

Chaplaincy Focus

FEBRUARY 2024

MULTI-FAITH CHAPLAINCY



UNIVERSITY OF
LINCOLN



Faith and Belief Awareness Day

Subash Chellaiah

While I reflect on Inter Faith week that was held between the 11th and 19th November 2023, I am reflecting on my own Inter Faith journey and I must admit, it has not been an easy journey. Often you find yourself in between your own faith and that of others in ways that often challenge your own roots and identity.



But I must say, while I am on this journey it has tested me, moulding me and constantly preparing me to be a better citizen of the world. This is on-going but, whatever the challenges that you are facing, the journey is worth it in the end. As I reflect back on my own journey of joining the university eleven years ago,

all the memories that I treasure and have created help me to stay. The Inter Faith gathering and all Chaplaincy events are a true example of creating memories for the University as 'One Community'.

The University is constantly changing as do demands from the global community. For our students and all prospective students who come to Lincoln to study with us, the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy is able to contribute something to their lives in the form of experience, lasting memories and friendship.

I am really delighted that we were able to observe Inter Faith Week this year at the University of Lincoln and were able to have a Faith and Belief Awareness Day, where staff and students were able to come and interact, and learn about different faiths and traditions. Working together to show that faith communities are united despite their differences, we work together to create a better world.

We are based in Witham House, a place for worship, gathering, a safe space, a

space for contemplation and meeting. This space is truly remarkable to us as we have seen many staff and students walking in and out since September. There is a lot happening in the building. It is truly amazing to see how different communities and faith groups are coming together to utilise this space.

Among the hundreds of stories from events that we have done over the years, one event that really inspired me was when Sikh and Muslim students were praying together. Of course I have seen other faiths praying together too, but on this occasion I was truly amazed. This makes this place truly remarkable.

Faith and Belief Awareness Day will be held again next year during the national Inter Faith Week.

There is a saying where I come from that I hold on to as universal and all uphold this too - 'By birth all men are equal; Differences in their action; Render their worth unequal.' (Kural 972, Thiruvalluvar)



Lincolnshire Ghana Union

Chaplaincy Focus

ISSUE 10 – FEBRUARY 2024

Email: chaplaincy@lincoln.ac.uk

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The Lincolnshire Ghana Union held its 3rd Annual Get Together celebration on Saturday 30/9/23. The University of Lincoln Chaplaincy sponsored and supported our group by providing the Isaac Newton building at the University of Lincoln, to host our Get Together celebration. The state of the art venue was easily accessible and had excellent facilities for our event. The Multi-Faith Chaplaincy Co-ordinator Subash Chellaiah and his family, the Deputy Mayor of Lincoln Councillor Alan Briggs and the Mayoress Wendy Mager graced the occasion with their presence and support. The event brought members of the Lincolnshire Ghana Union which includes people of Ghanaian origin or heritage who live, work or study in the county, and their families and friends together, in an atmosphere of fun activities, music, dance, food, poetry, cultural exhibition and networking which was a huge success.

The Lincolnshire Ghana Union is looking forward to our official launch on Saturday 16th March 2024, 5pm to

10pm at the Isaac Newton Building, University of Lincoln, as part of the Ghana Independence Day celebrations which falls in March, sponsored once again by the University of Lincoln Chaplaincy. Information on this event will be out soon on Eventbrite and an event poster will be shared with the Chaplaincy.

The Lincolnshire Ghana Union would like to invite all students and staff of Ghanaian origin or heritage at the University of Lincoln, as well as people from all backgrounds with an interest in Ghanaian culture, to join us and get involved in our activities.

For further information, please contact:

Dr Casmir Maazure (Chair)
07914442294

Mrs Paulina Oppong-Peprah
(Gen Secretary) 07525758070

or email:

lincolnshireghanaunion@gmail.com



Vice Chancellor's New Year Reflections

Professor Neal Juster, Vice-Chancellor

The New Year is often an opportune time for us to reflect on the past whilst looking to the future. As I reflect upon the first full calendar year of the University's ambitious 5-year strategy I am proud to note some of the positive changes the University has made: moving from four academic colleges to two, relocating our professional services to Lawress Hall, starting to change the ways we recruit our students and improving our research outputs. Successes have been plentiful including the University being awarded a Queen's Anniversary Prize for further and higher education which is a fantastic honour for a university that's only 25 years old!

Looking to the year ahead can sometimes feel exciting yet daunting in equal measures. For the University, there will of course be inevitable challenges against the backdrop of an ever-changing external environment. But there will also be a wealth of

opportunities, not least continuing to develop our research strategy to deliver impactful research which transforms lives and communities. Whether looking to the past or the future, I am heartened to see one constant: that Lincoln remains true to its visions and values, creating a stable and welcoming environment for staff and students alike.

Whilst a secular institution, we welcome promote and support diversity among our staff and students. We recognise that faith, spirituality and cultural variety can enrich the campus environment, contribute towards personal development and enhance student and staff wellbeing.

I am very grateful that our Honorary Chaplains add to the student and staff experience by offering a listening ear no matter whether you consider yourself religious or not. I hope that your New Year reflections echo similar feelings of pride whilst re-energising you with a sense of purpose and direction.

Islamic Classes

The Islamic classes are run by Ghada, the female Muslim Chaplain, to help students, staff and their families with their understanding and learning regarding the Islamic faith through meetings, lessons and discussions.

They are aimed at all levels for all ages. The classes are held on Sunday evenings and there is an overflow on Monday evenings for those students that cannot attend on Sundays. Ghada is always happy to talk to any student or member of staff who has questions regarding the Islamic faith.

For more information contact Ghada at chaplaincy@lincoln.ac.uk



From the Editor

Mark Lilley, Quaker Chaplain



In this edition of Chaplaincy Focus we are sharing some of the breadth of the work of the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy. In July some of the chaplains participated in a work session with the School of Nursing on the theme of 'Death and Dying'.

If you are affected by the topics in any of the articles, please contact either: chaplaincy@lincoln.ac.uk or studentwellbeing@lincoln.ac.uk

Approaching difficult questions is part of the process of learning for us all, and especially in a university where critical skills in understanding complex issues are part of our development as individuals.

While the perspectives on difficult conversations differ across faith and philosophical traditions, the centrality of the need for care, respect, and dignity is shared. A learning environment like the university can raise complex questions for us about ourselves, our identities, our values and our roles in society.

The diverse members of the Multi-Faith

Chaplaincy are here to respond in any way that is helpful.

Remember, the chaplaincy is here for all members of the university community.

Members of the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy are always pleased to share in the festivals and celebrations of the diverse religions practiced by members of the university's 'One Community'. From Diwali celebrations, to Ghana Independence day, to Mitzvah Day, the university is enriched by the joy and commitment of its members to values that resonate positively with our city and community. There is great strength in our diversity.

Mary's Meals

Opportunities for Staff and Students
Mary's Meals is a registered charity serving a nutritious daily meal to some of the world's poorest children to attract them into the classroom where they can gain an education and a brighter future.

There are 67 million primary school-age children out of school around the world; they have to work or beg to survive. And if they do make it into the classroom, hunger affects their ability to learn.

Mary's Meals provides a daily nutritious meal to give children the energy to learn so they can become the men and women who will lift their communities out of poverty in later life.

Our vision is that every child receives one daily meal in their place of education and that all those who have more than they need, share with those who lack even the most basic things.

We encourage those who share our vision to offer their time, prayers, money or skills to help reach out to those experiencing the effects of poverty.

We are always looking for volunteers to join our mission and help us feed the next hungry child. All volunteers are fully supported, and all training / resources will be provided. If you think you would like to get involved with Mary's Meals please contact your local Supporter Engagement Officer Jane Wright via email – jane.wright@marysmeals.org



Care of Catholic Patients in a Healthcare Setting

Miss Helen Townsend

In any healthcare setting, it's essential that the patient is seen first and foremost as a fellow human being, deserving respect, including being called by their own, or chosen, name. They should also be given space for modesty and privacy. They should be touched with respect and gentleness. Every patient should be made to feel that they have value and dignity, especially when undergoing challenging procedures.

As patients, practising Catholics find great comfort and strength from being able to connect with their faith. They appreciate it when their beliefs are treated with respect and appropriate arrangements are made for them to practise their faith. Like all Christians, Catholics value opportunities to pray and this may involve the use of devotional objects, kept close to the bedside, such as pictures, crucifixes (a cross with the figure of Jesus on it) and rosaries (Catholic prayer beads) or holy water.

Patients who are Catholics may not necessarily want to be in contact with the Church. If they do, they may find it comforting to talk about their own

situation in the context of their faith, and the hope that they have of life after death. They may look forward to seeing their loved ones again in heaven, or to have relief from pain or illness, and to be with the Lord.

Catholic patients may appreciate a visit from a hospital chaplain or from the dedicated Catholic Chaplain, who is usually a priest or deacon, but may also be a religious sister or a lay person. In such situations, a Catholic patient may need some privacy, especially for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, or confession and for receiving Holy Communion.

Sometimes, family may not themselves currently be practising Catholics, but may ask a priest to be present with their loved one in end of life situations, to give the Sacrament of the Sick, which is when a person is anointed with holy oil, and to prepare a patient spiritually for death. When a patient has already died, the Catholic Chaplain may still visit the deceased's bedside and offer prayers with the family for the patient who has died.

Contact htownsend@lincoln.ac.uk

Latter Day Saints Students Home Evening

Latter Day Saints Students (LDSS) Home Evening is held every first and third Wednesdays (term times only) at Witham House from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Contact cmaazure@lincoln.ac.uk





Belief and Celebration of Different Communities in Pakistan

Zaib un Nisa Janjua, MSc International Business, University of Lincoln

Although the majority population in Pakistan is Muslim, people from other religions like Christian, Hindu and Sikh enjoy complete freedom to practice their faiths. They also take part in all religious and cultural events equally which manifest great inter faith harmony among communities in the country.

The most celebrated religious events in Pakistan are Eid ul Fitr, Christmas, Eid ul Adha, Dewali (Festival of lights), Eid Milad ul Nabi Birthday of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Shab e Miraj (Prophet Muhammad Night Journey), Guru Nanak Birthday, Muharram (First month of the Islamic year), Ashurah (with other many significant events of history day of Martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain AS), Layla tulqadar (Night of Power, First Verses of Quran were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), and Shab e Barat (Night of Forgiveness)

Shab e Barat, a Religious Ritual in Pakistan.

Shab e Barat (Shab means night, Barat means 'rid-of'), also known as "Night of Forgiveness" is celebrated in the night between 14th and 15th month of Shaban the eight month of Islamic Calender. With special prayers and worship, Muslims seek forgiveness for their sins from Allah Almighty. On this night the Almighty takes decisions on life and death, fortune and livelihood. Muslims request mercy in favour of them with a night vigil, keeping themselves

engaged in continuous worship and recitation of Qur'an.

According to Hadiths, this night falls in mid-Sha'ban and the significance of it is evident from the words of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). He said that on this blessed night, the Almighty bestows his special favours upon the world and announces the forgiveness of countless members of his nation. In another Hadith, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) said that on this night, the Almighty forgives all his subordinates except unbelievers and the spiteful. These Hadith serve as evidence of the authenticity of this night, highlighting its significance as an opportunity to seek blessings from the Almighty.

It is recommended for Muslims to stand in prayer during the 15th night of Sha'ban and observe a fast during the day. This night is considered special because Allah descends to the lowest heaven and announces His forgiveness for those who have sinned continuously and offers sustenance for those who are in need. This continues until the morning prayer. Muslims not only seek blessings and prize for themselves but also for the loved who have left this world. They also go to graveyards and recite Quran and pray for the family members who are buried.

Special prayers and recitation are proved by Hadiths. On the 15th night of Shaban these supplications are not only appeals for forgiveness and seeking the right way in this world but requisitions for the rewards on day of judgement

when Allah will call upon everyone to account for their deeds, it will be a time of immense reckoning and realization. It is a reminder for us all to live a life of righteousness and to continuously seek forgiveness for our mistakes and sins. May we all be granted mercy and forgiveness on that day. Therefore it is celebrated with complete religious zeal and zest.

In Pakistan on this religious occasion not only prayers are performed, but people who are displeased/angry are appeased by calling them or visiting their homes. Special food is cooked and distributed among neighbours and friends. Special arrangements are made for worship in mosques, houses and mosques are decorated to enlighten festive spirit. On this day, the little ones are fully occupied with illuminating their homes, sharing meals, and offering prayers at the mosque. It is truly inspiring to witness the enthusiasm and devotion of the children during this special occasion by following the example of their parents. Not only Muslims but people from other beliefs in Pakistan also join them and not only make wishes for each other but also pray for themselves on this holy occasion.

It's important to note that everyone, regardless of their religious beliefs, takes part in the festivities and celebrations of this occasion. The spirit of unity and togetherness is what makes this occasion truly special and inclusive for all in Pakistan.

***((PBUH) Peace Be Upon Him)**

Lincoln Cathedral

The Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones, Interim Dean

Lincoln Cathedral draws thousands of people through its doors every year. This year, for the first time, it was a wonderful privilege for us to host a welcome event for students at the University. Over 200 students, some with family and friends, climbed Steep Hill on a Tuesday afternoon in October to listen to music from the Cathedral Choir and a group of instrumentalists, interspersed with words of welcome to the University and Cathedral, and an introduction to the city; and then afterwards to meet each other over drinks. Feedback has been very positive, and we hope to repeat the event next year.

In 2024 there are two major events in the first part of the year. From the 5th to the 25th February we're going to be

hosting Gaia, a touring artwork by UK artist Luke Jerram (<https://my-earth.org>). Measuring seven metres in diameter and created from NASA imagery of the Earth's surface, it provides an amazing opportunity to see our planet, floating in three dimensions in the wonderful surroundings of our ancient Cathedral.

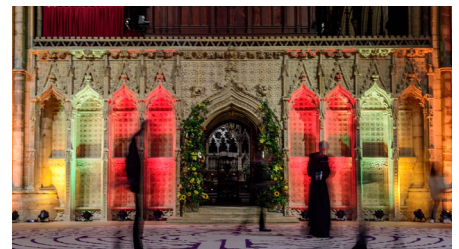
Then, from the 12th to the 16th March, Luxmuralis will be back in town, a stunning sound and light show that provides a multi-sensory experience, transporting visitors through elements, molecules, DNA, and the greatest discoveries of humanity, all projected onto the medieval walls of the Cathedral. You can find further details on the Cathedral's website.

Returning to the Cathedral's worshipping life, it has been good to welcome a

number of students to our services this autumn: Choral Evensong (5.30pm on weekdays and 3.45pm on Sundays) is particularly popular, as is the 10.30am Sung Eucharist on Sundays. Our themed, multi-sensory 'After Hours' service (once a month at 7pm on Sundays) also attracts students. Once again, there are more details on the Cathedral website, and all are welcome.

Whatever your reason for visiting us, please remember that Lincoln Cathedral is your Cathedral. And don't forget that, during the periods when we charge for entry, there's no charge for Lincoln students!

See www.lincolncathedral.com for details of all services and events.



The Revd Steve Holt, Anglican Chaplain



Steve was born in Lincoln and has spent much of his time in Lincolnshire.

For many years Steve

was employed in the retail sector as a training and personnel manager.

Prior to ordination, Steve worked for a private training company, working with ex-offenders, those newly released from prison and the long-term unemployed.

Upon completing his studies and obtaining a degree in Theology from the College of the Resurrection in Mirfield, West Yorkshire, Steve was ordained deacon in July 2011 and ordained priest in the following year. Today he serves in the Parish of Boultham in the Diocese of Lincoln, a busy city centre parish.

His main focus in life is his ministry and he is supported by his family and friends. but he has many interests outside of the church including theatre and travel.

His interest in music covers a wide spectrum of genres. His travels have taken him to the Township of Soweto where he met with Desmond Tutu.

He describes South Africa, where he went on a work placement, as one of the most inspiring experiences.

In reflecting on a very rewarding time since ordination, Steve says he is privileged to be a part of so many lives as he ministers to them on a daily basis and he is delighted to have been appointed Anglican Chaplain to the University of Lincoln and is very much looking forward to meeting students, staff and working alongside the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy department. He acknowledges however there is one big challenge...finding his way around!

Contact stholt@lincoln.ac.uk



The Multi-Faith Chaplaincy is based in Witham House, the single storey white building next to the Sports Centre. It might not look like much from the outside but come on in! Witham House is divided into two sections and the front half belongs to the chaplaincy. It contains various prayer/meditation rooms, an Inter Faith Library and Wudu wash facilities for Muslims to use before they pray.

The chaplains and faith advisors hold several events, both in Witham House and elsewhere on campus. You may have seen or spoken to Al and Nina at their drop-in sessions in the atrium in the Minerva Building on the Brayford campus on a Wednesday or Thursday. We are looking at starting to hold drop-in sessions at some of the other buildings on the Brayford campus in the New Year. Lawress Hall on the Riseholme Campus also has a lovely quiet room near to the gym that is available for prayer, and we are hoping to expand our facilities in that room and host drop-ins there too.

Back to Witham House – we have positive thinking classes – led by our Brahma Kumaris Chaplain, Carole; this

is a four-week course aiming to help you finish energy-draining self-talk, boost your self-esteem and overcome anger. There is monthly spiritual discussion with our Eckankar Chaplain, Liz. If you would like meditation, our Soto Zen Buddhist Chaplain, Al, leads both Pure Meditation sessions and Soto Zen meditation, ceremonies, and meditation in the Soto Zen tradition. Our Lay Hindu Chaplain, Nina, leads Aarti prayer and there are Home Evenings with Casmir for those of the Mormon Faith who are unable to meet with their own families whilst away at University so why not meet with your University family instead?

The Catholic Society, with Helen, meet weekly for prayers, games, and many social activities plus host mass once a month in Witham House. Our female Muslim Chaplain, Ghada, teaches Islamic classes on Sundays.

Ecumenical Communion Services have restarted and are held monthly with Steve. The Orthodox Christian Chaplain, Carl, is in Witham House most days for prayers and the large prayer room is always available for students and staff who do not have time to pray at the Central Mosque in between lectures.

We also have other chaplains and faith advisors – we have Pagan (Mel), Quaker (Mark), Unitarian (John), Pentecostal (Vera) and Chinese Christian (Nick) chaplains, a Christian deacon (David) and another Buddhist Faith Advisor (another David) and advisor to the Jewish faith (Richard).

We also hold other events during the year, either on our own or in conjunction with other parts of the university such as the Students' Union or various societies. In November we helped with the Diwali celebrations and then hosted a coach trip to a Gurdwara in Scunthorpe.

As you can see, we cover a wide variety of faiths and beliefs and are quite a busy group. The door is always open whether you come in to join with a group or class, to pray, meditate, use the Inter Faith library or just to say hello. Please remember though – the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy is here for everybody, of all faiths and none.

Please contact chaplaincy@lincoln.ac.uk or visit the chaplaincy website chaplaincy.lincoln.ac.uk for more information.



Multi-Faith Chaplaincy Events

Drop – in Sessions

Celebration of Festivals/ Inter Faith events

Community Gardening

Meditation

Baha'i Meditation

Buddhist Meditation

Raja Yoga Meditation and Positive Thinking

Spiritual Discussion

On campus Services

Ecumenical Communion Service

Catholic Mass

Weekly readers Typica Service (Orthodox)

Jummah Prayer – Every Friday

Quaker Meeting for worship

Aarti Hindu Prayer

Chinese Christian Student Fellowship

Sukhmani Sahib Pardth

Grief and Loss Support

Befriending

Pagan Celebration

To know more details of times and venues or to get involved please contact the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy chaplaincy@lincoln.ac.uk. Witham House is open during the week during University opening hours as the space has prayer rooms, quiet room and inter faith library.

Catholic Chaplaincy Winter

Miss Helen Townsend



This autumn we have welcomed undergraduates, postgraduates and staff members to join in our prayer and social group which takes place on Tuesday afternoons in the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy, Witham House. Welcome Week was busy and an opportunity to meet up with fellow chaplains and to say hello to the other stallholders. We had some welcome meals, including lunch at Stokes at the Lawn and at the Cathedral café. Our monthly Mass on campus is celebrated by Fr Eddy Jarosz VG our parish priest

at St Hugh's church and this term we also had speakers from CaFOD the Catholic Overseas Development Agency and from the Redemptorists.

The Catholic Society has been very active in organising events, including film nights, and making connections with other denominations. Our President, Ellis Asher has arranged shared events with the Orthodox Chaplaincy and with the Christian Union, and we have also made visits to the Cathedral for Evensong. One of our students generously provided a biryani dinner one evening. We have enjoyed socials with pizza, boardgames and walks around Lincoln, the Arboretum is a favourite, and we have walked up to the Pyewipe for drinks.

We also welcome students and staff who are not Catholics to join in with our activities, especially anyone who is missing home and who would enjoy some company.

Contact htownsend@lincoln.ac.uk



From Death and Dying to Live and Learn to Love

Ms Carole Glover

Following the direction to 'do unto others as we would have done unto ourselves' we often fail to understand that this goes beyond the superficial, and is intended for us to look deeper into our actions and interactions. We have limited our consciousness to the merely superficial, the material aspects of our lives, and failed to see that our thoughts go far beyond our immediate selves.

It is a simple practice to become aware that as I enter a room I am able to feel the atmosphere created by those already there. If they are enjoying a pleasant encounter, I feel happy to join them, however if I feel they have just had a row, I might well choose to leave them alone.

Their thoughts reach my mind and I respond accordingly. If that is so, then of course my thoughts do so for them too.

As I leave that room, those present will

become aware of my knowing of their discord. So why are we so unaware when we ourselves create negative feeling and even pain by our critical words or even our actions, not just for those present, but by spreading our vibrations of negativity, to all who are affected?

We all learn, as children do, by being taught from the example of others. So why are we not teaching such knowledge to our children and creating a world of peace for the future?

To do so we have to learn to raise our consciousness, and become aware of our imperfections and put them right. Why wait till we die to learn? Why not learn the lesson now and share it with all we can and bring peace for all in this sad and violent world. Om Shanti. BK Carole.

Contact chaplaincy@lincoln.ac.uk



Lawress Hall

As a new home for Professional Services teams, Lawress Hall will provide new opportunities for connection and collaboration within and between departments, based on post-pandemic patterns of agile and hybrid working. The four-storey building, originally built in the early-1990s as a HMRC training centre, is the largest building in the University's estate. It has benefited from a major renovation, based on biophilic design to provide a new base for Professional Services.

Each Professional Services department based at Lawress Hall has a designated home zone on the first floor. There are around 200 desk spaces on this main floor across the 9 Home Zones with 100 additional working locations designed to support hot-desking, team collaboration and hybrid working in the form of pods, booths and collaboration tables. In addition, there are 11 bookable meeting rooms (with capacities ranging from 6 to 40 people) plus 4 conferencing rooms; all equipped with state-of-the-art AV technologies.

There are several leisure and wellbeing spaces available for staff (the gym and pool are only available to gym members) that aim to provide a better-balanced work environment for staff and one of these spaces is the Quiet Room. This is available to all staff and for pre-arranged staff or Chaplaincy events. It has a lovely, quiet outlook towards the pond and surrounding mature trees. The space can be used for prayer, contemplation, meditation, or events related to such activities. Comfortable stackable chairs within the space allow flexibility of use of the room and is complemented with contemporary oak storage units.



Peace Garden

For contemplation to enjoy the companionship of the nature

About a year ago, the chaplaincy, along with the Peace Garden committee and student volunteers, started to create the Peace Garden, a tranquil space available for use by all members of the university community. The garden lies between Bridge House and the Village Hall.

The garden has an accessible ramp and pathway for wheelchairs. Seating is provided so that users can meditate, enjoy the quiet or just look at the plants and the wildlife it is hoped will also use the garden. The plants have been chosen to provide year-round interest. The small pond should attract frogs, newts and dragonflies.

The committee have maintained the garden over the summer and will continue to do so for the enjoyment of all users. The Peace Garden will continue to develop over time. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact the chaplaincy.

Chaplaincy@lincoln.ac.uk



Subdeacon Ahmed Christopher

With limited experience in the field, I was nervous to address nursing students on the subject of caring for the terminally ill.

But my mind was put at rest by the careful attention this special group of students gave, and their evident dedication in learning as much as they could to supplement their considerable existing knowledge and experience in caring for patients. Emphasizing beauty and

encouraging the students to make use of all five senses in aesthetics - icons, incense, Psalms and prayers, Holy Communion etc - I was struck by how many of them were already making great efforts to get out of their own comfort zones to serve their patients. One student shared how she was requested to read Psalms, and despite not even knowing where to begin, she sacrificially gave

comfort to an elderly patient in her dying hours. What then could I add to such a crowd, among whom I was the learner, not they?! I hope very much that sessions like this can be repeated, particularly as the gap between the secular world and the worldview of traditional peoples continues to widen. My appreciation to the faculty and students who organized and facilitated this session.

Ahmadiya Community in the UK

Subash Chellaiah



The Ahmadiya Community was founded in India in 1889, and it has enjoyed an unrivalled record for peace and for its efforts to build cohesive societies. Established in the UK since 1913, they built London's

first mosque in 1926. They now have one hundred branches across Britain and have opened a number of mosques including the landmark Baitul Futuh mosque in South London, which is the largest in Western Europe.

A community that stands for education, integration and inter faith peace welcoming all to their mosques that are inclusive. Through their events they bring people together to understand more about each other.

They believe that Islam, which was established over 1,400 years ago by the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), is a universal religion of peace, with a simple but perfect message for mankind to develop and maintain a living relationship with a living God and to live in perfect harmony with all.

This message was revived by the founder of the Ahmadiya community, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (peace be upon him) and they are the only community of Muslims to have accepted him as the Promised Messiah and Mahdi who was prophesied for this age.

From the outset he repeatedly emphasised

the need for us to be mindful of our duty to God and His creation and to reflect our commitment to peace in our daily lives. He rejected the concept of a violent jihad, reminded us of the equality of mankind and of our duty to care for the needy. He also underlined the need to respect all religions, to abide by the law of the land and to be loyal to the government of the country in which we live. With this desire to promote peace this community has since flourished and is now a dynamic global movement established in more than 207 countries.

Since the founder's demise in 1908 this community have been led by a series of Caliphs or spiritual leaders, the present being His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad; this form of global leadership is another distinctive feature of this community.

He continues to relay the message of peace to the corners of the Earth, a message that has been reflected in action by the community through humanitarian efforts by men, women and the youth of the community.

In fact the members of the community willingly give time and money for relief work even in the remote parts of the globe, to help those in need regardless of creed or colour.

Their mosques worldwide remain open for all, to help break down barriers and build trust, integration and cohesion by enabling a better understanding of Islamic beliefs and their role in modern life.

These communities are not funded by any country, government or organisation. It is our belief that to do good works requires us to make sacrifices of time and

money and that is why the Ahmadiyya Muslim community is entirely self-funding. Members donate willingly to support the work of the community as well as a to a whole host of charitable and humanitarian activities that we carry out – almost all of which are run by volunteers.

In essence "Love for All, Hatred for None" is the unique banner upheld by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and a message that we believe is the basis for lasting peace.

Scunthorpe Ahmadiya Association mosque was inaugurated in June 2023 and they had their prayer for peace event held on the 10th December where I was present and read peace quotes. The message of peace for the Middle East echoed throughout the event.



The Revd David Bean



As a newcomer amongst the Volunteers on the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy Team, I thought I would

introduce myself. I am David Bean, from Retford in North Nottinghamshire, a minister in the Church of England, and I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know students and staff alike at the University of Lincoln. I started in January 2024.

A little about me. As an ordained minister, I am officially a "Revd", but I am a permanent Deacon (or "Distinctive

Deacon" as we refer to them in the Church of England,) rather than a Priest or Vicar.

Someone once said of us Distinctive Deacons that we "prefer to be out and about, making contacts, building relationships, identifying and meeting needs, creating stepping-stones between God and the world." So perhaps you'll see why I am a Chaplain!

I am also a Chaplain in the National Health Service, where I describe myself as a chaplain to people of faith, no faith, and those who aren't sure!

The other thing that it might be helpful to know about me is that the Parish in which I serve in Retford is affiliated to Inclusive Church, which is a network of churches seeking to celebrate and affirm every person and which seeks to "challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of disability,

economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality."

And I am an Anglican, married to a practising Roman Catholic, and am also recognised by the Methodist Church as an Associate Methodist Deacon. So that makes me a real mixture!

Outside of the University and the NHS, I have a part time day job in a local Christian charity and enjoy running a "Coffee Shop Theology Group" in a local cafe – a safe space for people to work out exactly what they believe. Who knows, we might start something similar at the University?

I will be at the University once a month, to begin with, when I will be available to listen and talk. So, if you see me, come and have a chat. Or drop me an email to DBean@lincoln.ac.uk

The Redeemed Christian Church of God, Victory Centre, Lincoln

Parish of the Redeemed Christian Church of God Worldwide.

This is a Black Pentecostal Church which started in Lincoln in June 2009. It used to run one service but has grown tremendously as a result of an increase in the number of Black students in the University of Lincoln.

Services

1st Service	9.30am to 10.45am
Sunday school	10.50 to 11.15am
Second Service	11.15am to 12.45pm

The new Parishes are:

RCCG Winners Centre, Lincoln
(St Faiths Church Hall Opp 144
West Parade Lincoln LN1 1QL -
07897500540)

RCCG Winners Centre, Newark (Vine
way, Community Centre, Newark
NG24 1QR – 07424898982)

RCCG Winners Centre, Gainsborough
(Connexions, 6/8 Church Street,
Gainsborough DN21 2JH -
07459372997)

RCCG Victory Centre Lincoln has been in the forefront as a support to the international students coming into Lincoln and has helped in sorting some of their requirements to enable them settle down.

Pastor Vera Icheke who is the Parish Pastor of this Parish is also the Pentecostal Chaplain of the University of Lincoln and has been helping to sort the Students needs morally, physically and spiritually.

Volunteer Administrator vacancy

This is opened to students so they can have some UK experience to enable them to secure job opportunities.

We also have other opportunities in the Youth dept of the Parish.



Mitzvah Day is the UK's largest faith-led day of social action. Over 55,000 people around the world, come together to give our time, and to make a difference to the community around us. We introduce people to social action, to their neighbours and to local charities, setting up projects, which address real needs. Jewish-led, we bring together people of all faiths and backgrounds, to volunteer side-by-side, building longstanding, genuine relationships.

A Mitzvah, literally, is a commandment in Jewish law. However, it is often used to mean a good deed or an act of

kindness, which is an integral part of Jewish life and is the basis for Mitzvah Day.

Lincolnshire Jewish community has worked with the Chaplaincy at the University to help with the Peace Garden. This has included planting bulbs, clearing leaves laying footpaths etc. As part of the Mitzvah Day some students and members of the Lincolnshire Jewish community worked together to create a sculpture of lungs.

As recognition of the help Subash won a national award from the Mitzvah Day organisation.





Soul Never Dies – an Eckankar perspective

Mrs Elizabeth Mallett



“Each person is a divine being who comes to life on earth with a spiritual purpose. Lifetime after lifetime, Soul grows in love and grace, ultimately becoming a Co-worker with God*”

— Harold Klemp, ECK Wisdom on Life After Death

The single most important belief in Eckankar is that Soul exists because God loves it. You are Soul, an eternal, individual spark of God, who can never die.

In Eckankar we understand that we don't have a Soul, Soul is what we are. We have a body. Our daily spiritual practices – the Spiritual Exercises of ECK – help us to realise our ability to move beyond the physical body before we die. We can explore the other planes

and heavens while still alive. So, when we die, it is a natural easy transition and death is just a doorway to more love and light.

What happens when we die?

In his book ECK Wisdom on Life After Death, Harold Klemp, the spiritual leader of Eckankar, says “There is a lightness and spaciousness about the body that you wear there...and you are always greeted by someone you know and love”.

Students of Eckankar are under the protection of a spiritual teacher and guide known as the Mahanta, the Living ECK Master. At the moment of death, the Mahanta – the inner side of the teacher – escorts them into the other worlds.

Can I experience heaven myself?

Anyone can explore the inner worlds while still here in this life. ECKists call it Soul Travel. Here is a technique you can try before you go to sleep, which involves chanting the word HU, an ancient sacred mantra:

<https://www.eckankar.org/spiritual-exercise-a-gateway-to-soul-travel/>

How do I find out more?

If you'd like to explore this topic plus others such as past lives, dreams, spiritual experiences, etc. you are welcome to join us on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm for a free, informal Spiritual Discussion over tea and biscuits. We meet at the University Chaplaincy building on campus – Witham House, the small white building next to the Sports Centre.

Or contact Liz Mallett, the ECKANKAR Chaplain, for a chat: emallett@lincoln.ac.uk

You may like to listen to the Eckankar podcasts at <https://www.eckankar.org/podcasts/> Episode 7 is about life after death.

And here is a link to the free book that all the quotes are from: [EW-life-death-mag.pdf \(eckankar.org\)](https://www.eckankar.org/pdf/eckankar.org)

*a Co-worker with God is a conscious living vehicle for God's love.

Alicia Armsworth, Multi-Faith Chaplaincy Administrator



Hi, my name is Alicia. I have been in this role since August 2023 and am finding my feet. Although I love admin and am quite organised, it is quite different to my previous role.

I started my working life with Lloyds Bank where I worked for 11.5 years then took 10 years out to raise our two sons. I then went back to work at a veterinary surgery. It was a family run firm for my first 12 years then, during Covid, was sold to a corporate company. Things changed, both at work and for me and I decided the time was right for a job change so here I am! I volunteer with the Lincoln Sea Cadet unit just over the other side

of the Brayford. I run the PFA, am the Treasurer (each unit is its own charity, and we are the only cadet force that are not subsidised by our parent organisation) and often cook for residential weekends held at our unit. I love reading and gardening. I also like to cook and am trying to find a good recipe for keto bread due to dietary requirements in our household.

Amarjit Adiwal, Master of Science in Management



I feel really amazed being a part of the University of Lincoln as a student.

It's a great thing you are doing for

students, connecting them with their religion and beliefs, and giving them a comfort like a home.

Being a Sikh I really miss these things but you are always there for us. Our parents feel proud seeing their children

connecting with their roots, no matter if it's a Diwali celebration or another spiritual part of our life, where we get blessings from our Sikh gurus.

Thank you so much!

Nina Chapman, Lay Hindu Chaplain



We are very grateful to our Vice Chancellor for opening the Diwali function with some of our students

from my weekly Aarti group. The atmosphere was electrifying.

The message of love and living in harmony while respecting each other's faith; including people of no faith, in this troublesome time throughout the world, was well received by every person in the hall that night!

Thank you to the Students' Union for working with Chaplaincy to make this possible. I felt very humbled by the love

shown by hundreds of students about how wonderful the opening of the Diwali function was! So a special thank you to all our students for making the whole event amazing.



On Death and Dying-Supporting our Nursing Students

This is not a theme normally written about, however it was one chosen by Helen Alcock Towse from the College of Social Science for the Nursing Mental Health Program, to which we, at the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy, were invited to contribute. Throughout the newsletter we print some of the contributions made by members of the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy.

In July 2023 members of the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy team were invited by the School of Health and Social Care to join a group of 2nd year nursing students to provide some guidance

and support to help them understand their role when caring for patients of faith. It was recognised that in a busy clinical environment a patient's spiritual needs can be easily overlooked and it was hoped that the session would empower the nurses to identify and understand these needs, which may in some instances contribute to successful clinical outcomes.

Each faith representative gave a short presentation about the different care and practical needs a person of their faith may have whilst receiving healthcare treatment and in particular the faith needs of the patient, including their

family and friends, when receiving palliative treatment and end of life care.

There were common themes that appeared across the presentations, many of which applied equally to people of no faith as those with, such as respect, kindness and compassion. For patients the experience of being in a health care environment can be both spiritually and physically challenging. For nursing staff it is about recognising that they are with patients at a time of deepest spiritual need, it is about understanding this and considering their spiritual needs with the same level of attention and respect as physical needs.

Festivals

Subdeacon Carl Christopher

I'm told that this newsletter will be published in February-I hope so, as the few words I have to share relate to this month's biggest materialist festival, although in truth these thoughts are always in season. But is "Valentines Day" really secular? Like so much in our culture, the roots of this feast are Christian. Or, for the really chronologically pedantic, perhaps even pre-Christian, as us humans have likely always lived by seasons. And even when our materialist culture thinks it has 'moved on' from the feasts and fasts which once served to remind us not simply of time but the timelessness planted in our hearts, the human longing to worship something bigger than ourselves stubbornly persists. Valentine's Day is just one example this month. It seems that in the longing for a connection to almost anything which transcends us, we end up worshipping almost anything, or anyone. As homo sapiens, or rather homo adorans- the worshipping species -we have a choice about what or Who we worship - in a sense, we're all religious. And for those sceptical at so grand a claim, let me clarify that to worship is to give worth and value to something - it can hardly be denied that we all have a hierarchy of priorities by which we order our time, attention,



money and, ultimately, our whole lives. Sure, some of us are avowed and aware actual worshippers of God or gods, and others of ideologies and values, or of causes noble or otherwise, but I think there are plenty more who worship unaware. True, there's much in our culture that might not pass a sight test for what would traditionally be considered 'religious'. But think of it like this - the saints of Christ are my role models, can we not say the same for some people's veneration of celebrities? My physical diet is determined by a liturgical calendar, fasts and feasts throughout the year, but what then are we to make of things like Veganuary and Meat-Free Mondays? I pray at more or less regular times each day; my friends and neighbours try to be mindful or to meditate. I'm often to be found in a particular point on the map, (church!), others have spaces that are equally sacred to them, from stadium to mall and almost everything in between. I wear a cassock when I have my 'chaplaincy hat' on, others are similarly identifiable by garb or style. I suppose the list could go on! But I'll conclude with an invitation to you in this month and every month, to consider with me exactly what it is we give our attention to. Christ our Hope be with you all.

Safer Together Team

The Safer Together Team work within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. They are coordinators who work in local communities across Lincolnshire to understand the issues and needs at a local level, giving people a voice to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

To find out who your local Safer Together Team Coordinator is, or engagement

activities in your local area visit; <https://lincolnshire-pcc.gov.uk/your-pcc/safer-together-team/>

You can also sign up to hear from your Safer Together Team Coordinator about local events, crime prevention messages and community safety information by joining our Lincolnshire Alert notification system at; <https://www.lincolnshirealert.co.uk/>

Victim Lincs

Anybody in Lincolnshire who has been the victim of crime receives the support they need, regardless of whether they choose to report the crime to the police or not.

Victim Lincs is here to help ensure that anyone living, working or studying in

Lincolnshire gets the support they need if they have been the victim of crime.

If you have been a victim of crime (regardless of if you have reported this to the police) and would like support, call 01522 947 510.

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Ecumenical Christmas Carol Service

By Ellis Asher, Journalism student, President of Catholic Society



I was delighted to be asked to deliver a reading at this year's Ecumenical Carol Service, organised by the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy.

Striking the right balance between quiet reflection and a sung devotion, what better way get into the spirit of Advent than to come together, as we prepare for the Christmas period ahead of us?

Whilst I myself may not have much of a penchant for singing, there's certainly something comforting about the mince pies and coffee as the temperature outside falls and the light starts to wane.

People from all sorts of different backgrounds coming together to do something is always an inspiring sight, but with brief readings from several

different groups, there was a fresh variety that enabled a real sense of community amongst the carollers.

Interwoven between the carols sung by the University Choir, the reflections on scripture, both from the Bible and from the Qur'an and on literature as well, gave the evening a deeper meaning: A message of joyful anticipation.

From 'In the bleak midwinter' and 'O Come all ye faithful' to the works of T.S. Elliot and Charles Dickens, the service seemingly had something for everyone to enjoy, even if it was just the hospitality of a warm drink afterwards.

That's the kind of welcoming that our Advent preparations are all about.



Places of Worship and Ethnic Shops within the City of Lincoln

These places of worship and ethnic shops are within walking distance (2 miles) of Lincoln University.

A. Lincoln Central Mosque
B. Morning Sun Supermarket
C. Golden Leaf Oriental Supermarket
D. Lincoln African Foodstore
E. Spices & More Food Store
F. Al-Madrasah Halal Butchery
G. Lincoln Retail Builders



Free copies of 'Places of Worship and Ethnic Shops within the City of Lincoln' maps are available at Witham House, Library, Student Union, Student Support Centre and Student Wellbeing Centre.



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