

University of Southampton Chaplaincy

The chaplaincy at Southampton University is supported by home mission. Together with the other free churches a Free Church chaplain is employed for 20 hours a week working alongside other members of the team which include Roman Catholic sisters, Quakers and volunteers. The current Free Church chaplain is Lawrence Fellick who is a Baptist minister.

The work is focussed on the main campus where we are based in a converted house on the main road through the campus. There are over 25,000 Students and 6,000 staff who live and work here. This is the community which we serve.

Whilst going to university is for a students a great opportunity which opens up a world of experience it is not without its challenges. Students many of whom look to me like children (it's probably my age) are leaving home for the first time and being separated from friends and family. Understandably some find it hard to make friends and to settle in to their new life whilst for many others the sheer volume of work and the weight of expectations can be a heavy load to carry. Many students who come to university as followers of Jesus can also find the transition difficult. Not everyone finds a church community to be a part of whilst for others the bright lights and new found freedom can be a distraction. We are also here for staff and offer a listening ear one step removed from the university if they need it.

Being a chaplain in a "secular" environment of a university is a great opportunity and a challenge too. We have to work really hard to make our presence and voice heard through social media and the web and have recently produced a poster which we have distributed thought out the university to promote our work. From our contacts with the university there does appear to be a growing openness and awareness of the importance of faith to staff and students alike. For example we were pleasantly surprised recently when we were asked by the university to offer a Sunday service during an open weekend this coming September. This Christmas we are planning a service by the Christmas tree outside hopefully accompanied by a brass band. We also get involved when asked in teaching. Lawrence recently spoke to students training to work with people with depression and anxiety encouraging them to consider the faith dimension in their work.

Day to day in term time we have "open house" with a member of the team on hand to offer a listening ear to anyone who drops in. Two or three times a week we begin the day with daily prayer and each Wednesday lunch time there is a communion service.

So what about people. Jared is a regular at the chaplaincy. Having recently come to faith he has decided that the path he was on was not for him and has taken the brave step to take a year out to explore what full time Christian work is like. We have offered a listening ear to him as he has worked this out for himself.

Simon was a long way from home when in an act of desperation he took his own life. Leading the funeral service with shocked parents, friends and tutors was a privilege only made possible because of Home Mission.

Chaplaincy

University of Southampton

41 University Road,
Southampton SO17 1TL
(open 9 - 4.30 weekdays)
telephone: 023 8059 3511
email: chaplaincy@soton.ac.uk
www.southampton.ac.uk/chaplaincy/



- Need someone to talk to?
- Relationship problems?
- Feeling down or anxious?
- Work stress?
- Wondering what to do next ?
- Existential angst - i.e. wondering what it's all about?



The chaplains offer a listening ear, one step removed from the university, to people of all faiths and none. We are here for students and for staff. We are based at the Chaplaincy on the Highfield Campus but will happily meet up at a time and place convenient to you.

You can contact us on chaplaincy@soton.ac.uk, message us through facebook at the Southampton Uni Chaplaincy page or ring 023 8059 3511 (leave a message if we are not here). Alternatively, if you are nearby you can just drop in. The Chaplaincy building is at 41

University Road and open from 9am - 4.30pm each weekday. A chaplain or chaplaincy volunteer will always be available or if you want to speak to someone from a particular faith tradition we can contact one of our faith advisors for you.