



### In This Issue....

- 1 **Inter Faith Week Success**
- 2 **A Year in the Life of the Chaplaincy**
- 3 **Does God Exist?**
- 4 **University Catholic Chaplaincy**
- 4 **Student Societies:**
  - Catholic Society
  - Christian Union
  - Christian Medical Fellowship
  - Christian Staff and Postgraduates
- 6 - Islamic Society
- Baha'i Society
- 7 - Jewish Society
- Living Water
- 8 **Meet the Chaplains**

# Inter Faith Week Success

## Pioneering Inter Faith Events at Cardiff University

Alex Zens, Inter Faith Committee

**This academic year saw the newly-formed Inter Faith Committee, supported by the Chaplaincy and the Student Union, organise the first ever Inter Faith Week at Cardiff University. Inter Faith Week is a national event set up to facilitate dialogue between different faiths and to help people understand the basic idea behind each religion. Seema, a Baha'i student, says that 'Inter Faith Week was a great opportunity to learn about different faiths and even to see the similarities between the beliefs of each faith.'**

On the Monday we began Inter Faith Week with an Open Day. All events were held in at the Chaplaincy and the Open Day saw the hall in 62 Park Place, usually used for the Catholic Mass on Sundays, transformed into a hub of information. Each religion had its own little stall where they presented holy books, items used for devotion and a little bite to eat which was either connected to that specific religion or to the country of its origin.

The Muslim stand had English translations of the Qur'an that were handed out to those who were interested. The Jewish group had invited a rabbi willing to answer any question, simple or complicated. The Christian stalls offered pancakes, to remember the festival of Shrove Tuesday, and they explained the similarities and differences between different Churches and denominations. The Sikh representatives explained the Khanda and other symbols of their religion. The Buddhists showed the books containing sermons and chants, whereas the Baha'i group showed the Baha'i holy book, the Kitab-i Aqdas. The atmosphere in the hall was relaxed and many people dropped in for a brief look around or stayed for a long time, debating and discussing similarities and differences. Dai, from

the Christian Union, sums the first day up well: 'I remember having a really long chat with the student manning the Buddhism stall. I learnt so much about his faith, much more than I would have Wikipedia surfing! Inter-faith doesn't mean ignoring our differences, it means fully appreciating them.'

On Tuesday evening of Inter Faith Week, the Religion Café was held. The Café, which takes place once a term at the Chaplaincy 61 Park Place, met to discuss 'Holy Books and Sacred Texts' in a more informal atmosphere. The questions ranged from translation to how the books are incorporated into prayer and devotion. Tea, coffee, muffins, and chocolate were handed around and as people relaxed and enjoyed. Mohanvir, a Sikh student, says that 'the discussion that took place was very informative. I personally learnt a lot about other faiths during the religion cafe night'.

Wednesday and Thursday both saw panel debates with representatives from different faiths debating similarities and differences between religions. On Wednesday, representatives from the three monotheistic religions, Christianity, Judaism and Islam, were on the panel, and questions were varied – from hell and heaven, to issues around conversion. On Thursday representatives from the Sikh, Hindu, Buddhist and Baha'i faith discussed questions about devotions and festivals to the international organisation and places of worship. Both panels received high attendance, from students and staff of the University. 'Everyone was so welcoming,' commented Jess, a Buddhist, 'providing a comfortable environment for us to make new friendships. Inter Faith activities are so important in our society and communities, as dialogue is the key to respect and trust in each other.'

Throughout the week, over 250 people attended the events – both religious and non-religious people. The success of Inter Faith Week led to a further series of visits to different places of worship such as a mosque, a synagogue, and a Baha'i meeting place. The Chair of the Inter Faith Council for Wales, the Revd Alan Bayes, praised the work being done by the students at the University as both an excellent way of engaging us all in issues of respect, understanding, and tolerance.



## Inter Faith Week 2011

Cardiff's second Inter Faith Week is already being planned, alongside further Religion Cafes and more visits to places of worship. The Inter Faith Week will take place during the annual national inter-faith week, from Sunday 20th to Saturday 26th November 2011. Look out for the posters and leaflets with details of the events, which will include debates, discussions, and much, much more. Join in to discuss and learn about different faiths and beliefs. For more information, contact Revd Dr Trystan Owain Hughes on chaplaincy@cardiff.ac.uk or press 'like' on our Inter Faith at Cardiff University facebook page: www.facebook.com/InterFaithCardiff

# A Year in the Life of the Chaplaincy, 61 Park Place



**If you've managed to attend any of the events at the Chaplaincy this year you will have experienced the friendship and fun that the Chaplaincy can bring. If you're a member of the facebook page 'The Chaplaincy at Cardiff University' (and if you're not, why not?!) you won't have missed anything that has been going on in the last year! We've advertised all our Chaplaincy events, from our 'Religion and ...' debates to our Soup and Roll lunches; there has certainly been a steady stream of events from the Chaplaincy at 61 Park Place!**

One of our most spectacular events was the first of the academic year – 'Chocolate Heaven!' The clue is in the title, but it was literally a feast of chocolate – everything from a chocolate fountain and chocolate cake, to boxes and boxes of Celebrations and Roses donated to the Chaplaincy from Churches around Cardiff (thank you so much for your support!). It was a really good opportunity to begin to get to know the folks at the Chaplaincy!



We then had lots of great social events throughout the year – food nights, film nights, quiz nights, but we've also had our Chaplaincy debates, which have been really popular and have drawn in people who would not normally come to the Chaplaincy but who are interested in the subject of debate. Over the year we have debated Religion and Science, Religion and Media, Religion and Ethics, Religion and Pop Music, Religion and Politics, Religion and Conflict, Religion and Reason, and even Religion and God ('Does God exist?'), most of these with outside speakers, experts in their field, 'people you wouldn't normally get a chance to sit and listen to', as one of the students commented to me. And for those who are looking for spiritual discipleship, we have regular bible study and prayer events, providing a space and time for theological reflection and prayer for ourselves, the people we know, the university and the wider world.

Perhaps most importantly for students is that if you come to the Chaplaincy, you'll get fed. There's free tea and toast, coffee and chocolate at drop-in cafés

on Monday and Friday lunchtimes (12-2pm) and a healthy soup and roll on a Thursday lunchtime (1-2pm – only £1!). There's also a constantly refilled basket of fruit making sure you get your fruit and veg five-a-week (if not five-a-day!). We also have several food related events as a part of our Tuesday Evening Events: World Food Night (Caribbean stew, Chinese fried rice, American Sweet Potato Dumplings), Pancake Day, St. David's Day with Welsh Cawl (lamb stew) and Welshcakes and, of course, Religion Café – where, as well as the tasty treats on offer, we also get to chat to people of other faiths and backgrounds and feast on our different cultures. One student said, 'I suppose the Chaplaincy fulfils a stereotype associated with students: A student is always hungry... but we're also hungry for friends and I think I can assume that everyone found somebody to love this year!'

And that's the point of our Chaplaincy events – they are to enable students to talk together and find friendships and cement relationships, and to combat the loneliness that can sometimes happen when you find yourself with new flatmates and new classmates, in a new city or even, for some, a completely new country. The Chaplaincy exists to support students. Sometimes this will be through general chatter at our drop-in cafés, which enables friendship and community. At other times, you might prefer one-to-one chats for guidance (pointing you in the right direction so that you can ask the right question to the right person at the right time) and pastoral support (in times of trouble, when things are going wrong for you either at home or in Uni) from one of your lovely and willing chaplains, Trystan or Delyth.

So whether you're looking for support or guidance, a bit of lunch or a religious debate, or just a cup of tea and a chat, the Chaplaincy is a safe and welcoming space for all... so do drop-in and say hi to us!

For further information, please contact either Revd Dr Trystan Owain Hughes or Revd Delyth Liddell on [chaplaincy@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:chaplaincy@cardiff.ac.uk) or 'like' The Chaplaincy at Cardiff University facebook page: [www.facebook.com/ChaplaincyCardiff](http://www.facebook.com/ChaplaincyCardiff)



# Does God Exist?

## Philosophy of Religion and the Existence of God

Revd Dr Trystan Owain Hughes



Last year the BBC reported that a German scientific journal worked out the mathematical probability of God existence – there is, we are told, a 62% chance that God exists. We all have our views about whether God exists, and different people will give different reasons for their beliefs. No one can prove God's existence, but there are certainly some strong reasons given for faith in God. Here are just some of those reasons that still persuade many that a higher power exists:

### The Existence of Everything

We live in a finely tuned universe. For the universe to exist, there needed to be a perfect combination of mathematics, physics (laws of gravity & relativity), chemistry, and biology. In fact, the chance of this universe existing has been given as one in ten thousand million million. The philosopher John Leslie suggests that the chances of our existence are as remote as a trained firing squad of 100 soldiers all missing their intended target. Yet, if we hold that a higher power, rather than chance, is responsible for our existence this still leaves the question, posited recently by Richard Dawkins in *The God Delusion*, of who created the creator? All of the theistic world religions, however, hold that God is eternal, and so is not created. Either the universe appeared out of nothing or something is eternal. If we believe that something is eternal, we have to ask whether it is some particle, gas, or rock? Or perhaps it is some kind of higher consciousness that drives the whole universe, and continually creates and loves?

### The Existence of Beauty, Awe, and Wonder

'We all of us share a kind of religious reverence for the beauties of the Universe', claims Richard Dawkins. Where those feelings come from, however, is harder to define. Theists will argue that the existence of beauty, amazement, and wonder points towards the existence of a creator. Nature, art, and literature

all engender in us feelings of awe and wonder, and these could well be signals of transcendence, of the existence of God. To those who suggest that God is a delusion, theists retort that atheism is rather a sort of blindness, which misses out on recognising why we are moved by nature & art.

### The Existence of Consciousness

There are two ways that consciousness could tell us something about God's existence.

a) John Leslie's firing squad analogy is employed by other philosophers to point out that, while it may be amazing that the soldiers missed their target, it is even more amazing that the person would know he had been missed. If it were a tree being shot at, or an animal even, there would be no consciousness of the act. Scientists may never know exactly what consciousness is – they might well be able to tell me when I'm thinking, but not why I'm conscious of myself thinking. 'The emergence of consciousness is a mystery', writes philosopher Geoffrey Madell, 'and one to which materialism signally fails to provide an answer'.

b) Some philosophers suggest that God is pure consciousness. Theoretically, it could be possible for minds to exist without matter. In other words, God might well be non-material Spirit or an ultimate consciousness, without the need for a brain. Thus, ultimate reality might not be the physical universe, but rather the nature of the mind or consciousness.

### The Existence of Religious Experiences

In *The God Delusion*, Richard Dawkins misrepresents religious experiences, ridiculing "voices" & "visions". Religious experiences are, however, much more subtle than Dawkins suggests. They are not hallucinations, and they are certainly not comparable with believing in Santa Claus or the Tooth Fairy. Rather, people of faith believe they are

communications from the ultimate Spirit, the Ground of our Being, which wills us to live our life in light of compassion and love. The best evidence for true and valid religious experiences are people's lives – so many lives have been changed in a positive and lasting way by experiences of God.

### The Existence of Morality

'Two things fill my mind with ever new and increasing wonder and awe,' wrote Immanuel Kant, 'the starry heavens above and the moral law within'. Kant held that all of us have an innate sense of good and bad, placed in us by a higher power. The question therefore moves away from 'what do we do?' to 'what should we do?' Once we recognize the importance of what we should do, we then have to ask where that sense of moral duty comes from – has it been taught to us or is it always deep inside of us? Some philosophers believe the whole existence of morality therefore points to the existence of a moral creator.

### The Existence of a belief in God

'Every world view, whether religious or not, has its point of vulnerability,' writes Alister McGrath, theologian and scientist, 'in the case of atheism, it is the persistence of belief in God, when there is supposedly no God in which to believe'. The belief in "God" does not seem to be going away, and some theologians claim that a continuing desire for a God in our hearts might be evidence in itself of the existence of a higher power. We desire drink and water exists. We desire food and food exists. We desire love and love exists. We don't desire things that don't exist. It is, therefore, claimed that our desire for God is itself a pointer to his existence. Certainly those who do believe in God claim that God quenches a desire for meaning and hope in our hearts – in the words of H.G. Wells, believing in God 'fills the God-shaped hole in our heart'.

## Chaplaincy Sound Bite



'The Chaplaincy is somewhere where everyone is welcomed and accepted. I feel like it's a second home for me, and found I could go there when I had any kind of problem or worry... or for when I just wanted tea and cake and a chat. I feel truly accepted there and have made some amazing friends'

(Anna, student of Education and Religious Studies)

# University Catholic Chaplaincy, 62 Park Place



**The University Catholic Chaplaincy operates an "open house" policy to all Catholic students, Cath.Soc members and friends of the Chaplaincy. The Catholic Chaplaincy is accessed via the front door at 62, Park Place by entering the door code: Freshers are given this when they arrive.**

The University Catholic Chaplaincy has been on this road since 1948. While chaplains and the chaplaincy buildings have changed and the students have varied in nationality, background, and personality the one unchanging thread in our chaplaincy's history is the strong sense of being a

Christian community. As a community we reflect the universality of the Catholic Church; our cultural diversity and richness combined with the strength and joy from sharing one faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour makes for a welcoming and open atmosphere. Last year 23 different nationalities were recorded at one Sunday Mass. After Sunday's 6.30pm Mass Cath.Soc organises dinner... recipes from all around the world appear on the plate for just £2!

The Catholic Chaplaincy houses a large common room with daily and weekly newspapers; TV/DVD and an occasional bar; a library holding books on



philosophy, theology, Welsh history and popular biographies and theological journals. The library accessed via a number code also has University Internet. There is a kitchen and the Aquinas Hall that seats 120 students. The Hall is used for Sunday and Holy day Masses and term time lectures and is also equipped for table tennis, and pool. There is a House Chapel at the top of the stairs as you enter the front door of 62, where there is daily Mass at 1:15pm and Adoration 6:00-7:00pm. The Chaplain Fr. Jones lives at 62, Park Place and is available to staff and students every day for Confession, Spiritual Direction or just a chat.

The Chaplaincy is home to Cardiff University's Cath. Soc; the Christian Society, the St. Vincent de Paul Society [a social outreach programme]; a weekly Wednesday evening Bible Reflection Group; a Music Group for Sunday Mass and a Vocations Awareness Group. The philosophy is quite simple: love of God and neighbour. If you can do that, then you'll fit in with a long tradition and be most welcome.

## Chaplaincy Sound Bite



'The chaplaincy is a very friendly and welcoming place where you will meet some fantastic people. It regularly has some great events and thought provoking talks, contributing greatly to the life of the university. The chaplaincy really offers something for everyone thanks to the efforts of all the chaplains, so come along!'

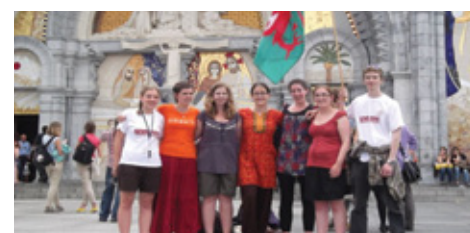
**(Saïk, student in Medicine)**

## Student Society: Catholic Society

**Cathsoc (the Catholic Society) provides a relaxed, secure environment where people develop friendships and feel comfortable to discuss life and faith. We provide a wide variety of spiritual and social events which enable people to strengthen their faith and meet with other young people. Cathsoc holds weekly events for students at the Catholic Chaplaincy. Most weeks there will also be a cooked meal provided (to the minimal cost of £2) after Sunday Mass (starts at 6.30pm) in the Catholic Chaplaincy, 62 Park Place.**

During the year the Fr. Jones invites every students and a distinguished guest speaker to a formal dinner at the Chaplaincy. It's a great way to get to know other students better as his table only seats 12 people. There is also a monthly Chaplain's Tea Party with homemade cakes and sandwiches in the common room as well as impromptu pasta nights!

During the year Cathsoc holds a number of socials. Last year Cathsoc helped organize two excellent retreats one of which took the participants outside of Cardiff, to Downside Abbey. A variety of monthly socials are held during the course of the year ranging from the Fresher's Party, cocktail parties,



Cathsoc students at Lourdes, France en route to World Youth Day in Madrid, a five day festival with 2 million young people from 26 countries.

BBQs in the Park, a Fundraiser Masquerade Ball for an Orphanage in S. Africa, the Christmas meal and the End of Year Chaplain's Reception and Black Tie Dinner at the Park House.

It is great fun and continues throughout the year. We welcome all students and you don't have to be a Catholic to join our society. Whether you are a practicing Catholic, someone returning to their faith, or a non-Catholic interested to learn more, join the society and come along to any of our events.

For more details contact Emma McKeogh  
mckeoghe@cardiff.ac.uk

## Chaplaincy Sound Bite



'The Chaplaincy is a place where anyone can go to without the fear of being judged. It's a place where anyone is welcome and I love the very relaxed atmosphere. I also like the feeling of knowing that they'll always be someone to talk to there'

(Melle, student in English Language)

# Student Society: Christian Union



## Student Society: Christian Medical Fellowship

**Christian Medical Fellowship has four main aims: discipleship, mission, evangelism and to promote Christian values in bioethics and healthcare. It currently has 4000 UK doctors and around 900 medical student members. Here at Cardiff University years 1 and 2 form a combined group and meet throughout the year for different events. To find out more information please visit [www.cmf.org.uk](http://www.cmf.org.uk) or contact the first and second year reps at [cmfcardiff@gmail.com](mailto:cmfcardiff@gmail.com).**

**Cardiff University Christian Union has had involvement with the university chaplaincy for many years, particularly for work with international students and for various prayer events.**

The Christian Union has had the opportunity to use the Chaplaincy building regularly, especially for the weekly morning prayer meetings. Every Friday morning at 8am students gather in 61 Park Place to pray for the university, different events that the CU runs, the local church, and current events locally and globally. As well as these regular prayer meetings, we also hold prayer and praise evenings in the Chaplaincy with different members of the Christian Union leading them. For more information about these prayer meetings email: [prayer.cfcu@googlemail.com](mailto:prayer.cfcu@googlemail.com)

'International's Café' has been running for many years and it is a safe environment for international

students to make new friends. Wednesday lunchtimes are a time for students from all over the world to meet in the Chaplaincy and share a meal together. We also spend time playing games and there are opportunities to study the Bible together. This Easter we ran a special Internationals Café with a talk explaining the meaning of Easter. For more information about Internationals Café please email: [savageva@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:savageva@cardiff.ac.uk)

The Chaplaincy has been helpful not only in letting the Christian Union use the building on a regular basis, but also for more spontaneous events. In February this year the CU ran an events week; as a publicity stunt for these events we gave out hundreds of balloons which we blew up inside the chaplaincy. For more information about events that the Christian Union runs please email: [secretary.cfcu@googlemail.com](mailto:secretary.cfcu@googlemail.com)

## Chaplaincy Sound Bite



'The Chaplaincy is an important part of the Cardiff University experience for many people in our diverse student community. It is a safe space where students can discuss matters related to faith, and it can also provide a pathway to our professional support services for anyone who needs them'

(Ben Lewis, Head of Student Advisory Services)

## Student Society: Christian Staff and Postgraduates (CriSP)

**CriSP (Christian Staff and Postgraduates) meets to support one another in integrating our faith with our work and studies, and in being a witness in the university. Our activities include discussion, prayer, Bible study, social events and more. We meet at 5.30pm every Monday during term-time in the Chaplaincy. For details, please contact Mike Newton on [cardiff.crisp@gmail.com](mailto:cardiff.crisp@gmail.com)**



## Chaplaincy Sound Bite



'I found the chaplaincy a great haven on campus from lectures and regular student life. It offers a great chance to meet people from different departments and from around the world! Complementing its social side, is it's array of events discussing important matters of faith in our lives today as students.'

**(Abdullah, student in Medical Engineering)**

## Chaplaincy Sound Bite



'The Chaplaincy is one of my favourite places at University. The Chaplains make it the relaxed, open place that it is. It's a place where you can come and explore ideas of faith, justice, love and peace in a completely non-judgmental environment, seek guidance, and most of all be respected and loved'

**(Paul, student in Theology)**

# Student Society: Islamic Society



**May peace be upon you my fellow reader, along with the mercy and blessings of our God,**

The Cardiff University Islamic Society or The Cardiff ISoc is the society dedicated to providing services for all Muslims students on campus regardless of sect in terms of spiritual support & enlightenment, social life, and a community of people of God coming together in worship, love & fellowship.

The past year was another great year by the mercy of God for the ISoc, a great part of the ISoc calendar is Charity week, a week filled of fundraising in innovative and frankly awesome ways, by His grace the society collected about 10 thousand pounds in donations for the people devastated by the floods in Pakistan.

The Cardiff ISoc along with the other faith societies on campus formed the student inter-faith committee, and along with the major support from the Cardiff University Chaplaincy, the inter-faith committee delivered inter-faith week, a chance for Muslims to perform the prophetic duty as God described: "Say, 'People of the Book, let us arrive at a statement that is common to us all'" [3:64]. For the efforts of the ISoc in positive inter-faith relations, we were awarded with the best Inter-faith activity in an ISoc award by FOSIS (The Federation Of Students Islamic Societies) with many thanks given to the chaplain.

Beyond all that, the Isoc provides weekly activities from sports, to several Study circles, to Arabic lessons. Not to mention monthly talks, and occasional socials such as trips to Thrope Park and the Gower.

Please find us on facebook: Cardiff University Isoc or contact the president Saeed Kidwai at: saeed\_kidwai@hotmail.com



# Student Society: Baha'i Society

**"The earth is but one country and mankind its citizens"**

**- Baha'u'llah**



The Baha'i Society is centred upon the Baha'i Faith, the youngest of the world's independent religions. We welcome all faiths and believe in progressive revelation of religions over time. The Baha'i Faith's most distinctive accomplishment by far is its unity

- "the earth is but one country and mankind its citizens."

The Baha'i Society has hosted numerous tranquillity zones, bringing together writings from all faiths in a peaceful arena, as well as providing many opportunities to discuss the core beliefs that the Baha'i faith is centred upon and a chance to consider the common themes that lie at the root of every religion. As well as this, the Baha'i Society at the university has extensive links with the local Baha'i community of Cardiff, who warmly invite members to exciting events.

Over the next year the Baha'i Society will continue to host the successful events from previous years in addition to organising new and exciting ones.

It does not matter what your beliefs are, the Baha'i society warmly welcomes everyone and would like to provide you with the chance to express your beliefs, as well as offering the unique opportunity to discover the depths of one of the fastest growing religions in the world.

For more information, please contact Seema Alae: alaees@cardiff.ac.uk



# Student Society: Jewish Society



Cardiff University's Jewish society is an inclusive, friendly group which is accepting of all streams of Judaism, including those who are simply intrigued by the Jewish faith and culture. We run a variety of events throughout the year, from Synagogue trips and Chanukiah Painting to delicious Friday night dinners and Purim costume parties! We also enjoy travelling to other Societies around the country, celebrating our universal heritage. This year our biggest event was our Chanukah Party which was held in the local Mediterranean bar. It was buzzing with old and new faces, delicious Falafel, music and lots of celebration.

Our relations here in Cardiff allow students to feel a part of the wider Jewish community, with links to both the Reform and Orthodox Synagogues. We also have been proud to build relationships with other faith societies and have enjoyed being a part of their practices as well as having the opportunity to share ours. We have hosted an inter faith trip to the Orthodox Synagogue where the Rabbi gave a tour of the Jewish place of worship as well as a taste of festive Jewish delicacies. We have also co-hosted an event with the Muslim society, enjoying an international guest who inspired the audience with his insightful experiences, with the additional aim of setting differences apart whilst enjoying a great evening together.

The Jewish society is a great place to meet people from different cultures and nationalities. We take pride in ourselves for our diversity because Judaism is not just about religion and practice but an expression of



culture and heritage. This is reflected in our events where we explore different foods, music, traditions and festivals that show our members the captivating, Abrahamic religion that is Judaism.

Our society has developed into a fun filled group of friends who work collectively to organize gatherings. This brings together a unique aspect of the Jewish religion from all walks of life.

Sophie Silverstone - [sophie.hunter-silverstone@rwcmd.ac.uk](mailto:sophie.hunter-silverstone@rwcmd.ac.uk)  
Soul Zisso - [zissoys@cf.ac.uk](mailto:zissoys@cf.ac.uk)  
Danielle Morashti - [danloca@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:danloca@hotmail.co.uk)



# Student Society: Living Water



**Living Water is a group of Christian students who seek to serve God on campus by serving students in a practical way. We go out twice a week to give out bottled water (generously donated by Spar) at the bottom of the Students Union steps to help sober up students as they come out of the Union nightclub. We prepare before going out by labelling the bottles in the chaplaincy, making tea and hot chocolate, building team culture, and taking all this to the Union steps.**

Living Water aims to be a practical, temporary help to Cardiff University students in need of hydration, but we also witness God every night as we are out on the

steps. In the past year He has spoken His peace and calm into many situations, and we have seen Him moving in people's hearts as they ask Living Water team members some of the big questions in life. This is something we long for people to partner in prayer with us about, that peoples inner-thirst for meaning might be met by God through the Living Water team.

For more information about Living Water, please contact Simon Dalton on [livingwater@hotmail.com](mailto:livingwater@hotmail.com) Also, take a look at our website - [www.livingwatercardiff.com](http://www.livingwatercardiff.com), and see our facebook page 'Jesus water'... and please do press "like"!



## Chaplaincy Sound Bite



'You meet really interesting people at the Chaplaincy, from all sorts of backgrounds. I learn something new every time I go - even if it's just that someone really knows how to make a good cake!'

**(Alex, student in English Literature)**

# Meet the Chaplains.....

## Where and what did you study at

**University?** I studied theology and history at Oxford University (Masters) and Bangor University (PhD).

**What jobs did you do before becoming Chaplain?** As a student, I worked in Asda, Woolworths, and Burger King (that might explain why I am now a vegetarian!). After my studies, I was a lecturer in theology at Bangor University and then Head of Theology at Trinity St David University.

**How do you spend your lazy days?** Playing table tennis and watching films.

## What's your favourite place in Cardiff?

I love coffee shops... although strangely I don't drink coffee. Anyway, my favourite

places are all the coffee shops, especially the ones with good cakes.

**What is the best advice you could give to anyone?** You are far more loved and valued than you realise.

**What do you miss most about being a kid?** Putting my coat above my head and running into the wind, shouting 'superman!' Surely I'm not the only person who did that...

**What was the first thing you bought with your own money?** Now That's What I Call Music: Volume 2... I believe they are on Volume 79 by now...

**Who is your favourite superhero?** There is a graphic novel called 'The Preacher' which is great. My favourite superhero films are the X Men films.

**What is one of your favourite quotes?** "We have to believe in free will – we have no choice" (Isaac Singer)

**If you could choose a super power, what would it be?** Time travel. I've been obsessed with the concept of time travel ever since I saw the film Back to the Future as a kid.



Revd Dr Trystan Owain Hughes  
Anglican Chaplain, 61 Park Place  
Tel: 029 20 232550

## Where and what did you study at

**University?** I studied theology at Pontifical University of St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Ireland and then canon law at the Catholic University of America, Washington DC and the Pontifical Faculty of Canon Law, Venice, where I was awarded my doctorate.

## What jobs did you do before becoming

**Chaplain:** In my 17 years as a Catholic priest, I have been a curate in three parishes, private secretary to the Archbishop of Cardiff, a parish priest and worked for the Holy See. I am also a full time canonical advocate. I have been a governor of various primary schools and chairman of two schools.

**How do you spend your lazy days?** Hill walking, opera, ballet, rugby.

**What's your favourite place in Cardiff?** The avenue of trees on Pontcanna Fields.

**What did you want to be when you grow up?** I wanted to be priest.

**What is the best advice you could give to anyone?** Be patient with your own weaknesses, so as to learn humility. Don't pretend they are strengths: that's madness. Strength comes by being open to respond to God's grace.

**What was one of the best parties you've ever been to?** In Washington DC., with members of the Kennedy Family.

**What do you miss most about being a kid?** Long summer holidays.

**If you could choose a super power, what would it be?** Fly.

**If you could witness any event past, present or future, what would it be?** The moment of Creation.



Revd Fr Gareth Adrian Jones  
Catholic Chaplain, 62 Park Place  
Tel: 029 20 229785

## Where and what did you study at

**University?** I did a degree in Electronic Engineering in Syria before coming to Cardiff University to do my MSc and PhD in Systems Engineering. I also did a Certificate for Muslim Chaplains at MIHE, Leicestershire.

## What jobs did you do before becoming

**Chaplain:** I am manager of Dar-UI-Isra Muslim Educational & Welfare Centre and I teach Quran Science and the Arabic language. In the past I worked as the manager of the Islamic Social Support Association-Wales and was a research associate and a teaching assistant at Cardiff University.

**How do you spend your lazy days?** Football, singing, running, table tennis.

**What personal goal have you set yourself this year?** I aim to spend more time with my family, and contemplate more on the verses of the Quran.

**What's your favourite place in Cardiff?** A bench opposite the Roath lake.

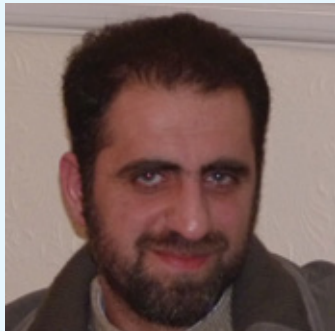
**What is the best advice you could give to anyone?** You may hate a thing and it is good for you, and you perhaps love a thing and it is bad for, and God knows while you know not, so ask God to guide you to the best for you.

**What was one of the best parties you've ever been to?** In my home town, the eid (Feast) celebration with my parents three sisters and five brothers.

**Who is your favourite superhero?** I don't have one. However, my role model is Prophet Muhammed (Peace Be upon Him)

**What is one of your favourite quotes?** Want for others what you want for yourself.

**If you could choose a super power, what would it be?** The power to bring a sound understanding among us.



Sameh Otri - Muslim Chaplain,  
Dar-UI-Isra Muslim Educational  
& Welfare, 21-23 Wyeverne Road  
Tel: 029 20 344073

## Where and what did you study at

**University?** Art college in Canterbury at 18; then I did my theology degree in Cardiff 10 years ago.

## What jobs did you do before becoming

**Chaplain:** I've been a church minister for 8 years, firstly in Newport, then with churches in Barry. Before that I managed a business centre and before that worked in a chocolate factory!

**How do you spend your lazy days?** Eating and drinking with friends and family

**What personal goal have you set yourself this year?** To run/jog a half marathon

**What's your favourite place in Cardiff?**

The beach at Barry Island

**What is the best advice you could give to anyone?** Be yourself – not who other people want you to be.

**What do you miss most about being a kid?** Penny sweets

**What's the #1 most played song on your iPod android?** The Edge of Glory, Lady Gaga

**Who is your favourite superhero?** Wonder Woman

**What is one of your favourite quotes?** 'It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities.' Dumbledore in Harry Potter and The Chamber of Secrets

**What is your favourite pizza topping?** Pepperoni

**If you could witness any event past, present or future, what would it be?** I love living in the present... but the wedding at Cana (where Jesus turned the water into wine... probably the best wine in the world...) or the creation of chocolate would have been good...



Revd Delyth Angharad Liddell  
Methodist Chaplain, 61 Park Place  
Tel: 078 01 314163

## Contact Details / Manylion Cyswilt

For more information about the Chaplaincy at Cardiff University, or if you wish to talk privately to one of the chaplains:  
Am ragor o wybodaeth ynghylch y Gaplaniaeth ym Mhrifysgol Caerdydd, neu os ydych chi am siarad ag un o'r caplaniaid yn breifat (mae Trystan yn medru Cymraeg):

The Chaplaincy at Cardiff University / Y Gaplaniaeth ym Mhrifysgol Caerdydd  
61-62 Park Place, Cardiff CF10 3AT  
029 20 232550 (Catholic chaplain: 029 20 229785; Muslim chaplain: 029 20 344073)  
chaplaincy@cardiff.ac.uk

