

Chaplaincy Focus

AUGUST 2017

MULTI-FAITH CHAPLAINCY



UNIVERSITY OF
LINCOLN



Multi-Faith Chaplaincy's Peace Dinner: the message we need in 2017

Bradley Allsop, Phd student



Debate, discussion and diversity is fundamental to democracy, but increasingly we live in a world where we don't know how to live with the differences of opinion and identity. In

2016, division and the irreconcilability of some of the differences opened up in our communities and grew, spilling over to become intolerance and even violence. However, whether you voted remain or leave in the EU referendum, or you consider President Trump's victory the best or worst thing to ever happen to America, we can perhaps all agree that we have just survived this year of division.

This is why initiatives like the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy's peace dinner are so important, and in the current political climate, so radical. A diverse group of thirty to forty of us came together, organised by the University of Lincoln's Multi-Faith Chaplaincy, to share a meal,

discuss our perspectives on peace, to learn from one another's perspectives, and to discuss how we can further peace.

We heard from speakers from across different denominations, religions and philosophies of how peace is intimately connected with respect and equality and tolerance. We discussed the need for freedom to explore different ideas and ideologies, to celebrate diversity, but also to embed this in a recognition of what unites us.

It wasn't just peace with each other that was mentioned, but also the need for peace with our surroundings, our environment. This year we are witnessing the effects of a 1.1-degrees rise in global temperatures, with increased freak weather events and polar ice caps melting as a result. People in some of the poorest parts of the world are already suffering and dying. We are edging ever closer to the 2-degree limit imposed by climate scientists - going beyond this will cause irreparable damage to ecosystems and human societies. We desperately need, in

2017, to find peace with our environment and find ways to develop and grow that do not harm our planet.

It is rising to this existential challenge that perhaps has the greatest potential to unite us - we are all threatened by climate chaos and must work together, as a world community, to overcome it, drawing on all our talents and insights.

In the final part of the event, after the speeches, we shared a meal (vegetarian curry and apple pie, delicious!) and it was in these discussions that I realised, despite all the obstacles to peace we saw in 2016, there was hope. It lies in the diversity and action of all those that were assembled at that dinner, and the countless more on our campus and across the city who are working day by day for tolerance, peace and progress. It is our collective responsibility to organise in the ethos of the peace dinner event put on by the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy. If enough of us rise to that challenge, 2017 can be a brighter year.

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It is my great pleasure to introduce this newsletter which reflects who we are and what we are about. I started my role as University of Lincoln Chaplain

in August 2012 with Lincolnshire Chaplaincy Services (LCS). Five years on LCS have now ceased operation as an organisation, but the University has offered me a job as Multi-Faith Chaplaincy Co-Ordinator which I have accepted, so will continue to work and help develop the service.

Reflecting over the last five years there has been a lot of development. When I started I was based in Student Wellbeing sharing the office, and now the chaplaincy has its own space and has a team of 18 volunteer chaplains/faith advisors. There is also a Faith Advisory Committee. Chaplaincy has also made a huge impact on university life and has participated in many aspects of the university. This is a milestone for Chaplaincy. This team and the chaplaincy reflect who we are, what we are and the community that we serve at the university. I want to record here that the first time I came to Lincoln for my interview I stood by the Brayford Pool and I fell in love with Lincoln and this university. The Multi-Faith Chaplaincy

Team are approachable, loving, caring and I am very lucky to be part of this team. There are so many stories to share with you and in this newsletter, this is just a small selection that I hope you might find encouraging and perhaps learn more about our service.

We work in partnership with various religious and non-religious organisations, as well as civic organisations in Lincoln for mutual learning and support, so we are here if you are interested in partnering with us.

University Chaplaincy represents all faiths and none and our team shows how we are united despite the differences. The University of Lincoln is setting a good example for coexistence. The Multi-Faith Chaplaincy service is here for you and if you want to learn about our services or meet the team please contact us. Our contact details are on the back of this newsletter so contact us anytime or walk into Witham House over coffee and chat and perhaps pop in for our Thursday Soup Lunch.

We always listen to your feedback so let us know how we are doing so we can continue to improve our services. Please also look at our strategic plan for the next three years, as this will communicate what we are aiming to achieve in the coming years.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Witham House

The University of Lincoln Multi-Faith space, based in Witham House, is a facility used for worship, prayer, interfaith discussion and hospitality by the diverse student body.

Witham House has four principal objectives:

- To provide the spaces necessary for different religious groups to pray, worship and explore their faith together on campus.
- To be a centre for interfaith dialogue and common endeavour that seeks to address the religious tensions of today's world.

- To be welcome and hospitable to all.
- To provide a reflective space on a hectic campus where both students and staff can take time out, away from noise and the stress of work either individually or in organised meditations, yoga, and so on.

Registered University of Lincoln SU Faith Societies committed to principles of interfaith understanding are welcome to use the space for their meetings. Please contact the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy for more information.

Lifetime Memories

Dr. Shreesha Bhat



I was involved with the chaplaincy for more than three years (2013-2016) while pursuing my doctoral studies at the University of Lincoln. Being an international student away from home, I received a lot of support from the chaplaincy-it offered friendship and mentorship to me as well as other international students.

The philosophy and vision in establishing the Multi-Faith chaplaincy is commendable and has been instrumental in supporting students of all faiths and none. The organisation of faith-awareness trips to Leicester, where we visited different places of worship, is one such example.

I got an opportunity to work closely with the chaplaincy on several occasions including organising festivals like Holi (for the first time in Lincoln in 2013) and Diwali in Lincoln. Since then, Holi and Diwali have been celebrated in Lincoln every year with participation from students as well as local communities with the constant support from the Chaplaincy. The role of chaplaincy in bringing together international students to organise and participate in the 50th anniversary celebrations of Lincolnshire Fire Services was immense. We put together an International Fashion Show, international dance, and ethnic dress wearing sessions, to give a taste of different cultures to the people of Lincoln.

The chaplaincy also helped in organising trips for research students like me to different places around Lincoln. I am glad to have been associated with the



chaplaincy during my stay in Lincoln as I got to participate in a lot of fruitful activities and events, the memories of which I will cherish for my lifetime.



Peace Video

Natasha Cooke

I have been studying Media Production here at the University of Lincoln for nearly three years. Last semester I was asked by the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy to create two short video projects, one of which was on the topic of World Peace. This was a simple yet very exciting project as it was an area that I had never had the chance to work on before.

Last December of 2016 a 'Peace Dinner' evening was held on-campus, in which people of various Faiths and Religions could come together and enjoy a sit-down meal. There was a chance for everyone to express their views on World Peace from the perspective of their own faith, as well as those who were not affiliated with one. Having interviewed some of the Chaplaincy members beforehand allowed

me to pick up on a different set of media skills that I hadn't had the chance to do as much with previous projects. The interviews and Peace Dinner itself were experiences that went beyond the realms of media. I had met many kind and interesting people who helped me to broaden my worldview and to gain a better understanding of people's views on culture and faith. The evening had helped everybody within the Chaplaincy to connect with one another and brought everybody closer together in a world where we are faced with discrimination and conflict.

Looking back, I will always consider this an enjoyable and beneficial experience-not just for myself but for all those involved- and would like to thank the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy for giving me this opportunity.





Working as a Hindu Faith Advisor at the University of Lincoln

Dipvandana Mehta, Hindu Faith Advisor, University of Lincoln

Being a Hindu Faith Advisor at the University of Lincoln over the last semester has been a rewarding experience. I have been able to support the newly formed Hindu society at the university in establishing weekly worship sessions through providing a murti (statue) and decorations as well as providing guidance on the session format whenever required. There has been a regular weekly attendance at these worship sessions and students attending have appreciated the facilities provided by the university.



It has been a busy first semester in this role, which I have thoroughly enjoyed and am looking forward to supporting the Chaplaincy and Hindu Society in the coming semesters.

“On a beautiful sunny spring day on 15th March, the University of Lincoln celebrated Holi in style! Holi is a Hindu festival celebrating the arrival of spring with the message of friendship, love and repairing any broken relationships and is traditionally celebrating by throwing bright powder colours on each other. As Hindu Faith Advisor helping the students

Holi Celebration

*Abinaya Nadarajah,
Vice President of University
of Lincoln Hindu Society*

“Holi 2017 was definitely a memorable event for students, especially for the Hindu Society Committee. As Vice President of the Hindu Society, I was amazed by the number of staff and students, as well as members of the public, who stopped by to join us with the “Festival of Colour” as well as asking questions about the festival. I was surprised by how much some people know about this event already and their interest about the event, really showing how Lincoln and the University of Lincoln do acknowledge such events and respect cultural values. This certainly does encourage students from all backgrounds to feel “at home” whilst being away from their home. The support we received from our Hindu Faith Advisor, Chaplaincy and the University was definitely needed and allowed the event to take place as planned. With lots of colour being thrown around, by the end of the event, we were all covered in all these bright colours to portray “happiness”.



Joining the Diwali event organising committee helped to build links between the university and local community with many local Lincoln residents attending the festivities. As a small community with no temple in Lincoln, the celebration at the university was warmly received by all. We were able to borrow exhibitions and sarees from other organisations for the event which provided useful information on the festival. It was great to see ladies from the local community showing students how to wear sarees and do rangoli (traditional powder decorations) and how people from a variety of backgrounds and ages came together to enjoy the celebrations.

Finally, it was noted that there was only one book on Hinduism in the library at Witham House and I have managed to secure a few extra books on Hinduism that have been donated by the community to add to this collection.



organise the Holi event at the university, I was a little apprehensive as to whether anyone would take part but need not to have worried. Many passers-by (both staff and students), first looking bemused by the sight of students throwing colourful powdered colours on each other, joined in the fun and soon the grass and our clothes were covered in bright yellow, green, blue, pink and orange! It was a lovely celebration, breaking down barriers between people and truly reflecting the friendly, vibrant, inclusive and supportive university that the University of Lincoln is.”





Science and Faith

Alex Borman School of Engineering

The Science and Faith discussion group has met regularly throughout this academic year.



Considering topics such as whether science and religion are in conflict, whether the expanding realm of science is leaving less room for God in peoples' lives through to discussions on evolution and creation, staff and students have openly shared their beliefs with the group. Topics have been seeded with discussion points and video extracts from leading scientists and theologians, from the "Test of Faith" course.

The sessions have opened a forum through which people of differing viewpoints can interact and has stimulated all who attend to consider in depth some thought provoking material regarding the interaction of science and faith in everyday lives. Having been successful through this year, a revised format will be implemented seeking to utilise guest speakers to further develop discussion beginning next academic year, so watch this space.

Farewell to Professor Scott Davidson



It was sad for the Chaplaincy for Scott to leave the university but he was happy to be moving on to a new position at Newman University as Vice-chancellor.

The University had organised a Farewell for Scott, on 2nd December 2016, at the Tower Bar and colleagues from the chaplaincy team were there to congratulate him and say goodbye.

Transgender Day of Remembrance

The 23rd of November saw the LGBT+ society host the Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDor) in the Platform at 7pm, largely organised by the Gender Representative Nicola Harrison, alongside help from the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy. We were also fortunate to have special guest Jess Bradley as a guest speaker from Trans Health as well as Nicola herself who gave a moving speech about why this event is so important in the LGBT+ community and for the advancement of the transgender community. The event ended with a performance from 'Sing It' and a candle lit vigil outside the LPAC.

There was a turnout of approximately 80 people. This was the first time the event has been done on such a scale at the University of Lincoln and we can happily say it was very successful. The entire event lasted around an hour and a half. From the positive feedback of attendees and organisers, and the number of people who came to pay their respects, we hope this event will be continued on this scale in the future.

The event brought tears to people's eyes as well as getting some people to applaud beloved friends they know who have come out as transgender, accepting

themselves for who they truly are. It got attendees thinking about how they can aid the transgender community and how to remove discrimination against individuals for being themselves. This was a thought provoking event which showed members of both the university and the public standing together to support the transgender community as allies, applauding the progress the community has made and continues to work for.

The LGBT+ society applauds Nicola for her hard work in making the event possible, as well as the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy, Jess Bradley, Tasnim and the SU, and all those who attended showing their support. The attendance of every individual shows they support the Transgender community and that they are prepared to stand up against hate and prejudice.





Faith Awareness Trips

Miss Rebecca Howden, English Language Centre Administrator

The Faith Awareness trip was a great opportunity to meet people from all different faiths. I felt very fortunate to get an insight on how each different faith conducts their worship. Everyone we met, whether Muslim, Hindu, Jewish and Sikh were welcoming, happy to explain the traditions of their faith, and take questions.

I liked learning about how the different places of worship were designed. I was fascinated to learn that the design of the Hindu temple was created in consultation with the gurus in India, and that the building materials were shipped from India to Leicester to ensure the temple design was authentic. Our Muslim hosts showed how they had adapted a

community centre into a place of worship. The two buildings were very different, but both communities were warm and friendly.

We were kindly provided with a vegetarian lunch at the Gurdwara. This was a very different experience for me, as you ate your meal sitting on the floor, with the tray placed in front of you. This practice is to reinforce that all Sikhs are equal, regardless of social status or wealth - a great way to bring people together.

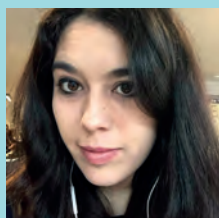
The Rabbi we met was very happy to show us the synagogue's copy of the Torah. The Torah scroll is made of very fragile material, so it is very carefully handled. It was an honour to be able to look at this up close.



I'd highly recommend this trip to both staff and students. With such a diverse population in the UK, it provides a way to gain a greater cultural appreciation and understanding of our communities.

Be there for your friends and loved ones, even when it's hard and uncomfortable

A reflection from Talena Thorn, Law student at University of Lincoln, about World Suicide Prevention Day



Today is World Suicide Prevention Day. Every year thousands of people commit suicide and a large proportion of these are men.

While women are statistically more likely to suffer from mental health issues and attempted suicides, it is men who are most likely to die when it comes to suicide. There is a lot of pressure on both men and women in society to look and act in a certain way, to adhere to the gender roles society has created. Women are expected to talk about their problems, to show emotion, to seek help, though this is not always the case. When

it comes to men there is so much pressure to do the opposite. They are told from a young age that it's not OK to cry, that they shouldn't talk about their feelings because it's a wussy thing, that they should be strong both physically and mentally because that's what is expected. Not conforming to this is met with criticism. This makes it even harder for men to get the help they need, even if it's just reaching out to someone they know.

As a society, we shouldn't be telling people they shouldn't be able to reach out, or talk or express themselves. We shouldn't just turn a blind eye when we know someone is having a hard time. But we do. We worry that it's not our place to intervene, we convince ourselves that they don't want our help, we accept

the smiles they throw us even though we know they aren't real, and that the person we know is in pain. If I could give one message out on World Suicide Prevention Day it would be, to be there for your friends and loved ones, even when it's hard and uncomfortable. Even when it's frustrating-they aren't mental, they aren't attention seeking, there's a person there and they are hurting. If you're suffering don't be afraid to reach out to someone whether it's a professional or someone you love-it's a hard step to take but everything is easier when you're not alone. And you never know, they might need your help too.

If you need support and advice please contact the Student Wellbeing Centre studentwellbeing@lincoln.ac.uk 01522 886400

Mrs Nancy Ng, Chinese Christian Chaplain



When I first started as a Volunteer Chinese Christian Chaplain at the University of Lincoln I was full of ideas about how I would

be able to involve myself to benefit Chinese students.

Our yearly welcoming party for new arrivals held in October was very well attended-we had over 50 students, mostly from China, and some from Hong Kong and Malaysia. After this first event, we planned for the Lincoln Chinese Students Fellowship to have a weekly Bible study as well as a monthly activity such as sport days, eating out or special event. One such meaningful event was the traditional Christmas party, where we prepared a traditional Christmas party

celebration for students from China. We had deliciously roasted turkey with all the dressings and sauces, which was greatly enjoyed by all. We even had the students decorate the place with tinsel, crackers and Christingles. Mulled wine and Christmas pudding were least welcome, but games of charades, singing the 12 days of Christmas song, quizzes and exchanging of gifts were the highlight- everyone was looking forward to receiving a special gift. The Christmas message of love was shared and expressed. Closely followed was the Chinese New Year event, which was planned well ahead for the students to feel less homesick during this auspicious occasion, at which

the reunion dinner is central.

As I reflect I have had a really good time with other Chaplains. I played many roles such as facilitator and, lately, offering a listening ear and a compassionate heart to those in distress.



Miss Helen Townsend, Catholic Chaplain



In September 2016, the Catholic Chaplaincy welcomed new students to the University at our Freshers' Fair. Our

Chaplaincy is an important social contact and spiritual base for many Catholic students, particularly those from abroad. It is also a place where students of no religious faith can find friends and join in activities without any obligation.

Our Chaplaincy provides a weekly meditation meeting open to staff and students of any faith, or none, in the Chaplaincy building at Witham House on Campus. It's a way to find calm and to deepen one's spiritual life.

The Catholic Chaplaincy is based at St Hugh's Catholic Church on Monk's Road. Catholic students attend Mass here on Sundays. Fr John Kyne, the parish priest, also offered Mass on Campus once a month in term time. Here, we prayed for the work of the University, for the staff and for students.

In the autumn term, the Catholic Chaplaincy joined in the University Interfaith trip to Leicester, where we

learned about the other religious traditions in our society, and the Lincoln Interfaith Walk. We joined the Peace Walk through Lincoln City centre on 1st May. Students also accompanied the Chaplain to the Community Centre to greet the Muslim Community after Friday prayers on May 26th, with the Civic party and other Faith groups, after the Manchester bombing. In November, students braved freezing temperatures to join in celebrating World Hello Day, supported by Lincoln City Council, and we greeted passers-by and handed out chocolates. Also in November we travelled to Nottingham's Catholic Cathedral for the Diocesan Youth Celebrations. In December, we went ice skating and shared a Christmas Dinner at St Hugh's Church. This spring we visited York, and latterly we enjoyed a picnic in the Arboretum.

We also work with the Students' Union, recruiting volunteers to assist with the Catholic Chaplaincy's project to teach English to migrant workers in Lincoln. Here they help the English language learners to practise and develop their English.

Catholic students contribute to our parish life by volunteering for welcoming duties, reading at Mass, serving teas and coffees, cleaning and singing in the choir and music group.

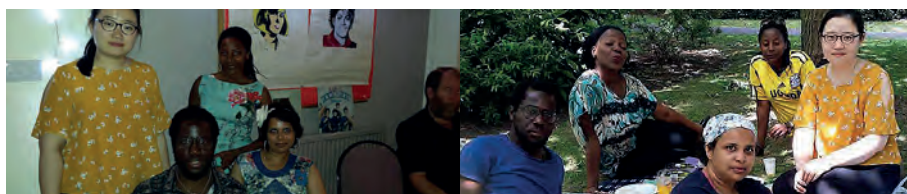
Fr. George, Orthodox Christian Chaplain



My pastoral role within the University brings me into contact with Orthodox Christian students and staff from a variety of backgrounds.

This past term I have met students from Greece, Serbia, Romania, and of course from England. We have held monthly in Witham House on Campus a short Orthodox Worship Service, called "Artoklasia" - with blessing of wheat, wine, oil and five small loaves - which are then consumed by the faithful. Some of the students have found their way to our parish church located in uphill Lincoln on Burton Road where they have been welcomed by our multi-ethnic and multi-lingual community. One student has joined our church choir where her contribution is much appreciated. For students arriving from a majority Orthodox country and culture it can be a shock to find themselves in a secular University in a predominantly secular country.

My role as Pastor is to help our Orthodox Students settle well in their new environment and support them in their spiritual lives.





Lincoln Faiths Festival

The University of Lincoln Multi-Faith Chaplaincy, along with faith and civic organisations chaired by the Revd Bruce Thompson, was involved in the planning and organising of the Lincoln Faiths Festival, held between 21st April – 1st May. The events were filmed by University of Lincoln students and participants were interviewed to produce an introduction to the Faiths Festival video. This was the first Lincoln Faiths Festival and it is hoped it will be an annual event.

Throughout the ten days there was a faith exhibition held in Lincoln at St Mary le Wigford Church and the Central Library. Islamic, Methodist, Baha'i, Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, Sikh and Jewish exhibitions were displayed. Open to the whole city to view, they were informative and gave an insight into each religion. The

Islamic exhibition, being interactive, was fabulous, especially for younger ones.

The major events of the festival were the two trips – to the Japanese Buddhist Gardens, and to Places of Worship in Leicester. People of different faith backgrounds and of all ages participated in these trips. The Japanese Buddhist Garden visit was tranquil, peaceful and was a time to learn, meditate and enjoy time with others in beautiful gardens. Ezhilvizhi, 4 years old, particularly enjoyed the crystal garden-in her words 'a sparkly gem garden'.

The places of worship visit to Leicester involved visiting a Mosque, Hindu Temple and a Gurdwara. It was fabulous to be part of a group of people of different faith backgrounds visiting different places of worship. The highlights of the day

were listening to an eight-year-old girl reciting the Qur'an in Arabic along with the Mosque guide, and listening to the questions asked by the children in our group—showing they were involved, interested and listening.

The concluding event of the Faith Festival was a peace walk on Bank Holiday Monday. People of all ages and backgrounds participated in the walk, from a ten-week-old baby to someone in their 70s. Five groups set off from different parts of the city to walk and meet together, showing that people of all faith backgrounds and all ages can come together for the same cause. In the photos as we stood outside St Mary le Wigford Church, we can see an 'angel dove', and we reflected upon the fact that if we have a strong faith it can only be enhanced by knowing people of other faiths!



Peace Garden

Aigerim Linderman

Ever since I started working in LIBS International Student Support and Partnership I have been involved in a great community project – the Peace Garden. Originally the idea behind it was to set up gardening facilities to plant vegetables and herbs with the help of students and anyone who would volunteer. The produce is planned to be used for soup or any other dishes in the Chaplaincy Kitchen.



As one of the Committee members I absolutely enjoyed being a part of the Peace Garden, I have worked with some wonderful people in the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy and Environment Team who are really committed to what they do. This event has also connected me with new students, who helped us plant the vegetables and contributed toward the opening ceremony. So I have made a lot of new good friends and networks.

It also has been extremely enjoyable to fulfil my desire to do some of my hobbies – gardening and DIY and for it to be beneficial for the community and being done for a good cause.

For the next year when I am a student again, I am excited to be on a Committee again and contribute more towards our University Community. I am planning to create Volunteer Committee roles for the Peace Garden and other Herb Gardens we have on campus to fulfil students' needs for volunteering hours and employability. At the same time it would be extremely beneficial for the University Community.

I am looking forward to the upcoming year!

Ghada Mohamad, Muslim Chaplain



We had a social event in the Jackson Lecture, in the Minerva building. The event was very successful. We

had Arabic nasheeds by brother Amjed. We had a lovely Islamic poem by Brother Abdulwudud, he recited English poetry. Everyone enjoyed their time. Here is some of the feedback!

“I loved the Voice of Brother Amjed singing nasheed, it was so peaceful”

“I did not understand the Arabic ones, but I felt touched by the nasheed”.

“I enjoyed it, the evening was very good”

“It is great to hear nasheed or song in a different language”.

The children had different activities to take part in. All the children enjoyed face painting and they had fun playing together.

Adults also enjoyed having Henna done, for which there was a long queue. We all enjoyed a nice cup of tea and piece of cake.

Everyone was happy and enjoyed the event. We have been asked to do it again.



Mark James Lilley, Quaker Chaplain



I joined the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy at an interesting and exciting time for the university and the world.

Working with other chaplains

and faith advisors has shown me how much service we can offer by working together, because each member of the team has something different to give. Quakers, also known as 'Friends', offer 'silence'.

The opportunities for time spent in stillness and silence seem to be diminishing. It is silence that shapes Quaker worship. At the 'Meeting for Worship' held in the university we sit together in silence for about 30 mins, awaiting the promptings of the spirit. There are no 'leaders' and anybody can stand to offer spoken ministry-this might be a reading from a book, a poem or a personal experience. These promptings can be very powerful, and gave early Friends their name because they would 'quake' before they spoke. A Meeting for Worship deepens the life of both the individual and the group-it is a shared encounter with the divine.

The power of silence can strengthen us in our everyday lives, but also in our convictions to build a more truthful, peaceful and equal world, on a small and large scale. We should not forget that 'small' and 'personal' challenges can often be as difficult to meet as the 'Big' issues like peace, justice and sustainability.

People of all faiths, and of none, live in a changing world and university. It is my hope that we see friendship, silence and stillness as great resources that inspire and strengthen the care we offer one another.

Meeting for Worship is held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in Witham House WH0005 from 1.10pm-1.45pm. All are welcome.

Contact Mark Lilley at mlilley@lincoln.ac.uk



Interfaith Forum

The University of Lincoln Inter-Faith Group is aimed at promoting communication and education between faith groups on campus; supporting students, of all religions and none, to practice their beliefs and to celebrate the religious and cultural diversity of the University of Lincoln — it is convened by the University Chaplain and has five purposes:

- To generate cohesion between groups on campus
- To promote a dialogical approach to

faith in the modern world, between faiths and with secular disciplines.

- To collaborate in shared concerns, both of advocacy for religions perspectives and in the pursuit of justice and peace.
- Work together and to celebrate the religious festival on campus.
- An annual interfaith awareness trip during the national interfaith week

If you want to join the forum please express your interest at chaplaincy@lincoln.ac.uk



Faith Advisory Committee

The Faith Advisory was set up in August 2016 at the university and members from local faith communities were invited to join the committee. The committee represents all faiths and none as well as representation from HR and Students Union. It was chaired by Deputy Vice Chancellor, Scot Davidson, who left the University to take up the role of Vice Chancellor at Newman University. It is now chaired by Toby Wilkinson. The Faith Advisory committee meets termly to:

- Develop effective partnerships with local faith communities, which can help to support University students and staff;
- Promote principles of multi-faith chaplaincy, including opportunities for

dialogue and co-operation between different faith and non-faith traditions;

- Discuss proposals for the University's faith and spirituality support, multi-faith and chaplaincy work;
- Ensure that the University's faith and spirituality provision is responsive to the needs of its students and staff, and provide advice and support for student and staff faith networks;
- Provide appropriate, relevant and current advice on matters of faith and non-faith, and the needs of different faith communities in so far as these relate to the University's interests and activities.



‘So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth’, Baha’u’llah

Baha’i Chaplains Clive Tully and Jill Tully



The first term as Baha’i Multi-Faith advisors was a ‘learning’ process. The structure of offering a fortnightly devotional/ meditation, hour-long lunchtime session in Witham House has offered us the opportunity to build up a library of short quotations and

prayers-these formed the basis and ‘key’ for the first half of our fortnightly meetings and ‘set the scene’ for our devotions, contemplations and meditations within the silences between them. Those attending were then invited, if they wished, to choose three or four quotations to read during the session, giving the source, with silence between each reading, followed by a larger silent meditation

to finish the first half. This was followed by reflection, refreshments, sharing and discussion. As could have been expected, each session brought unexpected elements or additions. For instance, the ‘Long Healing Prayer’ revealed by Baha’u’llah was offered during a session immediately following the University Chaplain’s counselling a student who had just heard that he had a severe, life-threatening illness.

With other chaplains, we took part in a ‘Remembrance ceremony’ for the many souls from the worldwide LGBT+ community who have been shockingly and tragically murdered during 2016.

We have occasionally met with our dear fellow Multi-Faith chaplains/advisors and have discussed in earnest ways how we can support and learn from each other. We look forward to enhancing the roles of Multi-Faith advisors at the university, as well as getting to know more about the wonderful and unique diverse community that is the University of Lincoln.

Professor Brian Winston, Jewish Faith Advisor



The greatest of all medieval Jewish philosophers, Moses, the son of Maimon, was Salah-ad-Din’s medical doctor. He was a 12th century Common Era scholar so important to the west as a transmitter of ancient Greek pagan thought that his name was ‘hellenised’ (turned into Greek): Maimonides. And, for me, the title of his most important work can be taken to sum up the purpose of the Chaplaincy. It was written in Arabic, (dalālat al-hā’irīn), translated into Hebrew (Moreh Nevukhim) and Latin (Doctor Perplexorum) – it is: A Guide to the Perplexed. We are all perplexed – that’s why we are here, teachers and students and staff: to find out more – more about everything but, most of all, more about ourselves. Everybody coming to university wants a good job (of course). Everybody (well, I hope everybody) wants to increase their understanding of this or that subject. I even hope that everybody – a lot of people? – will also use this time to enrich their capacity for enjoyment, for appreciation, for friendship and for play. And above all, I hope, many will come to see that the university is one of those human inventions that exist to confirm that, indeed, people do not live by bread alone. As the ancient Greeks, whose work Maimonides help hand down to us, put it: ‘the unexamined life is not worth living’. This is the time where your life-long examination can really begin, whatever your faith or your belief or understanding. The Chaplaincy is here to help when you need it – when you are perplexed.





Fairtrade Fortnight

Chaplaincy supports Fairtrade and sits on the committee of both the university and Lincoln Fairtrade. Every year during Fairtrade Fortnight Chaplaincy has worked in partnership with the environment team and the Lincoln Fairtrade to put up events. Fairtrade



Fortnight is two weeks of activities highlighting the importance of Fairtrade. It is hosted in collaboration with the Environment, Quad, Lincoln International Business School, the Student Union and the University Shop. We launched the Peace Garden during fair trade fortnight. Staff and students were invited along to officially open the garden and plant a few vegetables. This was followed by nibbles and networking in Witham House. There was a competition of 'What's in Mary's cup', Walk/Cycle to work challenge, guess the cost of the hamper, and stand competition.

Chaplaincy has arranged a trip to Leicester on the theme 'Fairtrade and Religion' visiting a Hindu Temple, Gurdwara Mosque, and Synagogue as well as the St Swithin's Church distributing over 150 Fairtrade pancakes on Shrove Tuesday to students. The University of Lincoln and the University of Lincoln Students' Union are committed to promoting Fairtrade products to students and staff.

The University of Lincoln has been recognised by the Fairtrade Foundation for its work on promoting Fairtrade products to



staff and students. Over the last few years the University has worked hard to promote the issues around Fairtrade to the University.

The University has successfully met the five goals required to qualify as a Fairtrade University. The five goals are:

- Passing a Fairtrade policy statement
- Getting Fairtrade products on campus
- Using Fairtrade Products at meetings
- Organising Fairtrade campaigns
- Setting up a Fairtrade Steering Group.

To know more about Fairtrade, or to volunteer, contact environment@lincoln.ac.uk

Kate Harrison, Humanist Advisor



The chaplaincy team is part of the holistic support provided by Lincoln University for students and staff, fundamental not only to the well-being of individuals but to the development and success of the university as a whole.

The chaplaincy team now has members representing the major faiths and religions of the world and I am delighted to be invited to join the team representing the increasing numbers without any

recognised faith or belief – but who are in no less need of support.

I became a member of Humanists UK (previously the British Humanist Association) seventeen years ago, recognizing that I was a humanist in outlook. The philosophy of humanists is so very similar to most of the world's religions i.e. to do no harm to others, to work to protect humans, all species and the planet and most importantly, to take responsibility for our actions. Humanists do all these things without reference to any god or higher power.

Within my role in the Chaplaincy team, I hope students or staff will feel there is an option if they are 'not religious' – that there is still someone to talk to – about anything.

If students or staff would like to meet to arrange philosophical meetings and discussions – that's fine, but I'm also here if you prefer to speak to someone who like you, is not religious, is not representing any faith but is willing to give you some time.

Doug Duckworth, Humanist Advisor



I've been a Faith Advisor for about a year now and so far I feel a bit of a fraud, because the only contact I've had with students has been at the Fresher's Fayre in September 2016, helping out with a Fresher's stall in January 2017 and at the Peace Dinner in December 2016. This is partly I think because Humanists

are not organised in Lincoln either in the University or the City, which is quite strange when you think that the majority of students at the University now consider themselves as having no religion, and Humanists UK is the main organisation in England and Wales representing people who identify as secular and "non-religious" in outlook.

Humanists UK has local groups in most English and Welsh cities and it's my intention to help set up either one Humanist group for the City and the University or two separate groups, depending on how things go. As a starting point, I've set up a Facebook Group called "Lincoln Humanists". So, if you are or think you might be a Humanist come along and join the group so you can introduce yourself and maybe help to get something started."

David Gannon, Pagan Faith Advisor



"As the university's Pagan Faith Advisor, I have been involved in a number of activities in this, my first year in the position.

Mostly I have been involved with helping with Fresher's Week, staffing display stands at events, contributing at events etc., meeting and liaising with advisors from other faith communities, and the University's Faith Advisory Committee.

In addition, I have also responded to enquiries from Pagan students, to help put them in touch with their faith communities locally – liaising with the Pagan Federation's regional co-ordinator. I've also provided support to other faith advisors who have received enquiries from Pagans, putting them in touch with the relevant local contacts.

Feedback all round has been most positive – I look forward to continuing in my role, working with the University Chaplain and other advisors to help the university to fulfil its stated mission and objectives regarding student welfare in general - and in particular developing and enhancing the contribution made by the Chaplaincy to the Student Experience at Lincoln."





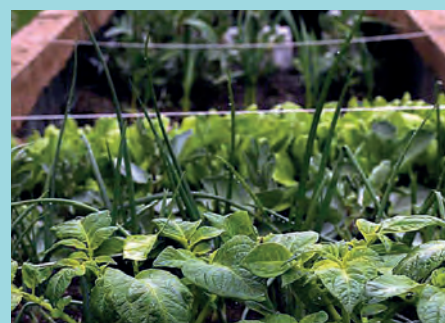
Edible Kitchen Garden

To create an inclusive community and accessible edible kitchen garden that can be used by students, and staff and the university community partners to learn and educate others regarding the sustainable cultivation of organic produce. We will also see the environmental, social and economic benefits of gardening and to produce vegetables for the Chaplaincy Soup Kitchen.



OBJECTIVES

- To allow students and staff the opportunity to grow their own vegetables.
- To encourage students and staff members to think critically about sustainable living on a practical and fundamental level.
- To accommodate and involve to the greatest extent possible all students and staff members who are interested in the proposed kitchen garden.
- To provide a medium through which positive interaction between staff and students can be increased.
- To see that the kitchen garden is used effectively and sustainably to meet the needs of the university community
- To create a valuable resource for the university, in accordance with the objectives



- At each stage of the project the work will be led by student and staff volunteers, who will design the planting plans, tend the crops, harvest the vegetables and cook the soup. There will be opportunities for students and staff to learn about a range of subjects, including; sustainability, gardening, social responsibility, project management, marketing and team working.

If you would like to get involved please contact the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy.

Rev Dr Helen Hooley, Methodist Chaplain



I am a Methodist minister and the Free Church chaplain in the Multi Faith Chaplaincy team. My first job in Lincoln was as an engineer, in the 1980s, I then worked for ICI and was involved in graduate recruitment and training graduate engineers through to being chartered. I now have a theology degree too, so I've also learned to write essays...

I have pastoral charge for 5 churches across the city and surrounding villages, some of us meet in a pub to talk about current issues once a month; you might also see a few of my congregation in the Street Pastors teams around town.

At the University, I lead a communion service 4 times a year, and you will see my face in the Minerva building at many of the chaplaincy information stands. I have offered a quiet space (with adult colouring!) during exam weeks; I am

here to offer care and support and the Christian values of love for neighbour and for self. I am also interested in the peace garden – alongside making soup from the vegetables we grow, I'm hoping to help make bread – one loaf (or maybe rolls, depends how big the oven is, and how long we want to wait...) for each person who helps, and one for everyone to give away... watch this space!



Jasmit Kaur, Sikh Faith Advisor



I was born in Mumbai, India and though we are Sikhs, my parents sent me to an Independent catholic school. I was encouraged by my parents to take part in all the catholic prayers in school. My parents brought us up with the teaching that there is one God and we all are His children. They taught us that all places of worship are the same and we could join in the prayers with everyone, of all religions. This upbringing has always helped me a lot in life and I have enjoyed being part

of the Interfaith community and working together for Love and Peace in Unity and Togetherness. While the catholic students in our school had to attend catechism classes, we as non-Catholics, attended Moral Science lessons. In my first Moral Science class in school, I learnt "Parents take the place of God in this world, teachers take the place of parents in school and we must respect our elders" - This teaching has been most helpful in my life and I have been so lucky to have one of the best parents in the world. I got married and lived in Guyana, South America and in 1979 we came to UK. I have tried my best to convey my parents' teachings to our two sons and one of the best compliments from their teacher has been, that our children have picked up the BEST from the EAST and the BEST from the WEST and my husband and I feel truly humbled and truly blessed - we are so proud of both our sons and their lovely families, God Bless them

Being the Sikh Faith Advisor I am here to offer my support and in assisting anyone who needs help and support!

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