

Cutting Edge

*The Annual Newsletter of the Anglican Chaplaincy and friends
at The University of Sheffield*



Issue No. 66 (Summer 2021)



Contact details

The Chaplaincy Centre has been open throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic, online via web chat, phone and video calls. The team has been working remotely but expects to work at the Chaplaincy Centre by September 2021.

Our hours during university teaching periods are:
9.30am – 5.00pm, Monday – Thursday
9.30am – 2.00pm, Friday

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Sign up to our regular newsletter here: <https://tinyurl.com/y62mgqgy>

Find us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram: @ShefChristian

Welcome

Welcome to our very first digital edition of Cutting Edge, an annual magazine that spans seven decades of chaplaincy at the University of Sheffield. Now, magazines that are virtual are more accessible and immediate and it is easier to widen access to our publication. As a consequence we are choosing to draw on some of the long-standing traditions of the magazine by including articles on topics and themes.

Through the Covid-19 Pandemic, with the chaplaincy team working from home, our chaplaincy provision has been almost entirely digital via video calls, telephone calls, social media and our website. Now, in the summer of 2021, we are preparing to return to working on the University campus in the Octagon Centre.

Anglican chaplaincy has a new structure with my role a more university-wide one than before. Rob Barnett continues to be employed by the Anglican Chaplaincy Trust as Chaplaincy Support Worker. Excitingly, we have just appointed a Self-Supporting Anglican Chaplain: Revd Sabine Tenge-Heslop. More about her is inside the magazine.

Jeremy Clines, University Coordinating Chaplain

Front cover image

The cover image is of the lantern in the entrance to Firth Court at the University. Jeremy Clines took the photo in June 2020 when the campus was largely deserted due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. At a time when almost all staff and remaining students were working remotely, Jeremy was given special permission to go on to campus to visit and thank essential staff like porters and cleaners. On such visits to campus he photographed other images peculiar to the pandemic, like the one on the right.



The Covid-19 Pandemic

Moving online

In early March 2020 we followed, with concern, news of Covid-19's spread to the UK. The University kept us updated about how the virus might impact our work. With the Chaplaincy being a small team working in the Octagon Centre, we were able to keep up with the evolving government and university advice – and even to anticipate some of it.

In the second week of March we started to close down our rooms in the Octagon Centre and by the third week we were working from home. Throughout this process we made clear that the Chaplaincy remained open online, via web chat, phone and video calls. Our existing online communications were invaluable for this, now more important than ever.



Brunch and the Wednesday lunchtime service became online events, gaining significance by being a source of contact as everyone adapted to the situation. Jeremy Clines led the creation of online support groups for grief, loss, isolation and anxiety. These groups ran after Easter in the remainder of Semester Two when the University was closed to students and all-but essential staff (as depicted in the above photo).

The 2020-21 academic year

The summer allowed us to take stock and to get further used to home working. We made tentative plans for the new academic year, keeping them fluid until we knew what would be possible in September onwards.

With lots of health and safety measures, the University planned for staff

to return to working on the campus in the autumn. Yet, as Covid-19 cases increased nationwide in the late summer, this step became for essential and academic staff only. Thus we continued to work remotely, offering a smaller than usual series of welcome events (all online of course) in Orientation Week and Intro Week.

During the rest of the autumn, Brunch and the Wednesday lunchtime service became online staples. In mid-December we ran the University Carol Service online with a live broadcast from the Mappin Building. Jeremy Clines gave the Carol Service address, the text for which is towards the back of this edition of Cutting Edge.

Black Lives Matter

We were deeply affected by George Floyd's brutal killing. We took a key role in the Chaplaincy's response which is summarised in this statement:

"We at the Chaplaincy Centre have been deeply challenged by the worldwide response to George Floyd's killing.

"And we know that some people will have been deeply affected, and perhaps traumatised by some of the things that they've seen online and on video, both footage of George Floyd's killing and of police violence.

"So if anybody from the University of Sheffield wants to talk to us for pastoral support and care please do get in touch and we will listen confidentially and non-judgementally.

"We also know this will have served as a horrible and stark reminder of other times of immense racial injustice, another pandemic emergency, and the pain of the current circumstance reminds us of centuries of pain and pains from our own memories and experiences.

"The chaplaincy is here for you and to listen to you, for any recent or past pain. And we are here to listen to the injustices both present here in Sheffield, in our own communities, including our communities of learning, and for our loved ones as well as for ourselves."

During both of our Chaplaincy staff get-togethers in 2020 (the first an excellent training day in January) we talked about how we value diversity in the Chaplaincy team and how we want to include more people in it.

As a longer-term response to Black Lives Matter, Jeremy Clines is helping to lead a University-wide listening exercise for anyone who has suffered exclusion. This process is being offered by a project based at the Chaplaincy Centre. The Anglican Chaplaincy is very much part of this.

The Listening Project (research ethics approval 036825), invited students and staff to tell us, confidentially, about any experience of exclusion and inclusion by means of a survey. A member of the survey team read each response and there was an opportunity to request a follow-on conversation.

Associate Anglican Chaplain's reflections

By Dagmar Wilkinson (Associate Anglican Chaplain 2019-20)

I was an Anglican Associate Chaplain and member of the Chaplaincy Team in the academic year 2019-2020 and I thoroughly enjoyed my time there.

This started in September 2019 with Intro Week where I got involved in running a number of exciting opportunities and activities for the new and returning students. 'Mindful Walk' around the campus and 'Free Brunch' in the Chaplaincy common room proved to be especially attractive and successful. It was an excellent experience to be able to chat to students from all over the world about their background, studies and hopes and plans for the future.



I really enjoyed presiding at the Eucharist on Wednesday afternoons. This is an opportunity for students and staff to attend the service over their lunch break where Christian Chaplains take services in turn and those who attend are invited to stay and enjoy a cup of tea and a delicious cake, baked by one of my chaplaincy colleagues. Pure delight!

One of the highlights of the autumn term was the Service of Thanksgiving in memory of those who have given their bodies for Medical Education where beautiful music by the University of Sheffield Chamber Choir, Medic's Choir and Brass Band was sung and played, scriptures and poetry read, and prayers said. Talking to the relatives after the service was a very humbling and moving experience.

Another highlight was the University Carol Service with chaplains, students and staff involved in leading and reflections. It was good to close the year with the Chaplaincy colleagues at our Christmas party and reflect on our experiences.

The beginning of 2020 started on a positive note as we were planning a number of activities for the term ahead. I got involved in hosting the Bishop of Sheffield's Annual Lecture at the University. I ran the bereavement group 'Good Grief' where a group of students met to share and support each other in their loss. It was a holy ground and one of the best experiences of my chaplaincy.



Dagmar (centre) preparing for a student welcome event in the Coffee Revolution café, situated in the Students' Union, during September 2019

I continued meeting and supporting students on a one to one basis, and was looking forward to running the Study Retreat in Mirfield, taking part in the International Chaplaincy Conference and in Tandem Learning about other faiths but alas, all our plans were thwarted by the Covid Pandemic and lockdown.

I am grateful for this great opportunity to be part of the fantastic Chaplaincy team and would like to thank especially to the University Co-ordinating Chaplain Jeremy Clines for making this possible.

Chaplaincy Support Worker's reflections

Rob Barnett (Chaplaincy Support Worker)



The 2019-20 and 2020-21 academic years will no doubt be remembered chiefly for the Covid-19 Pandemic. From March 2020 onwards the pandemic changed much for the Anglican Chaplaincy. However much continued and much else of note had happened beforehand.

Highlights of these years included welcoming students in both Septembers, contributing to well attended University Carol Services, and being part of a team offering 'ashing' on Ash Wednesday 2020.

In my second and now third years as Chaplaincy Support Worker, while still working 2.5 days a week, I have been employed all year round rather than in semester time only.

This initially allowed me to prepare over the 2019 summer for the new academic year, such as sprucing up the Common Room including with the introduction of four spider plants.

As the new academic year began, I was able to play a full part in welcoming students to the Christian Chaplaincy. Notably this was through a well-attended event in the bustling Coffee Revolution café in the Students' Union.

In my first year in the role I had helped to run Chaplaincy in the Pub, on Tuesday late afternoons. Some of the Christian Chaplaincy team would decamp to the University Arms pub to chat to any students who joined us.

As student turnout wasn't as high as in previous years, the Christian Chaplaincy team decided to instead invite students to our Gathering Room, decked out with two sofas sourced by Jeremy Clines, for Christian Chaplaincy Hub.

As well as refreshments, this featured topical discussion points or just a chance to chat. Student engagement was low, but if you don't try these things you don't know! It's encouraging to hear that student engagement is strong with the half dozen Christian student societies at the University.

Members of some of these societies took part in the 2019 University Carol Service by doing readings or leading prayers. In the aftermath of a general election, Firth Hall was packed for the Monday lunchtime service. The 2020 service was broadcast online to a wide audience.

Rob Barnett continues...

Having finished another part-time job in July 2019, I changed my working days to include Wednesday. This enabled me to run Community Brunch in the morning and take part in our Communion Service at lunchtime.

At Community Brunch I welcomed a variety of students while the Communion Service has welcomed a mix of staff and students. Both Wednesday events continued online during the pandemic. As the Communion Service became a Service of the Word, I have been able to lead this several times.

Before the pandemic I helped Jeremy Clines to administer grants to students for Christian residential experiences. These included individual retreats and group weekends away, like the Christian Medical Fellowship's national conference.

Offering 'ashing' on Ash Wednesday 2020 (pictured left) was a new venture.



Working in pairs during hour-long slots on the Students' Union concourse, members of the Christian Chaplaincy team marked around 30 students and staff with an ash cross on the forehead. I prepared the event by securing appropriate permission, coordinating volunteers and making a sign. It all came from a suggestion made by the Roman Catholic Associate

Chaplain, Father Lee Marshall.

The pandemic meant we had to quickly switch to home working from mid-March 2020 onwards. While this was a challenging process, I helped to continue Christian Chaplaincy Hub (in 2019-20), Community Brunch and our Wednesday Service online.

Remote working has made my communications role even more important than before. I have continued to update our social media accounts, create regular mailings and update the Chaplaincy's website.

Having been furloughed in late December 2020, I was glad to return to working (still from home, for now, as has become 'the norm') in late March 2021. I am delighted that my role has been extended further.

Liberty, Legacy, Leadership

Liberty, Legacy, Leadership – the sixth conference of the International Association of Chaplains in Higher Education – will now take place in June 2022 in Sheffield.

The conference, for which Jeremy Clines is facilitator, has twice been postponed due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. It was first scheduled to take place in June 2020 and then in June 2021. The new dates are Monday 13 June to Friday 17 June 2022. Sunday 12 June is a day of pre-conference events.

Previously it was a quadrennial conference that has been held in Vancouver (Canada) 2000; Brisbane (Australia) 2004; Tampere (Finland) 2008; New Haven (USA) 2012; and, Bendigo (Australia) 2016.

The University of Sheffield is the location for this remarkable, international and interreligious conference. The theme 'Liberty, Legacy, Leadership' frames our exploration of how vibrant chaplaincies may contribute to university communities, asking:

- how academic freedom and religion and belief equalities intersect;
- what lessons must be learned from our learning and belief histories;
- what leadership styles—secular and religious—best suit our sector?"



Günther Sturms, chair of association, said: "Our 2022 conference, Liberty, Legacy, Leadership, is an outstanding opportunity for higher-education chaplains to develop and reenergise their practice and professionalise their delivery. Hosted in a safe and inclusive environment, the 2022 conference will foster collaboration, best-practice sharing and high-quality networking among colleagues from across the globe." Günther is based in Delft in the Netherlands.

Keynote speakers, expert in their field and passionate about chaplaincy will be delivering talks and tours, and seminars will run throughout the week. Full details can be browsed at www.sheffield.ac.uk/iache2022/

Deep Search

After several years in the making, this online spiritual development tool (www.deepsearch.uk) was launched in September 2020. At the same time a collection of related resources — some available in Sheffield, some further afield and some online — was launched on the Chaplaincy Centre’s website. The tool itself and these resources have been promoted across the University and beyond, using mailings and social media. The top of the Deep Search page on the new-look Chaplaincy website (www.sheffield.ac.uk/chaplaincy/deep-search) is below.

Welcome to Deep Search

Deep Search is a way of thinking about where you are right now, what to change and where you would like to be.

This is a way of thinking about where you are right now, what to change and where you would like to be.

An exploration of your life, actions, relationships and views, now and in the future.

Chaplaincy Support Worker and Fundraising

The Anglican Chaplaincy Trust continued to employ Rob Barnett as its Chaplaincy Support Worker in 2019-20, thanks to a modest surplus in the Trust account and the two-year interim grant from the Sheffield Church Burgesses Trust for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

The Trust used its reserves to continue Rob’s employment until December 2020, and then the UK Government Furlough Scheme to allow time to seek further funding. Thanks to an emergency intervention from Student Experience and Support (part of the University’s Student Services), Rob resumed working in March 2021. Thanks to the same source, Rob’s role has been extended until the end of January 2022.

The Anglican Chaplaincy Trust is continuing in its efforts to secure new funds to develop Anglican Chaplaincy ministry for 2021-22 and onwards. Anyone interested in supporting the Chaplaincy’s ministry financially or in any other way is welcome to contact Jeremy Clines. For example, £50 will fund half-a-day's support work at the Chaplaincy Centre, since after January 31 2022 the Anglican Chaplaincy Trust will not have any funds to spend, being down to our emergency reserves.

University Carol Service, 15 Dec 2020, address by Jeremy Clines

One amazing thing about hope is the relationship it has to dissatisfaction. The Christmas message has much to do with hope in the messiest and most relentlessly dissatisfying circumstances.

Hope is not an empty feeling, and there have been many hopeful stories from our own university, city and city-region this year. In a small but very significant way, it was hope in action that helped keep our university functioning like it has never had to attempt before and thanks must go especially to students and Students' Union, to Security, Cleaners, Estates and Accommodation teams and all of us for the costly effort.

Such actions, small and big have followed the principles of hope as articulated in a conversation between Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Greta Thunberg, last year:

Alexandria said, *'Hope is something that you create, with your actions. Hope is something you have to manifest into the world, and once one person has hope, it can be contagious. Other people start acting in a way that has more hope.'*

Greta replied, *'Yeah. I know so many people who feel hopeless, and they ask me, "What should I do?" And I say: "Act. Do something." Because that is the best medicine against sadness and depression. I remember the first day I was school-striking outside the Swedish parliament, I felt so alone, because everyone went straight past, no one even looked at me. But at the same time I was hopeful.'*



Greta Thunberg, outside the Swedish parliament.
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Hope in the face of dissatisfaction can surprise us all. That was why wherever a story of hope appeared in 2020 it showed up in marked contrast to everything else going on. And how we have needed hope this year. However easy or full of grief and anxiousness it has been for us personally, we have collectively been willing all power to any action that can alleviate the heavy cloak of dissatisfaction, that has come with a pandemic that has tragically emphasized inequalities of age, ethnicity and impoverishment to name a few.

And so when **Tom**, now Sir Tom Moore, walked 100 laps of his garden in time for his 100th birthday, he articulated hope for a better environment for all working in the NHS. He spoke of them this way *'All of them, from top to bot-*

University Carol Service, 15 Dec 2020, address by Jeremy Clines

And so when Tom, now Sir Tom Moore, walked 100 laps of his garden in time for his 100th birthday, he articulated hope for a better environment for all working in the NHS. He spoke of them this way *‘All of them, from top to bottom, in the National Health Service, they deserve everything that we can possibly put in their place.’ Hopeful action that was intent on elevating the work of NHS staff.*

From our own university, hope in action has been expressed: by students and staff in so many ways, take as a few examples all who’ve been working in the NHS and volunteering across the city-region; the students of Landscape Architecture designing places of hope for people and planet; and inspiring news from collaborative management research, revealing how the pandemic itself has enabled social action, with groups working together like never before.

Hope and dissatisfaction are matters that a founding force of modern health-care understood especially well: Florence Nightingale explains: *‘Were there none who were discontented with what they have, the world would never reach anything better.’ Her determination came out of a self-awareness that’s feminist and frank: she said: ‘I do see the difference now between me and other men. When a disaster happens, I act and they make excuses.’*



Florence Nightingale circa 1850s by H. Lenthall, London

Returning to Greta Thunberg for a moment, there’s a habit of real hope not letting the privileged off the hook, as Greta pointed out to the rich and powerful elites assembled at Davos, who’d told her she’d given them hope, she responded *‘I don’t want you to hope ... I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear that I feel every day. I want you to act. I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if the house is on fire, because it is.’*

Dissatisfaction is immensely useful for bringing about change; it’s just hard to wake up to if you’re already privileged, but when you realize that those discriminated, marginalized, oppressed and victimised can’t even breath, then everyone wakes up, and hope bursts into life.

University Carol Service, 15 Dec 2020, address by Jeremy Clines

The founder of the #MeToo movement, who has worked for nearly two decades empowering girls in the US against sexual violence, Tarana Burke, says of privilege, that, *“Inherently, having privilege isn’t bad,” [...] “but it’s how you use it, and you have to use it in service of other people.”*

Christmas is about an audacious kind of hope from a God it is easy to typecast as being privileged: but here, at Christmas, in the scene of birth—under Roman occupation—of a vulnerable child, under threat of genocide, born to an oppressed Jewish mother, Miriam, whose name doesn’t even translate into the dominant language, except as Mary. Here is a picture of the divine, opting for loving service, via living a fully human life, in solidarity with the underprivileged. God using the privilege only God can have in the service of all people seeking liberation.

Martin Luther King knew all about hope in the face of dissatisfaction and quotes from the Jewish prophet Isaiah, in his ‘I have a dream’ speech, when he sums up dissatisfaction with an unequal world of privilege and oppression that he seeks to replace with hope:

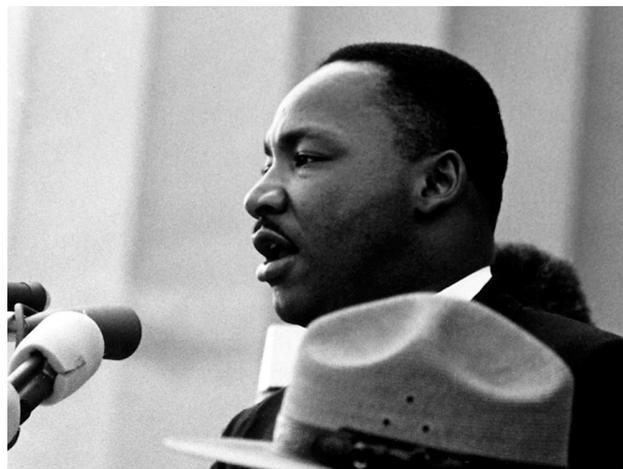
‘We cannot be satisfied as long as a colored person in Mississippi cannot vote and a colored person in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote.

No, no we are not satisfied and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of your trials and tribulations. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by storms of persecutions and staggered by the winds of police brutality.’

And yet Martin Luther King doesn’t stop with the dissatisfaction but offers a call to all people who suffer to see it as a ‘creative suffering’ that can be used to bring equality by letting freedom ring so the inequalities created by disease and prejudice are eliminated; that is the hope that rings out so true and so strong at the end of a truly awful year;

‘When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every tenement and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God’s children, black and white, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants



Martin Luther King making his 'I have a dream' speech.

University Carol Service, 15 Dec 2020, address by Jeremy Clines

‘When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every tenement and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God’s children, black and white, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old spiritual, “Free at last, free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last.”’

The message of Christmas is all about letting freedom ring so all can be raised up, however lowly their circumstances, and hope drives us beyond the dissatisfactions and the many griefs of 2020. Amen.

Our new Anglican Chaplain: Revd Sabine Tenge-Heslop

Hello, I am Sabine, and I am very excited about joining the Chaplaincy Team at Sheffield University. I just love the buzz of university life, and talking with people from diverse backgrounds. There is so much to be learned from others!

University life is well known to me, from both staff and student perspective. I hold a master’s degree in biology from Frankfurt University in Germany. From 2011 to June 2021, I have been a lecturer in German at Durham University. At about the same time, I studied at the Lindisfarne College of Theology, from which I graduated in 2017; and I was ordained at Durham Cathedral. My two grown up children, who live in Germany, are both university graduates.

I have been volunteering a lot in my life, e.g. in Germany for various German environmental associations and the Lutheran Church, in England for the village in County Durham, where I live with my husband Bill, and in several parishes of the Anglican Church.

Being out and about in the countryside is surely my biggest leisure time focus, be it walking, bird watching or organic gardening. Also I am quite passionate about eating healthily.



How to support the Anglican Chaplaincy



Above: Images from the Triptych commissioned by the Anglican Chaplaincy on the sibling relationship of Ishmael and Isaac.

Please pray for our work, both regular events and seasonal/occasional events and groups

Regular semester-time events:

Wednesday 10.30am, Community brunch
Wednesday 1.10pm, Lunchtime service

Donations

Our thanks are due to all those who have made donations to the Anglican Chaplaincy Trust in recent years. Your donations are a great help in resourcing our mission and ministry.

The University of Sheffield is a secular institution—and consequently, the Anglican Chaplaincy Trust, as part of the Chaplaincy Centre, depends on the support, primarily of individual donors to resource its activities. The Trust will also be approaching the Sheffield Church Burgesses Trust in the hope of further support from them for future years. You might like to make a donation to the Anglican Chaplaincy at the University of Sheffield - or perhaps remember us when your PCC is thinking of missionary and charitable giving. Cheques should be made payable to ‘Anglican Chaplaincy Trust.’

For information about standing orders and Gift Aid, please contact the Treasurer, Nigel Russell-Sewell (n.russell@sheffield.ac.uk, 0114 222 2474).

