Introduction

The Chaplains are an integral part of the pastoral care network. We offer a friendly source of support to both staff and students of the University, whatever their beliefs or background.

We seek to provide a safe space in which people are able to explore issues and make their own decisions. We may always be approached in strict confidence.

Our role is not limited to religious matters; much of our time is spent helping people with issues relating to work, money and personal relationships.

The Chaplains work on campus by agreement with the University authorities and we have no formal status within its statutory, academic or disciplinary structures.

The Chaplaincy Team

Our Chaplaincy team includes both men and women, working either full-time or part-time in the University. Some of us are ministers in local churches.

During office hours Chaplains may be contacted via the Chaplaincy Centre on extension 8797. Outside office hours we may be contacted at home (see back cover for telephone numbers).

If a particular Chaplain is required please get in touch directly, otherwise contact Sabine Schwartz, Deputy Team Co-Ordinator.

The Chaplaincy Centre...

is based on Whiteknights campus and opens weekdays, 8am to 6pm.

There is a meeting room, kitchen, small library, and a room set aside as a quiet space.

A quiet room is also available at London Road campus.

Pastoral Care

The Chaplains can provide support to staff personally, assist staff in the care of students, or support students referred to them.

We have training in listening skills and non-clinical counselling. We will refer staff and students on to other support services as appropriate. We may be consulted confidentially.

Worship

Worship in the Chaplaincy Centre includes a weekly Roman Catholic Communion Service (Tuesday, 1pm), a Protestant Communion (Thursday, 1pm), and a Quaker Meeting for Worship (Friday, 1pm). These services are open to all.

The Catholic Chaplain facilitates Mass at 6.00pm every Sunday throughout the year at St William of York Church on Upper Redlands Road.

There are no Sunday services on Campus, but details of the many local churches and other places of worship can be found in the Centre.

Prayer / Bible Study

Meetings for staff to pray and study the Bible are held every Monday at 1pm (not Bank Holidays).

Staff are welcome to join the Catholic, Anglican and URC Chaplains for their short evening prayer on Tuesdays and Thursday at 5pm.

Staff Retreats and Relaxation Workshops

Half-day staff retreats / quiet days are provided twice a year led by the Anglican and Catholic Chaplains. Through Counselling we also run termly relaxation workshops, open to all.

Teaching

The Chaplains are a valuable resource on theology and Church history. We contribute formally to teaching on campus, and also provide informal seminars exploring theology. Our website will detail current events.
Weekly Mailing

We provide a weekly email with information about religious and other related activities on campus or nearby.

Contacting us

General enquiries | chaplaincy@reading.ac.uk | 0118 378 8797
Website | www.reading.ac.uk/chaplaincy
Park House Lodge, Whiteknights, Reading, RG6 6AH

Full-time Chaplains

Anglican | Mark Laynesmith | m.d.laynesmith@reading.ac.uk
0118 378 8797 | 0796 313 4623
Roman Catholic | Sabine Schwartz | s.schwartz@reading.ac.uk
0118 926 8869 | 07809 377 904

Part-time Chaplains

Quaker | Edmund Burke | edmund.burke@which.net | 0118 987 3976
United Reformed | Robert Weston | minister@parkurc.org.uk | 0118 926 5003

With support from

Chaplaincy Intern | Edda Wolff | edda.wolff@web.de
Jewish Chaplain | Zvi Solomons | info@rhc.org.uk | 0118 957 1018

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Chaplaincy

Information

for Members of Staff

September 2014 – September 2015