

Do You Know What University Chaplains Do?

When people hear the word *chaplain*, they often think of hospitals or prisons. As a result, there can be limited understanding of why chaplaincy is needed within universities. What is their role, and who do they serve? The answer is simple: it is a unique & dynamic form of ministry. The structure of the University Chaplaincy varies depending on the type of university, Circular (Faith-Based or Non-Circular (Neutral)). At places such as the University of Hertfordshire (Non-circular), the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy Service offers support through 3 main strands: **spiritual, social, & pastoral care** for both staff and students, whether they have a faith or not.

University chaplaincy provides a welcoming & inclusive presence on campus, recognising that university life can be both exciting and challenging. Students & staff may face academic pressures, personal questions, or simply seek a sense of community & belonging. Chaplains are there to listen, to support, & to walk alongside people at every stage of their journey. For students and staff of all faiths & none, the chaplaincy offers:

- Volunteer chaplains from different faith traditions, including Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and Christianity
 - Quiet spaces for prayer, reflection, or rest
 - Social activities — come with a friend or meet new people
 - Information about spiritual needs and local places of worship
 - An inclusive and welcoming environment
- A listening ear and someone to talk to in

confidence.

No two days are ever the same. A typical week might include:

Monday AM: Supporting staff & student networks in organising & marking Holocaust Memorial Day, with delegates including the local Rabbi, Mayor, and Members of Parliament.
 PM: Marking Lunar New Year by hosting an Art & craft session making decorative bunting.

Tuesday AM: Supporting the Student & Staff Muslim Society in coordinating an Eid celebration.

PM: Taking a group of students on a weekly “Spirited Nature Walk” and allotment session — creating space for reflection, conversation & connection with the outdoors.

Wednesday AM: Leading an Ash Wednesday service.

PM: Student drop-in sessions, covering issues such as trauma, loneliness, housing, finances, exam stress, or domestic violence. The ability to listen carefully and signpost to specialist services is key.

Thursday AM: Leading an on-campus memorial service in memory of a deceased staff member.

PM: Pastoral support meetings with students.

Friday AM: Hosting Weekly Global Café- All staff and students welcome for free teas and cake. Pastoral support meetings with staff.

PM: Taking part in the graduation procession, celebrating students’ achievements.

University chaplaincy is therefore not only about religious services. It is about building community, fostering understanding across faiths & cultures, offering compassionate care & supporting wellbeing. It is a visible reminder that spiritual reflection & pastoral support remain deeply relevant — especially during the formative & often demanding years of university life. As one writer wisely put it
“A chaplain’s greatest gift is to listen.”
 Remain Blessed! Grace.Bhobho -
 University Assistant Chaplain

What's On—March 2026

Sunday 1st

10.30am Communion Service

With Helen Barton

19 Bartholomew Green 7.30pm—
9.30pm

Monday 2nd

MBC Café—open to all

10.30am—12pm

Friday 20th

MBC Café—open to all

10am—12pm

Friday 6th

MBC Café—open to all

10am—12pm

Sunday 22nd

10.30am All age service

With Heidi & Chris

Sunday 8th

10.30am Morning Service

David Ronco

Monday 23rd

MBC Café—open to all

10.30am—12pm

Monday 9th

MBC Café—open to all

10.30am—12pm

Thursday 26th

Leadership Team Meeting

7.45pm

Thursday 12th

MBC Ladies evening

Details to follow

Friday 27th

Jack & Jill's baby & toddler

10am—11.30am

Friday 13th

Jack & Jill's baby & toddler

10am—11.30am

Saturday 28th

09.30am Prayer meeting

Saturday 14th

09.30am Prayer meeting

Sunday 15th

10.30am Morning Service

With Stephen Poxon

Monday 16th

MBC Café—open to all

10.30am—12pm

Thursday 19th

Faith, Family & Fellowship

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Chris & Heidi Trew

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Our Vision Statment:

Growing Together by loving God, loving others & serving our community