Smith (the first African American to become a doctor and who was given a place to study at Glasgow when other institutions in the USA and elsewhere refused him admittance) will have a Prayer and Reflection space right at its centre. There will also be ablution facilities. The University Chapel is open to everyone, interfaith services have been held there in partnership with Interfaith Scotland, and the Chaplain feels it is a symbol of the inclusivity of the university that they have held same-sex marriage services there. The university has adopted an approach of providing prayer facilities across campus (rather than in one central place) in order to better suit student needs. Muslim students might struggle to complete their prayers at the appropriate times if they had to travel to a single central location on campus. Jummah prayers are held in the University Forehall each Friday, co-ordinated by the Glasgow Muslim Students Association (GUMSA).

1.3 Chaplaincy teams

Alongside the paid chaplain who is Church of Scotland, there are a number of Honorary Chaplains – Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh, Christian (Presbyterian and Episcopalian), Muslim, Secular Humanist. The Chaplain meets with the Honorary Chaplains three times a year – to get to

know each other, share views, hear what they are each doing as well as what is happening in the university calendar. Honorary Chaplains have been involved in the interfaith services at the Chapel. The university also has a Roman Catholic Chaplaincy Centre (Turnbull Hall) and a Roman Catholic chaplain who is appointed by the Archdiocese of Glasgow and resides at Turnbull Hall permanently. Wellington Parish Church provides what is effectively a Church of Scotland Chaplaincy available to all students, staff and alumni.

HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY

Rev Alistair Donald is the current Chaplain of Heriot-Watt University. There is also a recently appointed part-time paid Muslim Chaplain, Imam Hassan Rabbani.

1.1 Roles and aims of the Chaplaincy

- a) The aim of the Chaplaincy is to promote the spiritual and social wellbeing of students and staff
- b) Providing oversight of all the Chaplaincy activities, including meals, cultural events and visits to the Scottish countryside
- c) Offering pastoral advice to people of all faiths and none, both staff and students
- d) Promoting good interfaith relations across the university
- e) The Chaplain leads interdenominational Sunday worship services on campus
- f) The Muslim Chaplain leads Friday prayers in the Sports Centre on campus
- g) The Chaplain has a formal public role at key events such as graduation ceremonies and Remembrance Day services.

1.2 Building and Spaces

The Chaplaincy building is an accessible building with many facilities, which include a lounge, dining room and kitchen, with table tennis, pool and table football, as well as the Chapel. Student faith groups often use the Chaplaincy lounge and/or the Chapel to meet. They can book the facilities any time, although to avoid crowding some time slots are reserved for general access to table tennis, pool etc. The campus woods and lake are often used as a reflective space. There is a Muslim Prayer Room a short distance from the Chaplaincy building.

As well as being used for Sunday worship, the Chapel is available for 'Quiet Reflection or Private Prayer' every lunchtime. It is often booked by community groups of various beliefs and backgrounds, including a Buddhist meditation group. It is also used as a music room and students can come and practise piano and other instruments. The lounge and dining area are also available for booking.

1.3 Chaplaincy teams

The Chaplaincy team has representation from the Church of Scotland, Scottish Episcopal Church, Catholic Church and staff members with interest in Chaplaincy. There is contact with a Jewish Chaplain. The Interfaith Forum consists of the leaders of the student faith groups together with the Chaplain and Muslim Chaplain.

UNIVERSITY OF THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS MORAY CAMPUS

The University of the Highlands and Islands operates differently to the other universities in Scotland as the University has campuses spread throughout the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. It offers the choice of studying at one of 13 colleges and research centres, over 70 local learning centres, or online from diverse areas of Scotland. Initially the central hub of the Universities was contacted in Inverness to ascertain the Chaplaincy set up for the campuses and it was highlighted that they had no dedicated Chaplains in any of the campuses. For the purposes of this research project it would not have been possible to undertake interviews with all 13 colleges and so Moray College was randomly selected.

1.1 Roles and aims of the Chaplain/Chaplaincy

There is no Chaplain at Moray College. Heather Henderson is the Student Advice Manager responsible for equality and diversity awareness at the Moray campus. Her role is to give advice to students and ensure equality and diversity awareness on campus. There are no interfaith or faith societies at the college in Moray. However there are known Christians and Muslims at the College and they actively participate in the College's Diversity Day (see activities).

1.2 Buildings and spaces

There is no dedicated space in Moray College but the Student Advice Manager has her own office and is available to meet students whenever a need arises.

UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING

Joan Montgomery is the Chaplaincy Co-ordinator at the University of Stirling. Rev Hamish Wishart is the lead Honorary Chaplain who is unpaid.

1.1 Roles and aims of the Chaplaincy Co-ordinator/Chaplaincy Centre

- a) The Chaplaincy Co-ordinator is a part of the student support services team
- b) She co-ordinates use of the Chaplaincy space by the different groups and publicising events for them.
- c) The office is open from 10am – 3pm each day
- d) The Chaplaincy Co-ordinator acts as a 'listening ear', offering informal pastoral care through one to one conversations with staff and students
- e) Students and staff can drop in and use the café facilities providing a calm and safe space and opening up opportunities for conversation
- f) The Chaplaincy Co-ordinator signposts students to one of the Chaplains or Honorary Chaplains, faith representatives or relevant student support services as appropriate such as finance, disability, mental health and student learning
- g) The Chaplaincy Co-ordinator is unique in that she has a dual role in the university as she also works as an assessment of needs advisor and mental health mentor within the student support services team, and will signpost students to the relevant support services as appropriate

1.2 Building and Spaces

The Chaplaincy has a multi-purpose room that can be used for meetings or worship by the different faith societies or Chaplains. Both staff and students use the space. There is a quiet room for reflection. There is a café that can be used by anyone. There are also male and female prayer rooms for Muslim staff and students. There is a piano and some guitars available in the Chaplaincy that people can play or use for their events. There is also a labyrinth outdoors that anyone can use. The labyrinth is a meditative path in which you can walk to release the stress and pressures of life. The Chaplaincy is integrated within the main university campus building. The university does not have its own chapel. Students are signposted to local places of worship in the town.

1.3 Chaplaincy teams

Rev Hamish Wishart is currently the lead Honorary Chaplain (unpaid) and is a Baptist minister. He works one day a week in this role and also leads the team of Honorary Chaplains and faith representatives. There are five Honorary Chaplains from different denominations of the Christian faith. More recently, representatives from other faiths have been invited to attend Chaplaincy meetings and come in when needed. These include representatives from the Muslim, Sikh, Baha'i, Jewish and Buddhist faiths. Each Honorary Chaplain has a day per week where they can set up their activities at the Chaplaincy. The Chaplaincy team meets 4 – 6 times per year. There are three emergency on call Chaplains who are available 24/7. The Honorary Chaplains are expected to support students of any faith. However students can ask to speak to a Chaplain of a specific faith if they would prefer.

UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE

The University of Strathclyde no longer has a paid Chaplain. Chaplaincy is managed by Ian MacLellan (Student Support and Development Manager) for whom this comprises roughly 20% of his full time role.

1.1 Roles and aims of the Chaplaincy Manager/Chaplaincy

- a) Managing the activities of the team of part-time volunteer Chaplains whose role is to provide pastoral support
- b) Facilitating Chaplains in carrying out the activities they wish to undertake
- c) Encouraging Chaplains to engage in the life of university

1.2 Building and spaces

The Chaplaincy Centre is a modern space on the 2nd floor of the Graham Hills building. It has a Sacred Space that seats around 60 theatre style, a social, café style space, a kitchen and smaller meeting rooms. There are also "Reflection Rooms" in some of the bigger teaching buildings to be used for prayer or meditation. They don't have to be booked and are open for use by students of all backgrounds. Many Muslim students gather for prayers there. There is also a mosque on campus that is run by SUMSA (Strathclyde University Muslim Association).

1.3 Chaplaincy teams

Current Chaplains are: Roman Catholic, Muslim, Sikh, Methodist, Jewish, Humanist. All are unpaid volunteers except the Roman Catholic Chaplain who is paid by their church and, through an agreement with the university, serves the university as a parish of the Church. There is a plan to engage with current Chaplains and others to create a Chaplains agreement this year which would stipulate what is expected from Chaplains and what support the university will provide. The Chaplaincy team aims to meet on a quarterly basis. There are a number of formal commitments the Chaplains have to the university (a Remembrance service in November, Chaplaincy attendance at graduation and a Carol service.) Beyond this, there is an intention to identify some more activities to engage the Chaplains together and attract more students to the Chaplaincy Centre.

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS

Rev Donald MacEwan is the Chaplain of the University of St Andrews. Rev Samantha Ferguson is the part-time Assistant Chaplain.

1.1 Roles and aims of the Chaplain/Chaplaincy

- 1) Director of the unit called Chaplaincy
- 2) Responsible for worship in the two university chapels
- 3) Pastoral care on behalf of the Chaplaincy
- 4) Supporting the expression of faith and fostering interfaith relationships at the university
- 5) Supporting the integration of international students

The role also includes everything else that supports the priorities of the university institution, for example offering a welcome and information to prospective students and their families on opening days. The Chaplaincy supports the freedom of students to be themselves and to not be ashamed to be a person of faith in contemporary society. The Chaplain is welcome to attend any of the events organised by the different faith societies throughout the year. The Chaplain attends events periodically, for example last year he was at a Catholic Society dinner, a Christian Union prayer meeting and a Jewish Society lunch. He also supports the leadership of the societies. For example he meets with the president and vice president of the Christian Union at least once a year. Periodically one of the presidents or committee members of one of the other faith societies might arrange to meet him for some advice on a particular issue. Or the Chaplain might ask them to advise him on a particular issue. Students from the faith societies book rooms in the Chaplaincy Centre for their meetings, apart from the Catholic Society which has its own Chaplaincy building.

1.2 Building and spaces

The university has two chapels – St Salvator's and St Leonard's. There is a separate Chaplaincy Centre which provides an opportunity for people to practice their faith in a quiet and calm space. The Chaplaincy believes in prayer, worship and meditation so the ethos of the Chaplaincy is supportive. Different university societies use the building. The Chaplaincy centre has two meeting rooms and a kitchen downstairs that students can book for their meetings. It could be for prayers, meditation, social gatherings, teaching about the faith or

discussion groups. For example, a Buddhist meditation group meets there, the Muslim Society organises space for Friday prayers and Muslims can come in to pray any time. There are two designated prayer spaces for Muslims to pray – one for men and one for women. The Christian Union holds a prayer breakfast once or twice a week. There is one room upstairs which can be booked for multi-faith or interfaith events. Other non-faith based societies also use the space. There is no charge for the space. One of the halls of residence has a multi-faith space for prayers which was set up on request from students as it is a little further from the Chaplaincy which was not easy to get to for prayers during the day. Sometimes other premises are used, for example the Jewish society has their Shabbat meal elsewhere so that they can drink wine and light candles as the policy is no alcohol or candles at the Chaplaincy. There is a kosher kitchen at the Chaplaincy so the Jewish society can make their food there and take it to the other building which they rent.

1.3 Chaplaincy teams

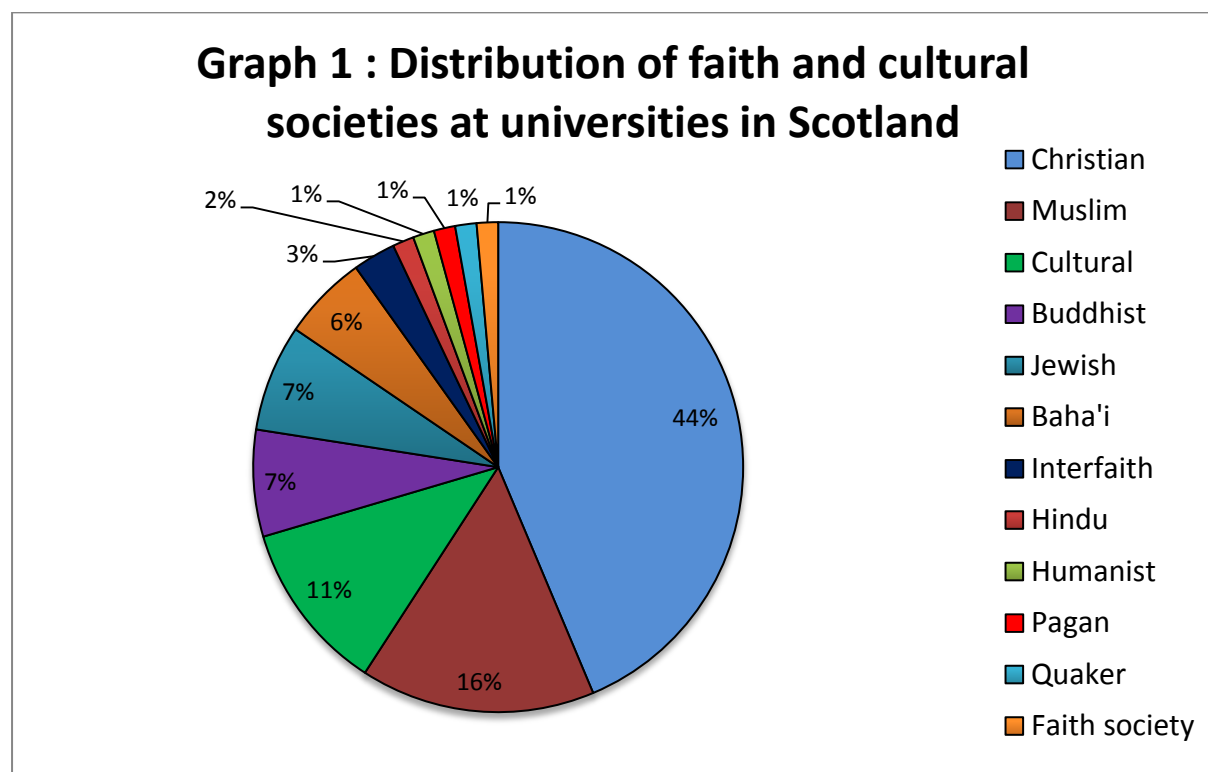
Rev Donald MacEwan is the full time Chaplain. There is a newly appointed part-time Assistant Chaplain, Rev Samantha Ferguson. There are 15 unpaid Honorary Chaplains. These include various Christian denominations (Church of Scotland, Roman Catholic, United Reformed Church, Orthodox), a Quaker, Jewish Rabbi, Humanist, Pagan, Buddhist, Muslim and a lay Jewish couple, one of whom is a senior lecturer at the university, and an Honorary International Students' Chaplain. There are no Hindu or Sikh Chaplains but the Chaplain can signpost students to the Sikh Gurdwara in Dundee and the small Hindu temple in Dundee. There isn't a Jain temple but Jains meet with the main Chaplain. The whole group meets together three times per year. There is an annual training session for Chaplains in January. The training is sometimes led by colleagues in Student Services and usually looks at issues in student welfare, and professional standards. The Moderator of the General Assembly visits once a year and has lunch with the Chaplains. There is a social event for the Chaplains at the end of term in December. It would not be easy for the team to meet more frequently as several of the Chaplains are based out with St Andrews. The Rabbi is based in Glasgow, the Muslim in Dundee, the Orthodox Christian in Edinburgh and the United Reformed Church minister in Dunfermline. Some Honorary Chaplains cover several universities and are doing so on a voluntary basis so cannot be expected to meet more frequently.

2. FAITH SOCIETIES

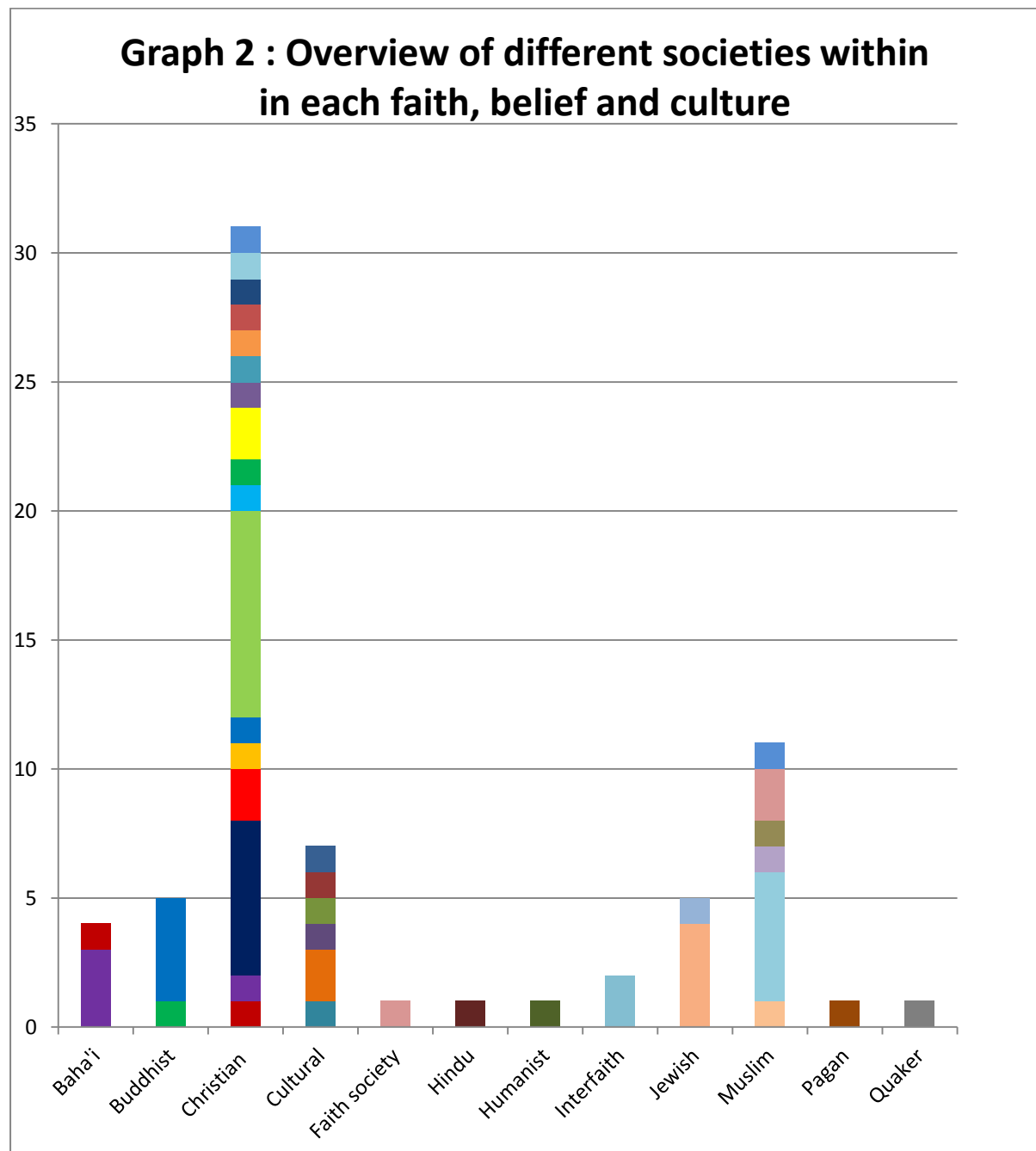
Below is a list of all the faith societies mentioned in interviews in the different universities that were included in the research.

Society	Number of societies
Christian	31
Muslim	11
Cultural	8
Buddhist	5
Jewish	5
Baha'i	4
Interfaith	2
Hindu	1
Humanist	1
Pagan	1
Quaker	1
Faith society	1

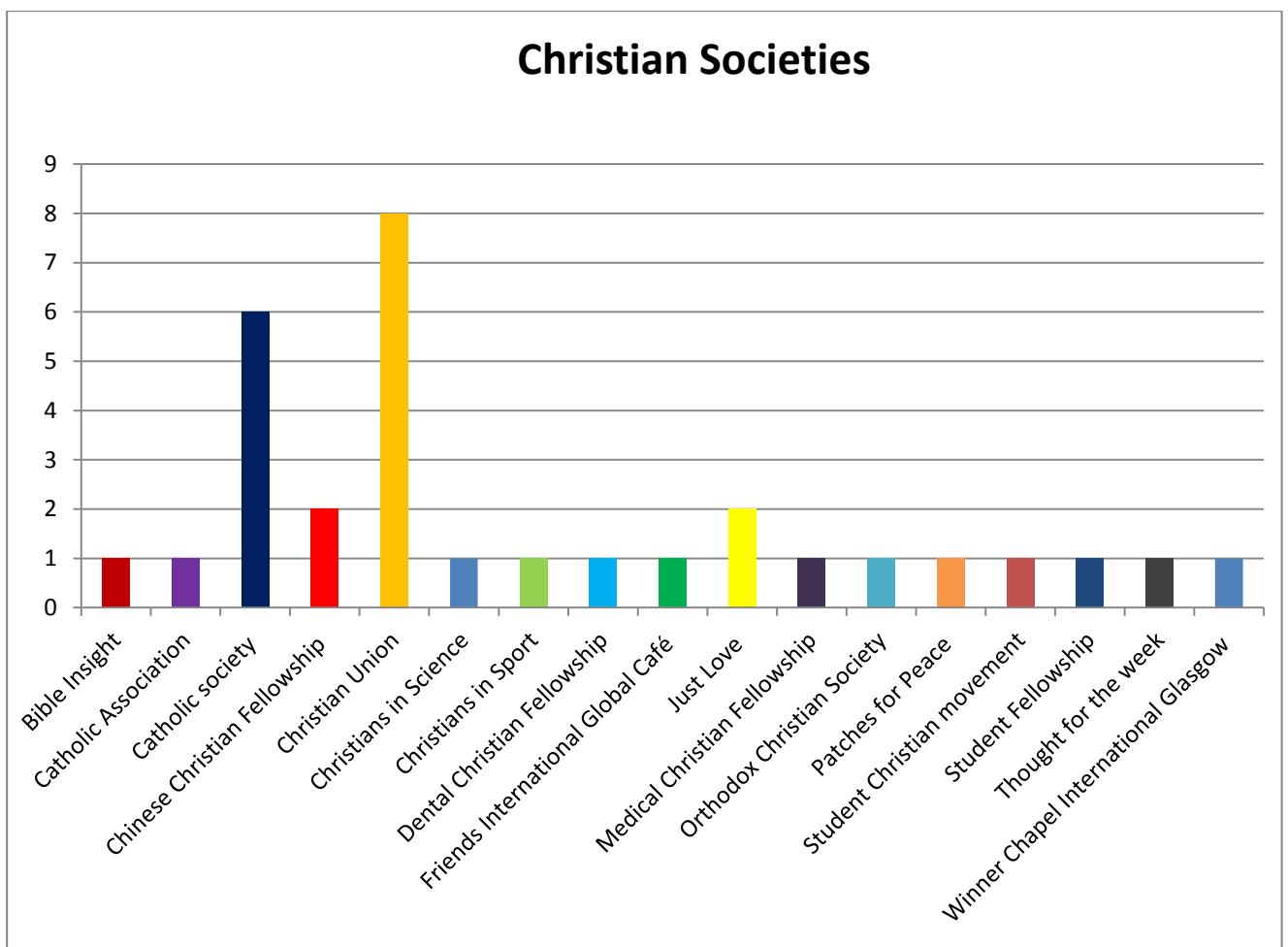
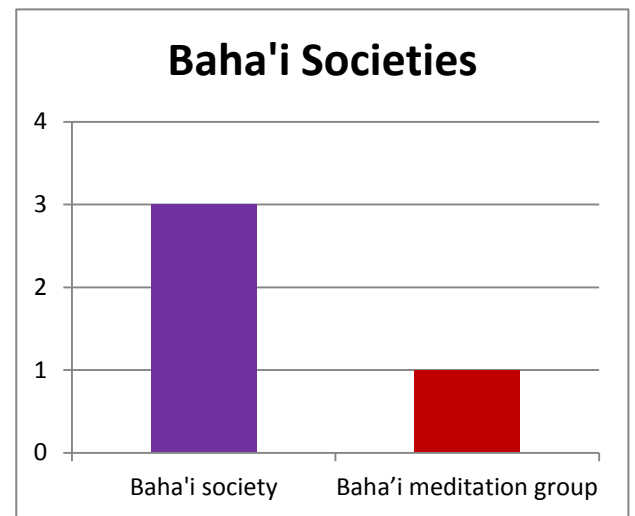
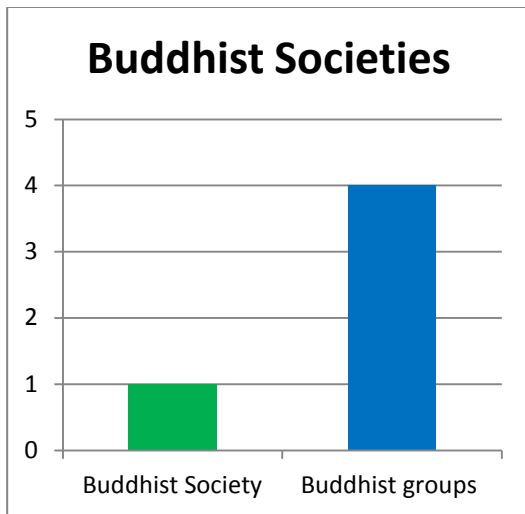
Graph 1 presents the percentage distribution of faith and cultural societies.



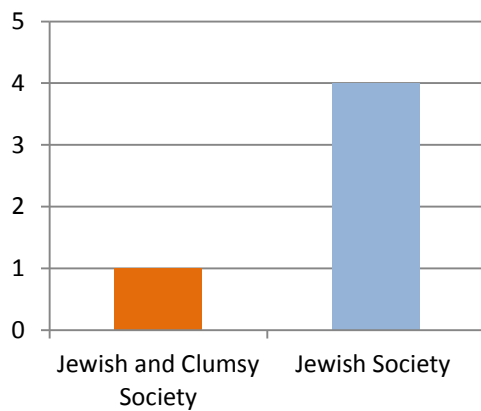
Graph 2 provides an overview of the different societies under each faith, belief and culture which will be explored in more depth on the following pages.



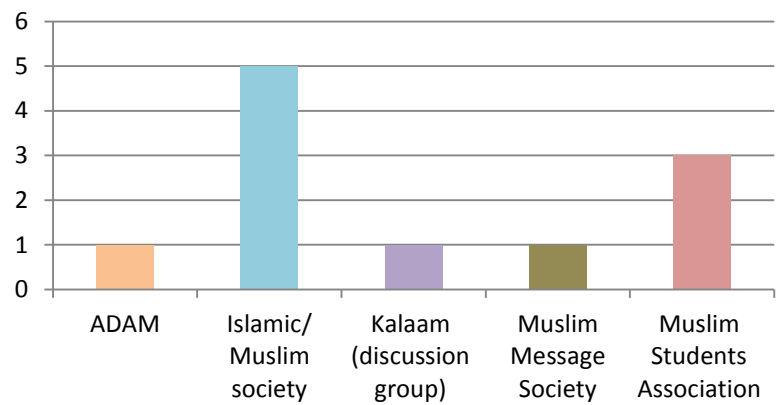
The following 6 graphs provide a detailed view of the different Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Cultural societies.



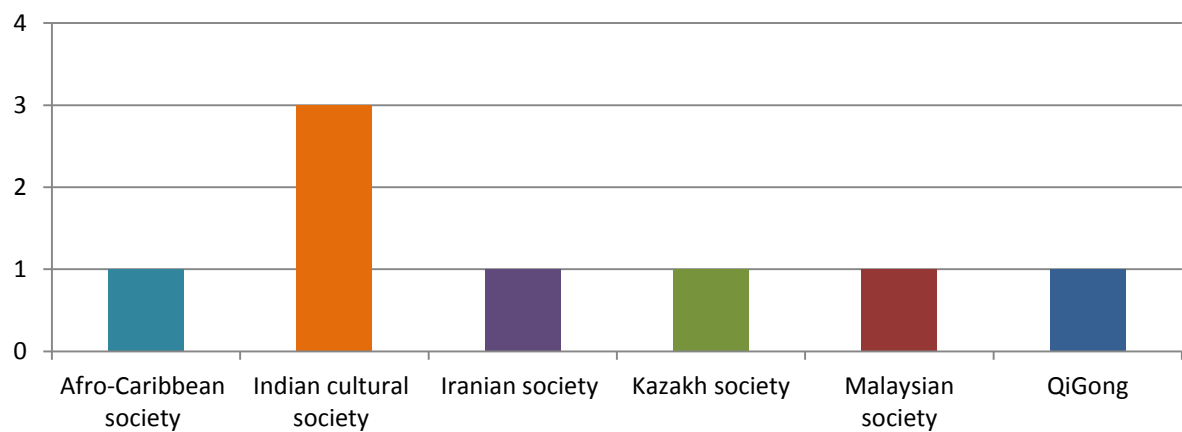
Jewish Societies



Muslim Societies



Cultural Societies



3. a) FAITH AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES ON CAMPUS

Activities	Interfaith	Faith/cultural	Other
Student-led	Around the World in Many Faiths Around the World: food, faith and friendship Interfaith meals Bilateral dialogue between faith societies Art project Talks by different faith groups Coexistence Initiative Interfaith steering group 'Game of faiths' Scriptural Reasoning Panel discussion Informal dialogue Speed faith dating Empathy Wall Diversity Day	Buddhist meditation Muslim prayers Diwali celebrations Cultural events Talks by different faith groups Catholic Society dinner Catholic Mass Christian Union prayer meeting Jewish Society lunch Islam Awareness Week Mosque Open Day Christian Outreach Week Iftar meals (Muslim)	International Students Befriending Scheme Holocaust Memorial Day event Weekly tutoring sessions Charity bake sale
Student Union or other organisations	Faith and Belief Fund Faith Forum Empathy Wall Students of Faith Officer		Equality and Diversity committee Global Café Go Global Day

Activities	Interfaith	Faith/cultural	Other
Chaplaincy-led	Opening service for the academic year Kirking of the Students Association Interfaith Celebration Meeting for faith society presidents Faith Fair Quiz Nights ‘Thinking Allowed’ Dedication of a multi-faith space Annual Chaplaincy Lecture Interfaith meals Interfaith gathering ‘What’s the University For’ Peace Pilgrimage ‘The Ground We Share’ Sanctuary Walk Creative meditation Faith and Belief Fund Interfaith Forum Project Elpis Vigils Mindfulness	Weekly prayers and Bible study (Christian) Weekly communion service (Christian) Interdenominational service (Christian) Catholic Vigil Mass Baha’i Meditation Group Taizé Prayer Christmas Carol Service Eid meal (Muslim) Diwali festival Daily Chapel services	Diversity Day The Big Give Away Cancer support Student outings Staff and student lunches Chess club International families group for women and children International women’s social group Walks in nature ‘Nibble and natter’ Global room Postgraduate café Doughnuts at halls of residence ‘Jiggered’ Equality and Diversity work Discernment Group Trips Patches for Peace Relaxation Workshop ‘Before I die’ wall History of Slavery Listening service

3. b) ACTIVITIES IN MORE DETAIL

A

Around the World in Many Faiths

The **University of Aberdeen** students organise an 'Around the world in many faiths' event with stalls about each religion and a free curry with the different faith societies helping with the organisation. Each faith society is asked to provide a display about their faith using a table and display board.

Around the World: food, faith and friendship

Once a month the Chaplaincy at the **University of Dundee** hosts a 'food, faith and friendship' lunch. Initially the Chaplaincy will provide the food for free, but then others can bring in food to share for a 'pot luck lunch'.

Art Project

The Chaplaincy Assistant at the **University of Aberdeen** was involved in an art project with Jewish and Muslim students who were making drawings of their scriptures. It was student led and the Chaplaincy assistant provided her support.

B

The Big Give Away

Once a year at the **University of Dundee** students donate kitchenware such as pots and pans and crockery that they no longer need to students who need this for their new accommodation. The project to collect the kitchenware was started by Student Services and the Chaplaincy Centre offered space for the kitchenware to be stored. The kitchenware is left into the Chaplaincy Centre at the end of the academic year, so that it is ready and waiting for new students at the start of the new academic year. The Chaplain decided to grow the project and it has become very popular, and there is now an event called 'The Big Give Away' when students can come to the Chaplaincy Centre to collect the kitchenware. In the Chaplaincy Centre, tables are laid out with the kitchenware, and the students run the stalls. Students queue outside the Chaplaincy Centre, and entertainers go up and down the queues keeping everyone entertained. Parents of the students are offered free tea and coffee and have an opportunity to chat to each other while their children pick up the kitchenware. It is a good opportunity for the parents to get to know each other. This was a spontaneous outcome of the event.

Students leaving the **Heriot-Watt University** donate kitchenware to the Chaplaincy Centre. These can be used by the new students coming in the following semester. The Chaplaincy takes up the responsibilities of storing and sorting the kitchenware for the students.

Bilateral dialogue

At the **University of Dundee** the Islamic Society hosts a joint event with the Christian Union.

At the **University of St Andrews** the Jewish Society and the Muslim Student Association have a good relationship and have held joint events. The Muslim Student Association has also held joint events with the Feminist Society (the Muslim Student Association has been largely led by female students for some years).

At the **University of St Andrews** the Christian Union runs or has links to three other evangelical Christian groups – ‘Just Love’ social action group, ‘Solid Rock’, a group which gives testimonies of faith, and the International Café which is run by the Christian Union.

‘Before I die’ wall

The **University of Edinburgh** has a ‘Before I die’ wall which people can write on at times during the year. It draws forth comments of what really matters to students.

C

Catholic Mass

Most of the universities interviewed mentioned a Roman Catholic Mass which is conducted either by the university’s Roman Catholic Chaplain or by a Roman Catholic Honorary Chaplain who is a priest at a nearby parish. At the University of Edinburgh the university Chaplaincy works closely with the Catholic Chaplaincy at the university and Dominican priests who are also Honorary Chaplains. They have their own vibrant community and a beautiful Chapel with daily services.

Christian Outreach Week

The Christian Union holds an outreach week in the majority of universities in Scotland.

Christmas Carol Service

The Chaplaincy at the **University of Edinburgh** holds the Christmas Carol Service which around 1400 people attend. The Chaplaincy at the **University of Dundee** holds a Christmas Carol Service with at least 500 people attending. **Heriot-Watt University** holds a Christmas Carol Celebration in the main auditorium which around 500 people attend, with full choir and orchestra and the Chaplaincy providing readers among the international students.

Creative meditation

The Chaplaincy at the **University of Edinburgh** organises creative meditation as a part of Scottish Interfaith Week.

Communion service

A weekly Communion service is held in the Sanctuary of the **University of Edinburgh**.

Charity Bake Sale

At the **University of Glasgow**, the Muslim Students Association (GUMSA) has collaborated with the Jewish Society to run a bake sale in order to raise funds for charity.

Cultural Events

At **Heriot-Watt University** the Chaplaincy hosts a St Andrew's Night, a Burns Supper and occasional ceilidhs for international students. As part of Muslim Awareness Week, the Muslim Society hosts a multi-cultural meal which a wide variety of students and staff attend.

At the **University of Dundee** the Chaplain was keen for the Chaplaincy Centre to host cultural celebrations. She spoke to the president of the International Students Society about the possibility of hosting a joint initiative. They decided on themed celebrations on the different continents with separate events to celebrate Europe, Asia, the Americas and Africa. For the Africa celebration, students brought in food they had cooked, brought drums and had music and dancing, and there were myth busting quotes and information about the continent on the walls. The event was publicised by students through their networks, word of mouth and Facebook which proved to be very successful. The events were essentially student-led which the Chaplain believes contributed to their success. She assisted by providing encouragement, resources and the use of the Chaplaincy Centre.

Coexistence Initiative

At the **University of St Andrews** students who are members of the Christian Union, Catholic Society, Jewish Society and the Muslim Student Association are all involved in the Coexistence Initiative. The Coexistence Initiative was set up four years ago by a group of students. It started as a friendship between Jewish and Muslim students who attended each other's faith society events. Muslims attended Jewish lunches and Jews attended the Muslim knowledge circle. They decided that they wanted to hold a conference about Jerusalem under the rubric of coexistence. A joint committee of Jews and Muslims was formed and two interested Christians also joined the organising committee. The initiative continued, holding an annual conference on different topics. For the last two years they have also held fortnightly discussion groups. The Chaplain attended one of their meetings on 'faith and mental health' where there was a moderated discussion where people from any faith could speak about mental health issues from the point of view of faith. The group has survived beyond the 'first generation' of those who set it up unlike a lot of groups who don't survive after the initial founders graduate. The individuals were conscious that a lot of the problems of the last 50 years have been down to bad relationships between Jews and Muslims and so they are trying to model something different. The **University of Edinburgh** has also started a Coexistence Initiative this year.

D

Doughnuts at halls of residence

The **University of Aberdeen** Chaplaincy applied for funds to be able to distribute doughnuts at the halls of residence to reach out to students and provide support.

Dedication of a multi-faith space

At the **University of St Andrews** a service was held to dedicate a multi-faith space at the halls of residence. The Chaplain spoke to the interfaith steering group about what format this service would take. The Chaplain invited everyone from the different faith groups to come and give a gift for the room and to speak about the gift and to offer words of thanksgiving or words of wisdom from their tradition that was appropriate to the gift. Five or six religions made a contribution. Some brought LED lights for candles, books, prayer rugs and rosary beads which could be left on the shelf for people to use.

Discernment Group

The Chaplain at the **University of St Andrews** runs a discernment group for those looking to find their vocation in life.

Diversity Day

At the Moray campus of the **University of the Highlands and Islands**, there is a Diversity Day which is held once every two years and reflects the diversity of students attending Moray College. Guest speakers are invited to give a talk on a key aspect of Equality and Diversity and food from around the world is shared along with information about various strands of equality. To date there has not been a religious input to the Diversity Day but the College has expressed an interest in having Interfaith Scotland/Moray come along as part of the next Diversity Day.

Diwali

At the **University of Dundee** the Indian Society hosts a Diwali celebration at the Chaplaincy to which everyone is welcome. The celebration is organised by the students with support from the Chaplain.

At the **University of Strathclyde**, the Indian Students Association organises a Diwali celebration on an annual basis that is open to everyone. The temple visit is limited to members of the Indian Association but their celebration afterwards is open to all and is advertised broadly.

The Hindu Society at the **University of Edinburgh** held Diwali celebrations at the Chaplaincy. It was attended by over 350 people.

E

Eid meal

The Chaplaincy at **University of Edinburgh** often hosts an Eid meal for Muslims.

Empathy Wall

At the **University of Strathclyde**, the prayer and meditation room in the Students Union has a magnetic wall outside it called “The Empathy Wall” where students are invited to write down something they are thinking or feeling or any questions they have. This may prompt conversations within the room.

Equality and Diversity work

The Chaplain at the **University of Edinburgh** has done equality and diversity work at the vet school. A Muslim member from the team has come to speak about animal hygiene and euthanasia. The Chaplain has developed Health and Safety guidelines for when students are fasting, and how this might affect their field trips or lab work. The Chaplaincy is consulted on festivals and the timetable issues which may arise when a student wishes to take time off classes to celebrate. The university wanted to set guidelines on this but it is more effective to do this on a case by case basis.

The **University of Strathclyde Students Union** (Strath Union) has an Equality and Diversity Committee that represents the views of students from backgrounds that are traditionally under-represented in decision making. The Committee is chaired by the Vice President Diversity and has responsibility for the Equal Opportunities policy of Strath Union as well as the power to propose policy and plan campaigns relating to issues of Equality and Diversity. The Committee also serves to create dialogue between the various “liberation groups” on campus. The Students of Faith Officer represents the faith societies on the committee.

F

Faith Forum

At the **University of Aberdeen** the Student’s Association has its own faith forum with student representatives from the different faiths on campus.

Faith Fair

The **University of Dundee** holds a Chaplaincy Fair during Freshers’ Week where each faith society has a stall. Free doughnuts help draw people in!

The Chaplain at the **University of St Andrews** organises an annual Chaplaincy Faith Fair during Freshers’ Week. The Faith Fair lasts for three hours and this year there were 8 or 9 faith stalls plus the society of St Mary’s College Theology Faculty. Around 50 – 60 people attended the faith fair dropping in over the three hours so there was ample time and opportunity for people running the various stalls to get to know one another, so it was acting as an interfaith event between the committee members.

During Freshers’ Week the Chaplaincy at the **University of Edinburgh** hosts a Faith Fair where all the faith based student societies have a stall. This provides a great opportunity for the new representatives from the different faith societies to meet and get to know one another. They may decide to host a shared meal or discussion between the different societies. The Chaplaincy facilitates these meetings by introducing people to each other and providing space for the meetings.

During Freshers’ Week the Chaplaincy at the **University of Stirling** has a stall to promote all student faith groups and the activities which are available in the Chaplaincy.

Faith and Belief Fund

The **University of Strathclyde** Faith and Belief Fund has been established in partnership between the University and the Union to fund student-led activities that promote cooperation, understanding and dialogue. Any student group can apply but one of the criteria is wider engagement and/or collaboration with other groups. The aim is to provide an incentive to groups to work together. The money is from the University but it is managed by Strath Union. The judging panel is 50/50 Strath Union and University representatives. Student groups can apply for £500-£1,000.

G

Game of Faiths

At the **University of St Andrews** the interfaith steering group committee organised an event called 'Game of Faiths' at the start of the academic year. This involved a variety of beach games, cricket and volleyball. The Pagan representative created a labyrinth in the sand and everyone walked around this.

The Ground We Share

The ground we share is a joint project initiated by the Edinburgh Interfaith Association and supported by **University of Edinburgh** Chaplaincy. Children from different schools were filmed talking about different faiths. Some of the university students were also a part of the project. Another film was done on Hate Crimes. It is an online resource for both students and teachers (see Appendix 3).

Global Room

At the **University of Dundee** a 'global room' has been created in the middle of the campus. This was a collaborative initiative in which the Chaplaincy was fully involved. Lunch is served at the global room and events take place there. Students have ownership over the space and it is visited regularly by the Chaplain. The Chaplain sits on the steering group of the global room and is involved in their programme planning. Food is occasionally served at the hub and events take place there.

Global Café

Friends International Stirling hold a weekly 'global café' in the Chaplaincy at the **University of Stirling**. International students can meet local volunteers to chat over coffee, explore different faiths and make friends from around the world. Trips and events are organised throughout the year and students remaining on campus over the holiday periods are invited to spend time with volunteers' families. The group is supported by the lead Chaplain.

Go Global Day

Go Global Day is a student union-led event at **Heriot-Watt University** with which the Muslim Society and recently appointed Muslim Chaplain have also now become involved. As a part of it, Muslim students from different countries put up stalls (there are Muslim students from almost 45 countries at the university).

H

History of Slavery

The **University of Glasgow** Chaplain was appointed to serve on the University's History of Slavery Committee which acted as a reference group for the study led by Professor Simon Newman and Dr Stephen Mullen. The report was accepted by the University and a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the University of Glasgow and the University of the West Indies in the University Chapel at the opening in the Chapel of an exhibition speaking of the benefits the University received from people who had become wealthy as a result of the enslavement of other human beings.

Holocaust Memorial Day event

Every year at the **University of St Andrews** the interfaith steering group holds an event to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. At the **University of Dundee** people are invited to come in and light candles on Holocaust Memorial Day in memory of those who died in the Holocaust and subsequent genocides.

I

Iftar Meals

During Ramadan, Iftar meals are hosted by **University of Strathclyde** Muslim Association (SUMSA) which are open to people of all faiths and beliefs.

Heriot-Watt University Muslim Society also hosts Iftar meals during Ramadan which are open to all. This year they advertised a challenge to non-Muslim students: 'Can you last a fast?', encouraging them to try fasting for a couple of days.

International Women's Social Group

On Fridays, the volunteer at **Heriot-Watt University** Chaplaincy hosts the International Women's Social Group which includes some wives of PhD students with their children.

Interfaith Forum

Heriot-Watt Chaplaincy has an Interfaith Forum consisting of the leadership of all the campus faith groups together with the Chaplain and the Muslim Chaplain.

Interdenominational service

The Chaplain at **Heriot-Watt University** holds an interdenominational Christian service on campus on Sundays which is attended by about 30-40 international students from many countries in Africa, South-East Asia, China and Europe. It is attended by Catholics, Protestants, Pentecostals, Baptists, Anglicans, Armenian Orthodox, Greek Orthodox and Russian Orthodox students. The Chaplain tries to incorporate some world music in the service. It doesn't have a very rigid format and lasts about an hour. This is followed by a pizza lunch, with full meals several times per semester.

Islam Awareness Week

At the **University of Glasgow** and **University of Strathclyde**, the Muslim student societies run a week-long programme of events aimed at raising awareness and understanding of Islam on the University campus. These include an interfaith dinner (see interfaith meals). These events are open to all and are broadly advertised.

During Islam Awareness Week at **Heriot-Watt University** in the second semester, the Muslim Society holds a multicultural meal and invites non-Muslim students to attend for the promotion of Islamic culture. The Muslim society sells tickets for the above event, which the students organise themselves. This contributes to the funding for the event.

Interfaith dialogue

The Associate Chaplain at the **University of Edinburgh** runs a fortnightly interfaith gathering for an hour and a half. Participants meet over a theme and often what they have done is share aspects of their faith with one another.

Informal interfaith dialogue takes place at the café in the Chaplaincy at the **University of Stirling**. Students can set up a group to share about their faith with others. For example there was a Muslim student who set up a weekly meeting at the Chaplaincy to teach Arabic and share about different aspects of her faith and culture which was open for anyone to attend.

International Students Befriending Scheme

At the **University of St Andrews** the Honorary International Students Chaplain runs a befriending scheme for international students. Pairs of students are matched up with local families from the churches and meet up around two times a semester. The honorary Chaplain also organises day trips for international students to places in Scotland with representatives from local churches twice a semester.

International Families

The **University of Dundee** has a weekly international families group for women and children.

Interfaith Meals

An event is put on during Scottish Interfaith Week at the **University of Stirling** - an annual interfaith lunch with films and talks. During Scottish Interfaith Week the Chaplaincy at **Heriot-Watt University** organises a formal interfaith meal. At the **University of Dundee** students organise meals to bring the different faith societies together.

The weekly Wednesday meal at the **Heriot-Watt University** Chaplaincy is an interfaith meal open to all. They provide vegetarian food and halal options. About 120 students attend the meal for which a nominal charge of £1 is made. All students are encouraged to attend. Students cook the meal. They make an early booking and give the recipes to the Executive Assistant beforehand so that she can make sure they are feasible and she can buy all the ingredients for them. After the meal informal discussions about faith called 'Thinking Allowed' are held every second week.

At the **University of Strathclyde**, there is a student-led annual Interfaith Dinner. The Muslim Students Association (SUMSA) and Christian Union have worked together on this. Strath Union support and help organise it. It is open to anyone to attend and attracts a diverse group of students. The cost of the dinner is paid for by the Chaplaincy and the Equality and Diversity team within the University.

At the **University of Glasgow**, there is a student-led annual Interfaith Dinner for around 200 people delivered by the Muslim Students Association (GUMSA) as part of Islam Awareness Week. University staff including top management and Chaplains are invited as well as students and the wider public. A representative from each of the faith societies has been invited to say a few words at the opening of the dinner. This three course dinner is delivered by a large team of GUMSA volunteers and is supported by small grants from Interfaith Scotland and the University of Glasgow and a larger grant from Federation of Student Islamic Societies (FOSIS).

Interfaith Steering Group

At the **University of St Andrews** the Chaplain invites each faith based student society to nominate someone to sit on an interfaith steering group as a representative of that group. The person could be the interfaith officer for that society or an interested individual. The group was set up so that each of the faith societies could interact with each other. The interfaith steering group has been running for seven years and it is student led with a student convener and a student secretary. The Chaplain attends the meetings and supports the group, which often meets in the Chaplain's office.

J

Jiggered

The **Edinburgh University Chaplaincy** runs a programme called 'Jiggered' for staff, graduates and PhD students (three groups) to help with the stresses and strains of university life.

K

Kirking of the Student's Association Inter-faith Celebration

The **University of Aberdeen** holds a 'Kirking of the Student's Association Inter-faith Celebration' near to the beginning of the academic year in October. A Kirking service is traditionally when the Students' Association would enter a church to have their group blessed. The tradition at the university has evolved and is now an interfaith celebration honouring the members of the Students' Association, its many student societies and all the good work that they do for the community. A different theme is chosen for each year's celebration and all the faith societies contribute to the event. The Chaplaincy hosts a lunch for members of the faith societies the week after Freshers' Week to organise the event. The Chaplains try to encourage the students to be as creative as possible with readings and music. Each faith society prepares a PowerPoint presentation on the theme. Previous themes include the 'Arts' and 'Pilgrimage'. An example of one of the services can be found in Appendix 3.

L

Lecture

During the second semester **Heriot-Watt University** hosts the university's Annual Chaplaincy Lecture which is open to the public. Speakers are invited to speak on topics like science and faith and encourage students to interact. Around 450 students and members of the public attend.

The **University of Dundee** has a long established tradition of an Annual Chaplaincy Lecture which is attended by hundreds of people both from the city and the university. The Dalai Lama was a speaker on one occasion.

Listening Service

The **University of Edinburgh** offers a daily listening service.

Labyrinth

The **Edinburgh University** Labyrinth is in a corner of George Square Gardens, and adds to the peaceful nature of this area, giving a chance to relax or reflect while walking this ancient path (see picture in Appendix 3). The University also has an indoor labyrinth which offers an alternative and more intimate space to the outdoor Edinburgh Labyrinth. Indoor labyrinth walks are usually upstairs in the Chaplaincy Centre on specific dates.

The **University of Stirling** has a labyrinth in the grounds on the north side of the campus. It is part of the memorial garden. The Chaplaincy organises guided walks around the labyrinth as part of the Student Support Services Mental Health Day. The labyrinth is a place of quietness and peace, for meditation and/or prayer.

The **University of Dundee** organises a Labyrinth walk in the Chaplaincy building.

Lunch

Every Tuesday the Chaplaincy at **Heriot-Watt University** provide a soup lunch, which is vegetarian. A team of volunteers makes it and charges are £1 per person. There are no restrictions on the number of servings. Fresh bread is also provided. It is very popular and provides an opportunity for students to get good food and interact with students outside their class.

The Chaplaincy at the **University of Stirling** provides two days of free lunch during exam weeks and Freshers' Week for students and staff.

The **University of Dundee** Chaplaincy provides a free lunch during Freshers' Week.

M

Meeting for faith society presidents

The **University of Aberdeen** Chaplaincy provides a meal for the presidents and/or committees of each of the faith societies at the beginning of the academic year. They also meet with the presidents and/or committees once a term over lunch.

The Chaplaincy at the **University of Stirling** organises a meeting for the student presidents of the different faith societies so that they can get to know each other. This happens once a semester and provides them with an opportunity to interact and get to know other faiths better.

Muslim prayers

At the **University of Dundee** there is a lot of interaction with the two Muslim societies as the Chaplaincy oversees the rooms designated for Muslim prayer and guidelines for the use of the rooms. At **Heriot-Watt University**, regular Friday prayers are held by the Muslim Chaplain at the university.

The **University of Glasgow** provides space with nearby ablution facilities for Jummah Prayers.

Mosque Open Day

At the **University of Strathclyde** the Muslim Students Association (SUMSA) holds an annual open day in their Mosque.

Meditation

At the **University of Dundee** and the **University of St Andrews** there is a quiet room which is a neutral space where the Buddhists meet to meditate.

A Baha'i representative runs a weekly meditation group at the Chaplaincy centre of the **University of Stirling**.

Mindfulness

The **University of Edinburgh** runs a Mindfulness Initiative through the Mindfulness Chaplain and delivers two staff courses and three student courses every year as well as mindfulness drop-ins across the University.

N

Nibble and Natter

The **University of Dundee** has a 'Nibble and natter' group for sharing lunch and exciting projects/stories with the aim of bringing people together from across the university.

O

Opening service for academic year

The **University of Dundee** holds an opening service for the academic year. While it is not designated explicitly as an interfaith service, people from different faiths are invited to give a talk about their experience at university, and faith naturally comes into that.

The **University of Edinburgh** holds an opening service for the academic year. It often involves all faiths and a particular theme e.g. refugees or interfaith pilgrimage.

P

Panel Discussion

The **University of St Andrews** was asked by external organisations to produce a panel of people from different faiths for events. One was with the Scouts, one at a secondary school and one was an evening lecture programme. The interfaith steering group organised the events and students and staff interacted by sharing a panel and answering questions.

A new society called ADAM at the **University of Strathclyde** delivered an interfaith panel event on the theme “The Role of Faith in Mental Health.”

At the **University of Glasgow**, the Muslim students society (GUMSA) hold a themed interfaith panel discussion as part of Islam Awareness Week. Chaplains and Honorary Chaplains are invited to attend and sometimes act as speakers for this event.

Postgraduate Café

The **University of Aberdeen** Chaplaincy hosts a postgraduate café once a week which helps combat loneliness and isolation.

Interfaith refugee project in Greek refugee camps with Project Elpis

The **University of Edinburgh** Chaplaincy organised an interfaith group to support Project Elpis, including two environmental science students, the President of the Islamic Society and the Associate Chaplain to go to refugee camps in Athens and Lesvos with Project Elpis. This was a project to support the delivery of small solar power units designed to charge mobile phones for refugees. The two environmental science students came up with the idea of creating the mobile phone charging units and organised their construction in Greece. The Arabic speakers in the interfaith group translated in the camps for the refugees. The University of Edinburgh picked up the project, there was successful crowdfunding and many solar powered phone charging units were supplied to refugee camps in the next few years.

Patches for Peace

A Patches for Peace craft/sewing group meet weekly in the Chaplaincy at the **University of Stirling**. The group is supported by the Church of Scotland Chaplain and brings together students with an interest in crafts looking to develop or improve their skills. One of the main purposes of this group is to offer students an opportunity to make new friends.

Peace Pilgrimage

The Associate Chaplain from the **University of Edinburgh** runs a peace pilgrimage every year jointly with an American organisation 'Heartbeat', walking 100 miles of the ancient Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route. Nine students from the university are teamed up with five students from the USA constituting at least six different faiths. The Associate Chaplain supports the students and the Chaplain supports financially as well. The participants share spiritual practices - each student tells a different story about their faith at different points on the pilgrimage. The morning starts with spiritual practices eg yoga or meditation. The walk is interspersed with students telling their stories. After a shared lunch the walk continues. The last meal of the day is followed by reflection. Each day has a theme. Two films have been made about the walk. The peace pilgrimage has proved useful in setting up the interfaith work for the coming year.



Q

Quiz Nights

The **University of St Andrews** Interfaith Steering Group has run quiz nights, inviting committee members from all the faith societies to attend. Teams are made up of people from different faiths. These have been a great success. It seems that everyone loves a quiz and it is a great opportunity for learning about each other's faiths and also encountering one another.

R

Relaxation workshops

The Church of Scotland Chaplain at the **University of Stirling** offers weekly guided relaxation sessions which are open to staff and students.

S

Scriptural Reasoning

Scriptural Reasoning is a method of interfaith dialogue focussed on extracts of scripture selected along a common theme. Scriptural Reasoning sessions have been organised by the student interfaith steering group at the **University of St Andrews**. The **University of Strathclyde** Chaplaincy Centre has hosted a number of Scriptural Reasoning dialogue events delivered by Interfaith Glasgow where members of the public and students were invited. Interfaith Glasgow use the resources for Scriptural Reasoning created by the Cambridge Interfaith Programme which are available here: www.scripturalreasoning.org

Services

The **University of Glasgow** has held a Daily Service through the academic year in the University Chapel since it was opened in 1929. It now follows a model similar to the Daily Service in Iona Abbey. Trinity College, the Anglican Society, has weekly services and there is a programme of Chapel services which reflect the life, concerns and aspirations of the student and staff community. In 2018 a service was held for Survivors of Gender based Violence and Those Who Support Survivors.

Students of Faith Officer

At the **University of Strathclyde**, the Students Union has created this new voluntary, elected role to support the Vice President Diversity. Their role will be to make contact with each of the faith societies with a view to finding out any support needs and encouraging them to engage with each other, with the wider student body and with Strath Union.

Staff Lunches

The **University of Dundee** organises staff lunches twice a term for staff to meet their colleagues and feel valued.

Sanctuary walk

The walk was organised by the Associate Chaplain at the **University of Edinburgh** in cooperation with other departments. It was a two day walk to raise money for Syrian refugees. 50 people took part in the walk and there were six refugees among them, a number of whom were fasting. As they travelled by foot and across water they visited ancient places of sanctuary and hospitality - St Bridget's Church and Inchcolm Abbey - and they recalled the journeys of millions of refugees in our world looking for sanctuary today. The goal of the walk was to provide funds to provide scholarships at Edinburgh University for at least two Syrian students. They raised the sum of £20,000 and ended the walk at the Scottish Parliament where the Vice Principal Professor James Smith received the walkers and Edinburgh University was given the status of being a University of Sanctuary.

Speed Faith Dating

During Scottish Interfaith Week the Jewish Society and Anglican Society at the **University of Edinburgh** held a 'Speed Faith Dating' event.

T

Trips

The **University of Dundee** takes students on trips 1 – 2 times per month.

The volunteer at **Heriot-Watt University** Chaplaincy runs Saturday trips for about 50 international students 3 times a semester plus 1 weekend trip. Each trip is very economical for students (£20-£25 for day trips and £65 for weekends, inclusive of coach hire, entries to castles etc.) These trips are very popular with students of all faiths and none.



Talks

At the **University of Dundee** the Chaplaincy occasionally hosts talks by different faith groups. At the **University of Aberdeen** there is an event where each society hosts a talk about their faith and what it means to them. The interfaith steering committee at the **University of St Andrews** organised events on a topic such as pilgrimage or creation or poetry or food in different religious traditions with speakers on the theme.

‘Thinking Allowed’

The Chaplain at the **University of St Andrews** runs a weekly discussion group on issues of faith in society called ‘Thinking Allowed’ which attracts 8 - 12 people each week. It is open to people of all faiths. Most have a Christian background but Jewish and Muslim students sometimes come.

At **Heriot-Watt University** informal discussions about faith called ‘Thinking Allowed’ are held every second week after the weekly interfaith meal. The students pick different topics like Artificial Intelligence, what does it mean to be human, is it only religious people who have faith etc.

Tutoring sessions for Syrian teenagers

As part of the Chaplaincy refugee work, a programme of weekly tutoring sessions for Syrian teenagers was organised by the students and Chaplaincy staff at the **University of Edinburgh**. 25 Arabic speaking students from the Islamic Society and the Middle-Eastern Studies department and elsewhere come for two hours to teach 25 Syrian teenagers different subjects. They also organise trips at the weekends for them. The programme is in its third year and has received University awards and press coverage.

Taizé prayer

Taizé prayers were held in the sanctuary at **University of Edinburgh** every alternate Monday during the semester.

V

Vigils

The **University of Edinburgh** organises interfaith vigils when there are global tragedies, for example the bombings in Sri Lanka and New Zealand (see photo on page 40). This is a way to promote standing together in solidarity against hate crimes of any kind.

W

Walks

The **University of Dundee** Chaplain takes groups to the Botanical Gardens for spiritual walks and time out. See the 'Labyrinth' section for additional walks at the universities.

Worship

The **University of Dundee** is starting a 'Wednesday Worship' which will be inclusive for all faiths.

'What's the University For?'

The Chaplaincy at the **University of Edinburgh** has been running a series called 'What's the University for' since 2012. It is a Chaplaincy-coordinated series of events debating the purpose of the University. It is a space where staff and students can come together on an equal basis to talk about the visions and values of the university. The Chaplaincy has the right ethos for this dialogue as it is there for people to flourish and understand one another and to feel that they are a community. Participants said that the Chaplaincy was the only space where they could have this dialogue as there is no economic or political agenda. The aim of these conversations is to foster a culture of compassion within the university and explore the role of the University of Edinburgh as a Global University, in addressing current global challenges. Topics covered have included: *'What's the University For?', 'Why are we here?', 'On Being a Global University', 'Can the University afford to have values?', 'Creating a University', 'The Humane University', 'Conversations Towards a Compassionate University' and 'The Personal Politics of Climate Change'.*

The Chaplaincy made a film about these conversations called the '**University Listening Project**'. The film interviews a range of students and staff from the university as part of the 'What's the University for?' series.

4. Collaborations within the universities, with local interfaith groups and with national organisations

a) University

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

The Chaplain's line manager is the 'Director of People' so has ultimate responsibility for good interfaith relations. An Equality and Diversity Officer is in charge of religion and belief policy. The Students Association has a faith forum. Keri Thomas was previously employed as a Chaplaincy Assistant one day a week but this position was lost due to lack of funding.

UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE

The Chaplaincy has a close working relationship with student services and would be called upon if faith-related help was needed. The Chaplain remarked that this close relationship is enhanced by the independence of the Chaplaincy to student services, as the neutrality of the Chaplaincy can be very helpful. The Chaplaincy has a very close link to the Students Union which is invaluable. They link in with campaigns, debates, talking on student radio, and having stalls and marquees. Student Union-led campaigns throughout the year include the Chaplaincy in providing an interfaith voice (for example giving religious perspectives on sexual health during Sexual Health Week). The Chaplain encourages Chaplaincy contributions to take place in the Students Union so a wider audience is reached.

There are no other members of staff who have a specific remit to promote good interfaith relations, but this area of work would fall within other remits, for example building international relations, and provision and pastoral support for international students and Equality and Diversity training for every member of staff. Indeed, all staff at the university have as their remit to promote knowledge and principles of faith, recognising and respecting different faiths and beliefs. The values of 'Valuing People and Building Community' underpin the whole university. The Chaplain is line managed by the Principal of the university who supports the upholding of these values.

Supporting the students with these events has given the Chaplain an opportunity to get to know the international students better. The Chaplain noticed that a number of different organisations within the university were supporting international students in different ways and that the university could do with having a more joined up approach to looking after their needs. The Chaplaincy and Student Services identified that international students needed to have their own room and a place to go, for example during the holidays. They initiated a discussion on this with other organisations on campus who support the needs of international students, and the result has been the creation of a 'global room' in the middle of the campus. This is a collaborative initiative which the Chaplaincy is participating fully in. Lunch is served at the global room and events take place there. Students have ownership over the space and it is visited regularly by the Chaplain.

The Chaplain had always been keen for the Chaplaincy centre to host cultural celebrations. She spoke to the president of the International Students Society about the possibility of hosting a joint initiative. It was decided that there would be themed celebrations on the

different continents with separate events to celebrate Europe, Asia, the Americas and Africa (see activity section for more details).

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

The Chaplaincy does a certain amount of work with the Assistant Principal of Religion and Society of the university. There is an Equality and Diversity committee that the Chaplain sits on. The Vice Principal for People and Communities chairs a group called the Religion and Belief advisory group which was set up by the Chaplaincy and is designed to speak to equality and diversity matters. The Chaplain spots when an issue comes up and makes sure the meetings go ahead. The Student Association can provide funding for student led faith events, for example Diwali. They also look after Equality and Diversity and have appointed someone to look at faith within their Equality and Diversity work and they work with the Chaplaincy.

At the fortnightly Honorary Chaplains meetings there are invitations for University staff and students to come and speak about some area of work to the Honorary Chaplains e.g. mental health, so that university staff and students get to know the Chaplaincy team and vice versa. There is collaboration across the University during many events e.g. 'What is the University for', during vigils, for global tragedies, when fund raising for refugees, with the various schools, medical, vet science and School of Education when delivering the mindfulness drop ins and courses. The Chaplain sometimes teaches at the School of Divinity and Chaplaincy takes Communion services there and offers lectures. The Listening Service and the mental health and wellbeing work of the Chaplaincy is embedded in the University.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

The University of Glasgow became the first 'Friend' of Interfaith Scotland in 2003. This set out the University's commitment to the interfaith movement and dialogue between faith and belief communities. The University will consider the appointment of Honorary Chaplains from religious bodies which they or their parent body are members of Interfaith Scotland and in the case of Christian bodies are also members of ACTS (Action of Churches Together in Scotland).

The Chaplaincy has close links with the Equality and Diversity Unit which is responsible for monitoring and developing the university's response to the Equality Act. Previously they met formally together on a Religion and Belief Equality group but it was agreed that this group wasn't required as there seemed to be an understanding across the university that people's religion and belief needs should be respected and accommodated where possible. The Equality and Diversity Unit have oversight for all protected characteristics. The role is general policy, not student engagement unless there is a complaint. Through the university's equality strategy there are also champions in each of the six equality areas. The Religion and Belief Champion oversees the strategy for the whole university and will deal with any allegations of inequality. The Chaplain attends student society events, meets them from time to time, administers small amounts of funding, and arranges facilities for their meetings.

HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY

There is an Interfaith Forum consisting of the leadership of all the campus faith groups together with the Chaplain and the Muslim Chaplain. Senior managers understand that faith is an important part of life for many students, and the university is keen to promote acceptance of this reality. Both the University Chaplain and the Muslim Chaplain are members of the Equality and Diversity Advisory Group.

UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING

The Dean for Equality, Diversity & Inclusion/Head of Student Support Services has responsibility for Chaplaincy provision. There is a student support services hub at the university which directs students towards the Chaplaincy if students are feeling lost and could benefit from emotional support.

UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE

The Equality and Diversity Manager works closely with the Student Support and Development Manager (who manages the Chaplaincy). This role includes staff and student issues, but is primarily policy and development strategy. Part of the role is about promoting diversity, interfaith activity and faith based activity generally as part of the wider diversity agenda. Individual inquiries, complaints or issues would be covered by this role.

At Strath Union (Strathclyde Students Association) there are two staff who support engagement with the diverse student body: Vice President Diversity (elected officer, one year full time role) and Student Opportunities Coordinator (Permanent, full time role). Additionally there is (since October 2018) a volunteer role - Students of Faith Officer, whose role it is to support the diverse faith societies and encourage them to engage with each other, the Union and the wider student body.

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS

The Equality and Diversity officer supports all aspects of diversity including faith and belief, disability, transgender, race and gender equality. There are very few instances of religious discrimination so there is not a lot of interaction with the Chaplaincy team, but the Equality and Diversity Officer is interested in and supportive of their work. The interfaith activity is supported by the Chaplaincy which provides space for the event, promotes the event and occasionally provides money for refreshments. Chaplains and Honorary Chaplains also attend events to support them. It is also supported by the Students' Association Sabbatical Officer who is elected for a year.

The Sabbatical Officer is the Director of Wellbeing. They attend meetings of the interfaith steering group along with the University Chaplain under the aegis of faith being a part of human wellbeing and flourishing. This can be very helpful as they can share activities that are coming up at the Students Union. The Students Union puts on themed weeks which raise consciousness about particular issues such as international cultures, and the sabbatical

officer might suggest having an interfaith event as part of the week. This helps the interfaith group to be integrated with Students' Union activities. The Sabbatical Officer can also provide space, funding or other kind of logistical help for events. The Sabbatical Officers have been very supportive – even if they are not people of faith they see interfaith as a good thing. The Equality and Diversity agenda is huge now and interfaith fits so naturally with that.

The Chaplain commented that our world, and Scottish cities, have become multicultural and multiracial so people often have fellow students or colleagues from a different background to their own so this mixing has become a natural thing. The Chaplaincy supports the freedom of students to be themselves and to not be ashamed to be a person of faith in contemporary society. In the 1970s and 80s it was more difficult to do this as the dominant worldview was that religious belief was stupid and anti-rational but that narrative is dying out and has been overlaid by a postmodern equality and diversity agenda in which expressing who you are in your own culture and faith is very important to the university.

b) Local interfaith groups

The **University of Dundee** keeps abreast of what is going on at Dundee Interfaith Group. The group holds some of its meetings at the Chaplaincy Centre. There is a local faith link through the congregations of the Chaplains.

The Chaplain at the **University of St Andrews** delivered Fife Interfaith Group's Annual Lecture during Scottish Interfaith Week.

The Chaplain at the **University of Aberdeen** sits on the Aberdeen Multi-faith forum. The Aberdeen Interfaith Group (AIG) meets at the Chaplaincy Centre. The Chaplain has spoken at one of the meetings but does not attend the regular meetings. The AIG gives a donation for using the space and the Chaplaincy advertises their activities. They worked together on the launch of Scottish Interfaith Week in 2018 and planning meetings took place at the Chaplaincy Centre.

Heriot-Watt University is a member of the Edinburgh Interfaith Association and attend their events about once a semester.

The **University of Stirling's** Baha'i, Episcopal and Sikh Chaplains are all members of Central Scotland Interfaith Group.

The Associate Chaplain of the **University of Edinburgh** sits on the board of Edinburgh Interfaith Association (EIFA). She works collaboratively with them especially during Interfaith Week. With EIFA at Edinburgh University she has run hate crime talks, sessions on LGBT+ and faith issues, sessions on faith and the environment as well as cooperative lectures with EIFA with Dr Mukwege Nobel prize winner and Aquil Ahmad, BBC Head of Religion. She attends a meeting with faith leaders in Edinburgh during Interfaith Week organised by EIFA.

The **University of Glasgow** Chaplain regularly attends Interfaith Glasgow events.

The **University of Strathclyde** has hosted Scriptural Reasoning dialogue events delivered by Interfaith Glasgow, most recently during Scottish Interfaith Week 2018.

c) National organisations

The **University of St Andrews** Chaplain receives the Interfaith Scotland newsletter and sends a copy to the interfaith steering group. The student-led Coexistence Initiative worked in collaboration with Interfaith Scotland on their annual youth conference in 2018 and 2019.

The Church of Scotland Chaplain with the **University of Stirling** also has a role as Pioneer Minister. Pioneer Ministry is an expression of The Church of Scotland. It aims to build a community that includes everyone and is there for each other through the ups and downs of university life - whatever a student's life stance, religion, or belief.

The **University of Stirling** Chaplain receives information regularly from Interfaith Scotland via email and passes this onto the faith societies, especially youth events. Students from the university attended the 'Radicalisation and Reconciliation' Youth Conference in St Andrews in April 2018 hosted by the Coexistence Initiative in partnership with Interfaith Scotland.

The **University of Edinburgh** Chaplain has links with Interfaith Scotland and their director Maureen Sier. They have done work together on the theme of loneliness and identity and how difficult it is for students who experience loneliness. The University of Edinburgh works with Stonewall to provide a safe place for LGBT+ students.

The **University of Glasgow** Chaplain regularly attends Interfaith Scotland events and has worked with Interfaith Scotland to host interfaith services in the University Chapel.

The **University of Strathclyde** hosted their own Scottish Interfaith Week event in 2018 which featured in the national programme of Scottish Interfaith Week events, produced by Interfaith Scotland.



A light for Aleppo Project with Chaplain Harriet Harris, University of Edinburgh

5. Challenges

Some of the following challenges apply to specific universities and by no means represent the situation in every university.

Lack of paid Chaplains from different faiths

Not all universities have a paid chaplain and this makes a noticeable difference, especially when bad things happen. There aren't many paid Chaplains from faiths other than Christianity. The annual Chaplains conference tends to be all Christians.

Lack of opportunity for faith societies to mix

Faith societies don't always mix with one another and there is not always a structure at the university to support this. A suggestion was made that a dedicated annual event, perhaps just after student societies have appointed their new leadership, would help develop links and personal relationships and make it easier for faith societies to collaborate and/or support each other's events throughout the year. Students with leadership roles could be paired/ grouped with their counterparts in other societies so as to share learning and build rapport. This could be organised by Chaplaincy or the Students' Union or both.

Honorary Chaplains' time constraints

As Honorary Chaplains are volunteers and many have additional responsibilities and may not be based locally, it can sometimes be difficult for them to do anything beyond providing pastoral support to the students who contact them. Therefore, finding a time for them to meet with each other can be a challenge. Additionally, they are often not connected with other groups and structures within the university such as the Students' Union or faith societies.

Challenges in facilitating interfaith events

There is sometimes a lack of expertise or confidence around organising interfaith activities. A concern was expressed that interfaith conversations could be a high risk if not managed properly. Due to the presence of students from so many different countries particular care has to be taken during dialogue and discussions to avoid conflicts brought about by politics between different countries.

Training

There is no formal training available for the post of university Chaplain. There is a need for training in different faiths, which makes Honorary Chaplains a great resource.

Food

Providing food can have Health and Safety implications.

Barriers to participating in Scottish Interfaith Week

Scottish Interfaith Week isn't always marked on university campuses. The timing may be a barrier to student societies leading activities during Scottish Interfaith Week because of

exams or because of other set items in their schedule, e.g. Charity Week taking place during Semester One. Since semesters are short there can be limited time to put on events.

Lack of Diversity

One university/college expressed the lack of diversity amongst students as a challenge.

Faith Forum

It would be good to have more time to promote a multi-faith forum or a monthly interfaith lunch to bring people together to talk about issues. At one of the universities the Students' Association has its own faith forum. The Chaplain would like to attend their meetings but the students are reticent to have a member of staff involved. The Chaplaincy could set up their own faith forum but as this would probably involve the same people the Chaplain felt that it would not make sense to do so.

Support

The university institution needs to see interfaith as important but it is not a priority at the moment in all the universities. Not all universities have a budget for activities. One Chaplaincy applied to the Development Trust for a grant so that they could provide some free food. Not all universities have a paid Chaplain and this makes a noticeable difference. Some universities do not see the need for a Chaplain until something bad happens.

Prayer Spaces

One sensitive issue was that one of the Muslim groups was using the Muslim prayer space for meetings rather than prayers while the other Muslim group thought it should only be used for prayers only. These are both student-led groups. The Chaplain brought the two groups together to understand the sensitivities and mediate between the groups.

Finding the balance

Finding a balance between dealing with pastoral issues on a daily basis and having time to plan intentional interfaith activities can be a challenge. There are sometimes denominational demands on the Chaplains, for example being an ordained minister as well as a Chaplain, and the church may not always see the Chaplaincy role as a priority.

Galvanising interest

It can be difficult at times to engage students in interfaith events even when they are well advertised. Some interfaith events have had a small audience. There is no opposition as such but a crowded market. Students have to prioritise their time and some of them prefer getting involved with their own faith based student societies rather than attending something additional. Interfaith happens every year but some years it's a lot lighter than others. Student societies are by nature fluid and temporary and depend upon who is around and what their interests are at the time. The transient nature of students can make it difficult to keep societies and events going from year to year. So there is a question around how to engage students to have a specific interest in interfaith dialogue. It needs to be seen as relevant to them. Free curry can help get them through the door! They would need to catch the vision of interfaith - for example a progressive, involved, inclusive student who is

passionate about interfaith would be more likely to attend an event. The feedback from students who do attend events is very positive.

Proselytising

At one university some faith representatives asked to sit on the Honorary Chaplaincy team but did not agree to refrain from proselytising as it is one of the key tenets of their faith. This unfortunately led to the Chaplaincy rejecting their application. Likewise some students have also taken to proselytising on campus and at certain events leading to an intervention by the Chaplaincy.

Christian Union

Some Christian Unions are not very engaged with interfaith activities and their leadership does not encourage its members to be involved.

Interfaith Worship

There is a question about to what extent an interfaith event can include prayer or worship. One Chaplain mentioned that generally there was no opposition to readings from different faiths but there could be opposition to praying or meditating together. There was a huge service at a church in the town to mark the university's anniversary. When planning the service there was a question about how it could be recognised that the university is in an interfaith setting now. The Chaplain asked the Imam to speak words of thanksgiving (rather than a prayer) for the university in its current diverse and international setting on behalf of those of other faiths and beliefs.

Multi-faith Services in the University Chapel

One university Chaplain mentioned that a multi-faith service was not considered to be appropriate in their university chapel. The tradition of the university chapels are Christian and the Chaplain felt that drawing on elements from other faiths during Christian worship does not feel like it has integrity as there is no religion called 'interfaith'. Their chapel services would not have songs or readings of different faiths. However there might be a prayer drawn from a different faith on a special occasion and the choir might sing an anthem inspired by another tradition on occasion. The Chaplain will always start the service saying that all are welcome whether or not they are from the Christian tradition.

Opening times

Some university Chaplaincy Centres are only open until 3 or 4pm which can be a problem for students who want to visit after classes.

Hate Speech

Tackling hate speech amongst students or from the public can be an issue.

Giving advice

Sometimes the advice that the Chaplain wants to give from a faith perspective is not considered acceptable within their contractual requirements (for example when two equality strands come into conflict with one another).

6. Suggested Support

How could interfaith organisations support interfaith engagement on campus?

Resources

- Share Interfaith Scotland resources, for example their materials for interfaith services
- Provide a resource pack or kit with contacts to encourage student-led activities
- Provide exhibition materials which could be put up regularly
- Send information to the leaders of faith societies at the start of the academic year

Guidance

- Provide guidance on how to organise interfaith events and manage interfaith conversations, especially those which may be challenging
- Be a source of support if Chaplains have questions
- Identify good practices that have been used elsewhere and can be adapted to a university setting. Circulate these via email to the different Chaplains.

Facilitation

- Organise and facilitate dialogue on campus. Students might see such an event and feel inspired and equipped to run something similar themselves. This would help students feel part of something bigger, and could be particularly important for University students who may be future world changers and leaders
- Support or partner on university events as appropriate, e.g. the annual youth conference at the University of St Andrews

Training

- Organise workshops and training for university staff/students/Chaplains
- Contribute to induction events for new committee members of student societies
- Provide training at the annual meeting of Chaplains
- The need for training on LGBT+ issues was identified, particularly for Honorary Chaplains. The University of Edinburgh LGBT+ Chaplain could do a training session for Chaplains at other universities
- The Markfield Institute of Higher Education provides training for Muslim chaplains
- Training on faith and mental health would be useful

Interfaith Award

Create an award that identifies young faith / interfaith leaders who could be nominated by their communities or society in recognition of the good work that they are doing in terms of interfaith leadership and interfaith initiatives.

Networking

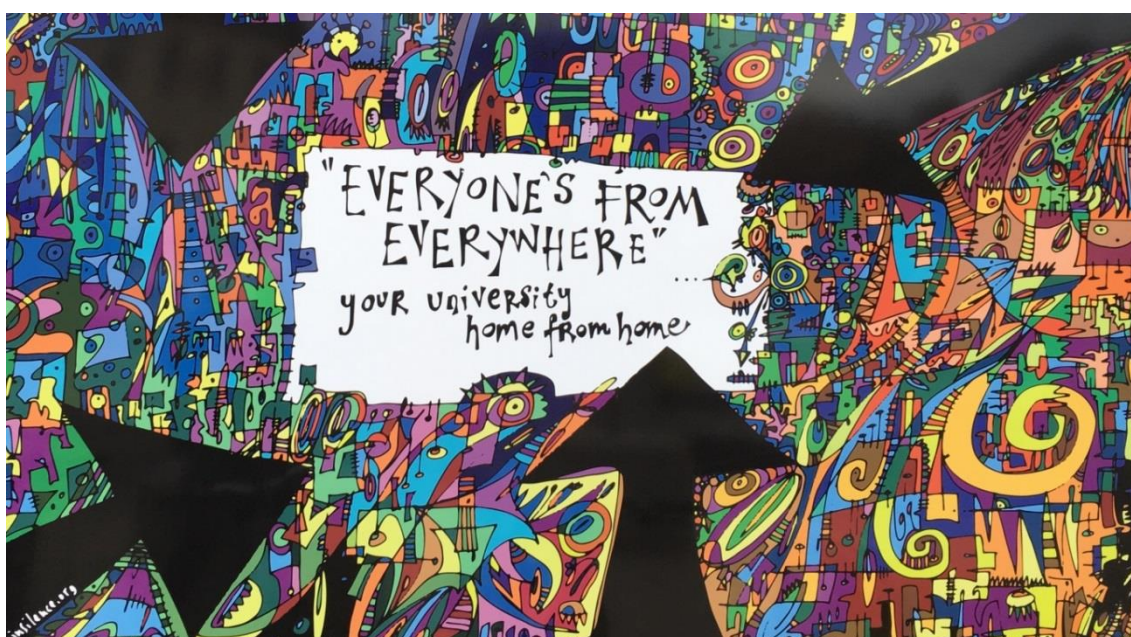
- Organise meetings of Chaplains and Honorary Chaplains from different universities
Reviving the yearly Chaplains meeting would be a positive step
- Interfaith Scotland staff could visit the university during Freshers' Week (some universities have a Freshers Fair for faith societies)
- Interfaith Scotland staff could meet with the student faith society leaders at the start of the academic year when they elect their new leadership

Linking in with local faith communities

- Connect universities with local faith communities to support events, e.g. helping with 'Around the World in Many Faiths'
- Provide support in finding Chaplains from the faiths that are currently not represented in the list of Honorary Chaplains to support students of those faiths
- Galvanise the local faith groups in the city to be involved with the university and support the student faith societies and encourage student engagement at the Chaplaincy Centre

Advertising

- Details about the Chaplaincy centres could go on the Interfaith Scotland website



Photograph from the University of Edinburgh

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

QUESTIONNAIRE

Purpose of the Pilot Research Project

To find out how positive interfaith relations are currently being promoted on university campuses in Scotland and to identify best practice and future opportunities.

Key Questions asked of Chaplains in the Pilot Research Project

- 1. What is your title and role as Chaplain at the University?*
- 2. Are there any other members of staff at the university into whose remit the promotion of good interfaith relations fall?*
- 3. Are there faith based Societies at your University and what are they?*
- 4. Do you have any interaction with those societies?*
- 5. Do you know if the societies have any interaction with each other?*
- 6. What opportunities exist, at the University, for intentional interfaith interaction between students of different faith traditions?*
- 7. Do you know of any student led interfaith activity on campus?*
- 8. If yes, how is it supported?*
- 9. Is there a designated multi-faith/interfaith space at the University?*
- 10. If yes how is it used?*
- 11. Is there a multi-faith Chaplaincy team?*
- 12. If yes, how often do they meet for dialogue and collaboration?*
- 13. Do you or a Chaplaincy team have any engagement with a local or national interfaith organisation or group?*
- 14. How could interfaith organisations or groups support interfaith engagement on campus?*
- 15. Are there any challenges you have faced in promoting interfaith engagement on campus?*

Are there any additional comments?

Appendix 2

Resources from Interfaith Scotland and the UK Inter Faith Network

Interfaith Scotland website

www.interfaithscotland.org

Scottish Interfaith Week website

www.scottishinterfaithweek.org

UK Interfaith Network website

www.interfaith.org.uk

Belief in Dialogue: Religion and Belief Relations in Scotland Good Practice Guide

<https://interfaithscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Belief-in-Dialogue-religion-and-belief-relations-in-Scotland.pdf>

Connect Booklet: A Youth Interfaith Action Guide

<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/connect>

Guidelines for Inclusive Civic Events

<https://interfaithscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Guidelines-for-inclusive-civic-events-amended-2018.pdf>

A Guide to Faith Communities in Scotland

<https://interfaithscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Guide-to-Faith-Communities-in-Scotland-2014.pdf>

Transforming Hate Speech in youth settings: An Educational Tool and Practice Manual

<https://interfaithscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Transforming-Hate-in-Youth-Settings-Practical-Manual.pdf>

Appendix 3

Resources from Scottish University Chaplaincies and other websites

Labyrinth

A labyrinth is a place of quietness and peace, for meditation and/or prayer. These can be outdoor or indoor labyrinths. Examples from two universities are below.

University of Stirling: <https://www.stir.ac.uk/student-life/support-wellbeing/student-support-services/Chaplaincy/labyrinth/>

University of Edinburgh: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/labyrinth>



Pilgrimage

The link below gives an example of a pilgrimage organised by the Associate Chaplain at the University of Edinburgh.

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/Chaplaincy/pilgrimage-opportunities/camino-peace-pilgrimage>

Scriptural Reasoning

A number of universities use the resources for Scriptural Reasoning created by the Cambridge Interfaith Programme which are available at: www.scripturalreasoning.org

‘The Ground We Share’

University of Edinburgh: www.thegroundweshare.com

The ground we share is a joint project between the University of Edinburgh and the Edinburgh Interfaith Association. Children from different schools were filmed talking about different faiths. Some of the university students were also a part of the project. It is an online resource for both students and teachers.

‘What’s the University For?’ and the Listening Project Film

A project to help explore the vision, purpose and future of at the University of Edinburgh:

<http://www.whatstheuniversityfor.com/>

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/chaplaincy/the-university-listening-project>

Camas Trip

Bringing vulnerable citizens together with students of the University of Edinburgh:

<https://youtu.be/q-ll6Ck-SN0>

Refugee work

University of Edinburgh runs weekly tutoring sessions for Syrian refugees

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/news/2018/student-tutors-help-refugees-find-their-feet>

Mindfulness

The University of Edinburgh has produced a short video introducing mindfulness:

https://media.ed.ac.uk/media/On+Mindfulness/1_b4n37iyu/66274621

Example of a Multi-faith Service at the University of Aberdeen

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

KIRKING OF THE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Inter-Faith Celebration

Youth and Faith



Wednesday 10 October 2018 at 5.15pm

Aberdeen University Students' Association

PROGRAMME

INTROIT

I Giorni Ludovico Einaudi (b1955)

Anthony White, Senior Organ Scholar

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Rev Marylee Anderson
Chaplain to the University

OPENING RESPONSES

Leader: We have come from many places for a little while
All: We have come with all our differences seeking peace and understanding
Leader: We have come on journeys of our own
All: To a place where journeys meet
Leader: So here in this shelter house
All: When paths cross and pilgrims gather
Leader: There is much to share and celebrate
All: In the diverse patterns of our community

COMMENDATION OF THE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

ADDRESS

BLESSING

Leader: May the light of your soul guide you
All: May the light of our souls bless the work we do with the secret love and warmth of our hearts
Leader: May you see in what you do the beauty of your own soul
All: May the sacredness of our work bring healing, light and renewal to those who work with us and to those who see and receive our work
Leader: May your work never weary you
All: May it release within us wellsprings of refreshment, inspiration and excitement
Leader: May you be present in all you do
All: May we never become lost in the bland absences
Leader: May the day never burden you

All: May dawn find us awake and alert, approaching each new day
with dreams, possibilities and promises
Leader: May evening find you gracious and fulfilled
All: May we go into the night blessed, sheltered and protected
Leader: May your soul calm, console and renew you

Bahá'í Reflection

Adam Kordoš

Youth can move the world

Wherefore, O ye illumined youth, strive by night and by day to unravel the mysteries of the mind and spirit, and to grasp the secrets of the Day of God. Inform yourselves of the evidences that the Most Great Name hath dawned. Open your lips in praise. Adduce convincing arguments and proofs. Lead those who thirst to the fountain of life; grant ye true health to the ailing. Be ye apprentices of God; be ye physicians directed by God, and heal ye the sick among humankind. Bring those who have been excluded into the circle of intimate friends. Make the despairing to be filled with hope. Waken them that slumber; make the heedless mindful. Such are the fruits of this earthly life. Such is the station of resplendent glory. Upon you be Bahá'u'l-Abha. *Abdu'l-Bahá*

O Lord! Make this youth radiant, and confer Thy bounty upon this poor creature. Bestow upon him knowledge, grant him added strength at the break of every morn and guard him within the shelter of Thy protection so that he may be freed from error, may devote himself to the service of Thy Cause, may guide the wayward, lead the hapless, free the captives and awaken the heedless, that all may be blessed with Thy remembrance and praise. Thou art the Mighty and the Powerful. *'Abdu'l-Bahá*

Buddhist Reflection

Andrew Fry

I have heard that on one occasion the Blessed One was staying among the Sakyans. Now there is a Sakyan town named Sakkara. There Ven. Ānanda went to the Blessed One and, on arrival, having bowed down to the Blessed One, sat to one side. As he was sitting there, Ven. Ānanda said to the Blessed One, “This is half of the holy life, lord: having admirable people as friends, companions and colleagues.”¹

“Don’t say that, Ānanda. Don’t say that. Having admirable people as friends, companions and colleagues is actually the whole of the holy life. When a monk has admirable people as friends, companions and colleagues, he can be expected to develop and pursue the noble eightfold path.

“And how does a monk who has admirable people as friends, companions and colleagues, develop and pursue the noble eightfold path? There is the case where a monk develops right view dependent on seclusion, dependent on dispassion, dependent on cessation, resulting in relinquishment. He develops right resolve... right speech... right

action... right livelihood... right effort... right mindfulness... right concentration dependent on seclusion, dependent on dispassion, dependent on cessation, resulting in relinquishment. This is how a monk who has admirable people as friends, companions and colleagues, develops and pursues the noble eightfold path.

“And through this line of reasoning one may know how having admirable people as friends, companions and colleagues is actually the whole of the holy life: It is in dependence on me as an admirable friend that beings subject to birth have gained release from birth, that beings subject to ageing have gained release from ageing, that beings subject to death have gained release from death, that beings subject to sorrow, lamentation, pain, distress and despair have gained release from sorrow, lamentation, pain, distress and despair. It is through this line of reasoning that one may know how having admirable people as friends, companions and colleagues is actually the whole of the holy life.”

Half (of the Holy Life) Upaḍḍha Sutta (SN 45:2)

Christian Orthodox Reflection

Mihai Stoica and Petre Maican

Romanian Orthodox Song: "Anthem for the Welcoming of Our Lord" / "Axion Ia Intmapinarea Domnului" (Romanian Translation)

How new is the new?

ANTHEM

When I needed a Neighbour

Peter MacPherson

Christian Union Reflection

Thom Knight

⁸ While bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. ⁹ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. ¹⁰ For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

¹¹ Command and teach these things. ¹² Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. ¹³ Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.’

1 Timothy 4:8-13

Jewish Reflection

Raquel Cohanin and Orah Liss

University of Aberdeen Dance Society Ballet Repertoire

Belief and Creating Unity

Choreographed by Rebecca McAvoy

Muslim Reflection

Noor Chaudhary and Halima Elyas

- I. Mohammed PBUH was quoted as saying;

”الشيخ خلفني والشيخ باب ذ صرني

“The youth gave me success, elders held me back”

- II. Some people who could not get rid of the customs and ideas of the Era said, "A child was appointed as a commander over Muhajirs and Ansar."

Thereupon, Messenger of Allah is narrated to have ascended the pulpit and spoken as following:

"O people! You object to Usama bin Zayd's command and before this you objected to the command of his father Zayd. By Allah, he was fit as the commander and he was one of the dearest people to me. I swear by Allah Usama bin Zayd is fit as the commander and he is one of the dearest people to me after his father. I recommend him to you because he is one of the righteous people among you."

- III. In a Hadith, the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said that the feet of the son of Adam will not be able to move until he is questioned regarding four things.

Out of these four questions, **one question asked will be regarding how one spent his time as a youth.**

- IV. In another Hadith, the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) has said that on the Day of Judgement, there are seven types of people to whom Allah will give shade to. It is stated in Bukhari that on the Day of Judgement there will be no shade except for Allah's shade. And from amongst these groups, **one group will be those youth who spent their youth in the worship of Allah.**

Pagan Reflection
Phoenix Bronwyn Archer

One Foot in Eden *by Edwin Muir*

One foot in Eden still, I stand and look across the other land.
The world's great day is growing late, yet strange these fields that we have planted
So long with crops of love and hate. Time's handiworks by time are haunted,
And nothing now can separate the corn and tares compactly grown.
The armorial weed in stillness bound about the stalk; these are our own.
Evil and good stand thick around in fields of charity and sin
Where we shall lead our harvest in.

Yet still from Eden springs the root as clean as on the starting day.
Time takes the foliage and the fruit and burns the archetypal leaf
To shapes of terror and of grief Scattered along the winter way.
But famished field and blackened tree bear flowers in Eden never known.
Blossoms of grief and charity Bloom in these darkened fields alone.
What had Eden ever to say of hope and faith and pity and love
Until was buried all its day and memory found its treasure trove?
Strange blessings never in Paradise Fall from these beclouded skies.

CLOSING RESPONSES

Leader: Deep peace of the running wave to you

All: Deep peace of the flowing air to you

Leader: Deep peace of the quiet earth to you

All: Deep peace of the shining stars to you

Leader: Deep peace of the gentle night to you

All: Moon and stars pour their healing light on you



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