

Chaplaincy:
Exploring faith and beliefs...
supporting spiritual development



The University of Bolton Chaplaincy Annual Report 2015 (Summary)

[Support for Students and Staff]

- Members of the Chaplaincy Team continue to give pastoral support to students and staff irrespective of their faith or belief system.
- We have a presence most lunchtimes either in Chancellor's Mall or in the Chaplaincy itself.

[Faith in the Public Square] in the Social Learning Zone

- On 11th November, we caught the feeling of the moment as we reflected on the realities of war from Christian, Muslim, Hindu and Jewish perspectives in front of around 200 members of the University.
- Our Christmas Carol Service continued the theme of peace and was devised and led by Dr Gill Smart, a member of the University who is training to become an ordained priest.
- Some of our Pastoral Assistants organised a Quaker Meeting for Worship on a number of occasions.

[Exploring Faith and Belief]

- Hema, our Hindu Chaplain, organised two events which have given a glimpse of the fascinating world of Hinduism: *Six Days of Diwali* and *The Festival of Maha Shivratri*.
- Every week in Athena Café, a couple of our volunteers run Café Questions, encouraging students think about issues wider than their work.

[Supporting Spiritual Development]

- Our Roman Catholic Chaplains celebrated Mass during Advent and Lent.
- Stephen Lingwood continued with a weekly meditation: music, spiritual stories with silence to encourage relaxation and reflection.
- Our Muslim Pastoral Assistant, Dr Talha Hafezi, has been responsible for leading or organising Friday Prayers.

[In Partnership with the University]

- The Chaplaincy played a major part in organising the University Diversity Day in March, to which we invited members of the local faith communities: Town Centre Chaplaincy, Christian Cohesion, Council of Mosques and Hindu Forum.
- The Diversity Day ended with a Dialogue about faith-based schools with the recent Chief Education Officer for the Church of England and the Campaigns Manager of the British Humanist Association.
- The Chaplaincy is routinely consulted and asked to give advice on religious or faith matters and the Co-ordinating Chaplain attends a University committee concerning equality and diversity issues.

Revd Phil Edwards
Co-ordinating Chaplain

www.bolton.ac.uk/Chaplaincy