



# WELCOME TO THE CHAPLAINCY



## Chaplaincy News

@ The Meeting House

Embracing Diversity, Celebrating Faith

### The Chaplaincy promises:

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

# Who are we?



The Rev Vaughan Rees  
Director of Chaplaincy  
Services/University Chaplain



Radhika Kadaba  
Hindu Faith Advisor



Faisal Khajjou  
Chaplaincy Imam



The Rev Natalie Stanton  
Associate Chaplain



Sameh Otri  
Friday Prayer leader



Surinder Channa  
Sikh Faith Advisor



Dr Nick Swann  
Buddhist Faith Advisor



Shereen Aziz Williams  
Honorary Muslim Chaplain



The Rev Ray Vincent  
Senior Chaplain



The Rev Michelle Romaniw  
Associate Chaplain



Rabbi Michael Rose  
Jewish Faith Advisor



Jan Harris  
Resource Officer



John Lipscomb  
Chaplaincy Administrative Officer



Dr Leshan Uggalla  
Buddhist Faith Advisor

## Contact us

Telephone: **01443 654 060**

Email: **chaplaincy@southwales.ac.uk**

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

**@USWChaplaincy**

Website: **chaplaincy.southwales.ac.uk**

Pastoral emergency out of hours  
telephone number: **03455 760 101**

Chaplaincy at USW  
may not be what you  
think it is!

It has something for everyone.

**Whether you are religious or not, we are here for you.**

We are an open and inclusive service to the whole University community. Whatever your belief, philosophy or outlook, your nationality, race, culture, age, gender, sexual orientation, ability or disability – we are here for you.

Our home on the Treforest campus is 'the Meeting House' – an important title, because it is where we come to meet one another. We don't leave our differences at the door and pretend we are all the same. We come as we are to meet others as they are and enjoy each other's company in all our diversity.

You can become part of our family of regular visitors, and you may go a step further and become a Chaplaincy volunteer. But you are just as welcome if all you do is drop in occasionally or join an activity that appeals to you. Everyone contributes to the life of the Chaplaincy in their own special way. If you are a returning student, welcome back! If you are new, we look forward to getting to know you.

## If you are looking for events and activities ...

We have a full and varied programme:

- **speaker meetings**
- **discussions**
- **quizzes**
- **games nights**
- **'Open Mic' nights**
- **parties – with lots of fun and food!**

Our programme is often shaped by suggestions from students, so feel free to share any ideas you have!

You can book a room in the Meeting House for your society or for a gathering with friends.

The Meeting House lounge is open all day on weekdays. Drop in, have a free cup of tea or coffee, bring your packed lunch, chat or sit by yourself, read a book or play a game. If you need a quiet place to study, a small room may be available, and you can borrow a laptop if you need one.





Chaplaincy is  
here to listen.

**Being at University can be full of fun and excitement, but at times it can also be challenging, and difficult.**

If you are having problems with your work, you can talk confidentially with a Chaplain. We are not part of the academic staff, so confiding in us will not affect your progress as a student. But you are not just a student – you are a whole person, and everything about you counts. You can talk with us about your relationships, your family, your health, or anything that is bothering you.

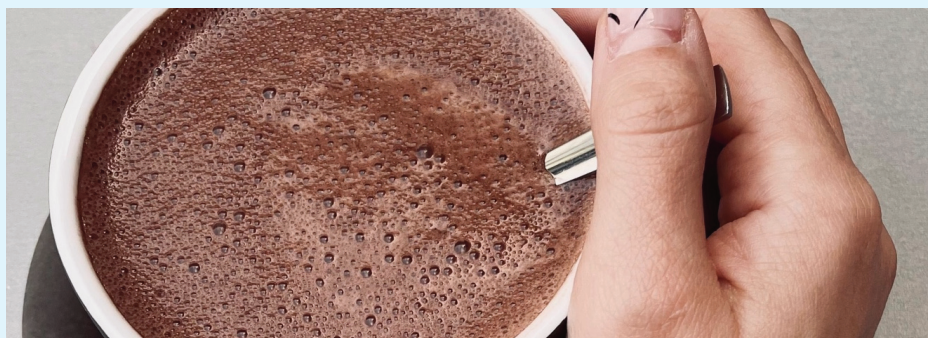
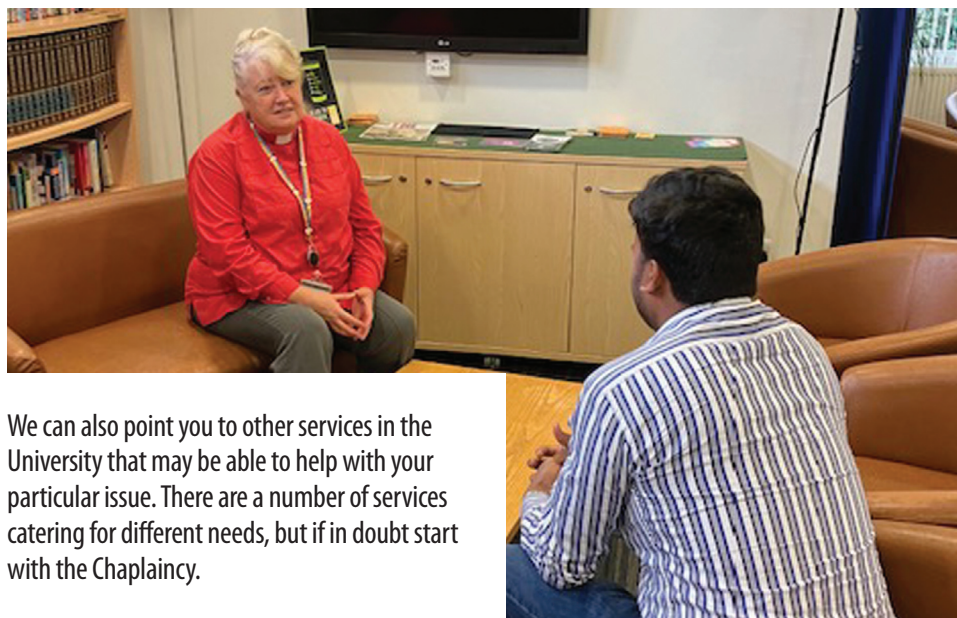
We can also point you to other services in the University that may be able to help with your particular issue. There are a number of services catering for different needs, but if in doubt start with the Chaplaincy.

You can chat with a Chaplain on the phone (01443 654060), make an appointment by phone or e-mail ([chaplaincy@southwales.ac.uk](mailto:chaplaincy@southwales.ac.uk)) to speak in person, or just walk into the Meeting House when it's open and ask to see a Chaplain. In a pastoral emergency out of hours you can phone 03455 760101 for the University's main reception, say you want to speak to a Chaplain, leave your name and number, and a Chaplain will get back to you.

We promise:

- not to judge you
- to respect and value what is important to you
- to do all we can to see you when you need to see us

We are available on all campuses and will make every effort to meet you at a place convenient to you.



Chaplaincy is  
for staff too

**We are here for staff members too. You can talk to us confidentially.**

We are not part of the management structure of the University, so what you share with us will not affect your work situation.

You can ask for our advice in dealing with a student in difficulties or advise a student to see us. But we realise that you too have a life outside the University, and you are welcome to talk with us about anything.



**Dr Lisa Davies**  
USW International

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



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

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

# Celebrating Faith



Of course, at its heart the Chaplaincy is a service rooted in faith.

We would never impose our faith on others, but it is the energy behind all that we do to help others. If you have a faith, we can help you to practise it, whatever faith it may be

- There is a Reflection Room in the Meeting House for prayer or meditation, and a Prayer Room on the Treforest campus, complete with Wudu facilities. There are also prayer and reflection rooms on the Newport,

Glyntaff, and Cardiff campuses.

- There is a regular Communion service open to all during term time
- Muslim Friday prayers are held, and a Seerah class on Fridays during term
- The Meeting House hosts several religious groups and societies
- We can give you information and advice about places of worship and other facilities on or off campuses; please just ask and we will assist you
- We have a team of Faith Advisors who can offer you faith specific advice should you need it.

## Watch Out For

Throughout the year the Chaplaincy puts on a variety of events to support students in marking and celebrating significant occasions. Some examples are below but feel free to talk to us about any ideas you have.

Why don't you have a look at our 2023 Chaplaincy Welcome Video <https://tinyurl.com/mp4vwjz>

Here are some of the things we are planning:

**Black History Month (October):** October is the month when we focus on racial harmony and the contribution of black and ethnic minority people to history and celebrate their achievements. Watch out for this year's events, and feel free to make your own suggestions.



Each year the Chaplaincy leads the University in an Act of Remembrance that includes two minutes' silence at 11:00am



(the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). As the 11th November falls on a Saturday this year, we will be marking the occasion the previous day (Friday 10th November) across all our campus's. As an international University community, we include in our prayers all, whatever their nationality, who have suffered and still suffer because of war, and pledge ourselves to do what we can to be a peaceful world.

### And further ahead ...

We will be observing Holocaust Memorial Day on Monday 29th January, offering an opportunity for quiet meditation. Holocaust Memorial Day is held on the 27th January each year but as this is a Saturday, we will be offering a space for remembering and reflection the following Monday.

We are planning to host events which will give an introductory explanation of AI and explore its implications on faith and equalities. We have also invited Professor Martin Stringer an experienced senior leader in Higher Education to lead an exploration and reflection on current LGBT+ issues.

# CROESO WELCOME

## Volunteers

**Why not improve your CV and help people at the same time by volunteering at the Meeting House?**

You can be part of an enthusiastic and friendly team whilst developing skills that will help you in future employment. Volunteers help to prepare rooms for events, serve food and drink, or act as a steward to keep the Meeting House open in the evenings. As a volunteer, you can use your talents to gain more and new experience in the working environment.

**Come and help us help you!**



Please speak to us about any ideas you have for events.