



University of Edinburgh Chaplaincy

Annual Report
2006-2007

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A. Introduction

1. Our Services

The University Chaplaincy is a provision for students/staff of all faiths and none. Our aim is to encourage individual uniqueness and to support the individual in respect of his/her mind, body and soul; and to understand the need for cooperation via acceptance of each others' differences.

At the same time the Chaplaincy is a centre for students and staff to find sanctuary and space to reflect, to meet with others, and explore community in an atmosphere of friendly welcome and hospitality.

The Chaplains also offer individual counselling support and/or opportunities for individuals to meet in groups to explore issues and possibilities.



Regular and diverse events give any member of Edinburgh University a chance to use the Chaplaincy

B. Contribution to University Life



Through the Chaplaincy students with social difficulties find support and positive social opportunities

1. Our Affect on Students

Our services are essential, and students have expressed a strong attachment to the Chaplaincy Centre and its dedicated staff. Nearly 3,000 students a week use the Centre and it is often students who find it harder to establish relationships that depend on the Chaplaincy for social support and personal growth.

Additionally, International and visiting students make up a core element of the Chaplaincy users. These students come to the Chaplaincy for information and opportunities to practice their faith, to meet others, to socialise and to establish contacts in a foreign country.

To help these students cope better with student life and to strengthen the bond between the student and Edinburgh University, the Chaplaincy offers targeted events and support sessions. It is clear that a well supported student experience offers the possibility of a closer relationship of Alumni to their Alma Mater, with the resorting potential of a stronger sense of future positive contribution to the University.

2. Meeting Legislative Requirements

According to the Employment Equality Regulations (2003) affecting staff/students in Higher Education the University is responsible for providing religion and belief support services for students/staff. Belief therein covers philosophical and spiritual perspectives. Thus it is the University's responsibility to representatively meet the spiritual needs of those both within faith communities and those seeking alternatives.

3. Chaplaincy Centre Usage

Approximately 3000 students come in and out of the Chaplaincy Centre during a week and therefore it is an integral part of student life. The variety of groups and individuals using the Chaplaincy Centre clearly expresses the Chaplaincy's belief and ethos for accepting all faiths or none.



The Gaitherin has attracted a wealth of students from all schools and of all ages

Students and staff use the Centre either as a place to relax and seek rest after a scholarly day or to specifically seek help and comfort. Individual or group support at times of grief and despair is offered although the Chaplain is also actively engaged in helping students and staff cope with demands of every day life. Furthermore it is a place for students to explore and express what motivates and gives meaning to their life. In a time where faith and belief have heightened global attention, the Chaplaincy is the Multi-Faith flagship of the University of Edinburgh.

To depict the diversity of the societies and groups who use the Chaplaincy Centre, group activity was recorded and listed in Table 1.1 below and Table 1.2 on page 7:

Table 1.1 Chaplaincy Centre Use by Groups

AfroCaribbean Society	Hype	Tango Society
Amnesty International	International Students	The Spanish Student Play
Asian Studies Group	Islamic Society	Tai Chi Society
Bagel Lunch Group	Ismailis	Tibet Society
Baha'i Society	Jewish Society	Women of the World
Bible Study	KPMG	Year Abroad Society
Bisexual, Lesbian or Gay Society	Juggling Society	Young Greens
Book Group	Les Escorgiffes	Yoga Society
Buddhist Society	Mediterranean Society	
Catholic Students Union	Middle Eastern Society	64 groups in total use the
Centre for South Asian Studies	Modern Dance Society	Chaplaincy Centre
Cheerleading Society	Nightline	
Children in Need	Oxfam	
Christian Union	Oxvol (Oxfam Volunteers)	
Chess Club	Para Los Ninos	
COGS	People and Planet	
Counselling Service	Pro-Life Society	
Country Dance Society	Quabalah	
Engineers Without Borders	Reading Group	
ERAMUS student group	Red Cross	
ESCA	Safeena	
EUSA	Self Defense	
Fair Trade Café	SCM	
Green Society	Stop the War Coalition	
Habitat for Humanity	Stop Aids	
Heart of Flesh	Study Group	
Hellenic Dance Society	Sup-Opt Band	
Homestart	Student Christian Movement	

By hosting a diverse group of societies, student and staff groups the Chaplaincy and its staff maintains contact with the students and staff it intends to service. Through these informal meetings students and staff gain trust in the Chaplaincy and become familiar with the Chaplaincy’s policy of universal acceptance of any or no faith.

As the tables 1.1 and 1.2 demonstrate the Chaplaincy is a place where any of the 26,000+ students and staff can come to at any time. Thus representing the “world class” services the University aspires to without limiting itself to a single religious or belief viewpoint.

Table 1.2
The Number of Groups and Individuals Using the Chaplaincy

Semester 2

<u>Number of Groups & Societies Using the Chaplaincy**</u>			
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
33	40	38	41

<u>Numbers of Students Using the Chaplaincy through Groups**</u>			
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
1200	1420	1300	1400

<u>Individual (Drop-in) Weekly Student Use*</u>
1680

<u>Daily Student Use*</u>
336

*As counted in Semester 2

** Numbers refer to the first four weeks of Semester 2

C. Achievements 2006/2007



The Chaplaincy, a place where students come to relax and socialise

1. Individual Support

The Chaplaincy's main achievement is that it offers **continuous support** to individuals and University student/staff groups, especially in times of grief and conflict. The Chaplain dedicates equal time to group and one-to-one support, as can be seen in the table below. Table 1.3 outlines the percentage which individual Chaplaincy staff spend providing personal or group support.

Table 1.3 Personal and Spiritual Support

% of time Chaplaincy Staff Provide Support for Individuals

University Chaplain	40%
Intern Chaplain	50%
Chaplaincy Centre Receptionist	70%
Chaplaincy Administrator	15%

% of time Chaplaincy Staff Provide Support for Groups

University Chaplain	40%
Intern Chaplain	50%
Chaplaincy Centre Receptionist	15%
Chaplaincy Administrator	5%

The Chaplain and other Chaplaincy staff are available to all students and staff, immediately whenever possible. This form of immediate support has grown more popular and necessary as other support services often require lengthy registration processes before allowing individuals to effectively receive the help they need to begin the process of managing their situation.



Dr. MaryCatherine Burgess, the Intern Chaplain, with some of the Post Graduate Students who take part in the spirituality and group development workshops the Chaplaincy offers

2. Group Support and Counselling

Providing **group counselling and personal development workshops** for students and staff, for example using the Labyrinth and offering the *Heart of Flesh* retreats is an important part of the Chaplain's and Intern Chaplain's work at the University. As depicted in Table 1.3 (page 8) the Chaplain and the Intern Chaplain are dedicated to providing opportunities for individuals to share support in a group environment. Despite its limited resources the Chaplaincy offers a series of events where students and staff can explore their spirituality, receive personal support and engage in

facilitated social situations. In a new venture in 2006/07 the University Chaplain has been co-facilitating a Labyrinth workshop with one of the Student Counsellors as part of the Student Counselling Service's group work programme.



Labyrinth is used as a tool for personal support and pastoral care.

3. University Services and Ceremonies

One of the main responsibilities of the Chaplaincy is to facilitate or support the official University services and ceremonies which Edinburgh University holds throughout the year. As well as this the Chaplains are available to students and staff for individual services and rituals they may require during their time with the University and as part of the Alumni community.

The Chaplains are involved in a number of services, which are listed and explained in chronological order below.

The University Services and Ceremonies

a. The University Year Opening Ceremony

A welcoming ceremony for Freshers.

b. The University Service

A welcoming service for all students and staff to mark the beginning of the academic year.

c. University Remembrance Service

The Chaplains of the University of Edinburgh, Heriot-Watt and Napier share the leadership of this event each year in collaboration with the OTCs of the three Universities.

d. Winter Graduation Services

Throughout the Graduation period there is a thanksgiving service held every day at the Greyfriars and Highland Tollbooth Kirk to which all students and parents are invited.



The Chaplaincy staff celebrating and supporting the Graduating students at the winter Graduations

e. The University Carol Service

Of the numerous services Rev Williams facilitates throughout the year the University Carol Service attracts the greatest number of attendants and is a joyful celebration of the Christmas period. Over a thousand members of the University squash into the McEwan Hall to celebrate together in community. The celebration continues at a reception in the Chaplaincy Centre.

f. University Anatomy Memorial Service

A service to remember and give thanks for the generosity of those who gave their bodies for teaching anatomy and the furtherance of medical education, this service

welcome the families and friends of those who have died as well as the staff and students of the School of Medicine.

g. Summer Graduation Services

The summer Graduations are accompanied by daily Christian services as with the winter Graduations (alternatives to Christian services are offered).



Reverend Di Williams
addressing the
Graduands at the
2005/06 Summer
Graduations

h. Special Occasion Services

The Chaplain also prepares, leads or supports services which mark special occasions for the University, such as the Law Faculty's Tercentenary Service in planning for 2007.

i. Graduation Ceremonies

The University Chaplain shares input at Graduation Ceremonies with the head of the School of Divinity.

j. General Council Meetings

The University Chaplain is supported by Honorary Chaplains in servicing the needs of the General Council.

Individual and Group Services and Ceremonies

The Chaplain leads or supports individual or group services and ceremonies, including:

- Weddings
- Blessings
- Baptisms
- Funerals
- Memorials
- Alternative Ceremonies and Rituals
- Weekly Chaplaincy Communion Service



A University Student's Wedding

4. Support Service for International Students

Welcoming **international students** through organised events, providing pastoral and group support for visiting and long-term international students has been an increased focus of the 2006/07 academic year. With events such as International Students' Lunch Time Mixers and Scottish Tea Parties the Chaplaincy and its staff has welcomed visiting and permanent international students. These activities allowed students to find out more about the Chaplaincy and its services, as well to meet fellow internationals and develop new social contacts. Furthermore, the introduction of the Chaplaincy as a support service gives international students a concrete place where know they can come when in need of support. The University Chaplain represented the University in speaking at *Raising the Bar: The 2006 Best Practice Exchange and Summit*

at Sheffield Hallam University. The invitation came as a result of the University of Edinburgh's high rating on Faith and Chaplaincy provision in the International Student Barometer results.



The Chaplain, Rev. Di Williams, with international students

5. Chaplaincy National Profile

The University Chaplain has been involved in a number of national projects this last year. These have included:

- The founding of the Higher Education Chaplaincy Association in the UK
- A review of HE Chaplaincies in the UK
- Representing HE Chaplaincies in Scotland at Sector Chaplaincy conferences and workshops.

6. Chaplain's Work as a Mediator

The Chaplain was actively involved as a mediator in recent EUSA conflicts. Within the Chaplaincy ethos of *recognizing and respecting the inherent dignity and worth of another*,

the Chaplain's personal involvement in mediating between political and religious groups on campus has been appreciated by all affected members.



A student at the new King's Buildings Muslim Prayer Rooms

7. Development of Satellite Sites

Supplementing our Contemplation Room and our Chapel in the Chaplaincy Centre are our network of satellite sites which give students and staff a space for contemplation, prayer and reflection across the University. The satellite sites are currently on the following campuses:

King's Buildings

- Muslim Prayer Rooms
- Contemplation Room

Moray House Campus (Patterson's Land)

-Muslim Prayer Rooms

Summerhall Campus (Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies)

-Contemplation Room

School of Divinity, New College (The Mound)

-Contemplation Room (The Sanctuary)

Little France, South Corridor, Ground Floor

-The Sanctuary

For further information on Satellite Sites please visit the Chaplaincy website:

www.chaplaincy.ed.ac.uk

8a. Refurbishment of Multi-Faith and Spirituality Provisions

The refurbishment and opening of Multi-Faith and Spirituality provision for King's Buildings Campus has been very successful and had directly resulted in an increased use of the facilities. Around **100 students per week** come to the newly refurbished rooms to pray and/or gather. This development has made a very clear impact on the Edinburgh University Muslim community at the King's Buildings Campus and further confirmed that the Chaplaincy is dedicated in developing its *all faiths – and none* agenda.

The refurbishment of the King's Building Chaplaincy facilities has also allowed the Chaplaincy to run a staff lunch at King's Buildings in addition to those held centrally at the Chaplaincy Centre in Bristo Square. The staff lunches serve as an opportunity for staff to become familiar with the Chaplaincy staff, Honorary Chaplains as well as each other. These events have been popular and well received by staff members across a wide range of the Edinburgh University Departments and Schools.



Staff and student hospitality on the KB site

8b. Improvement of Other Satellite Sites

In addition to the refurbishment of the King's Building premises, the Chaplaincy concluded the opening of the Contemplation room in the Veterinary College, on the Summerhall site. This room, like the one in the Chaplaincy, can be used by any University student or staff member to take time out, reflect, or find space for personal spiritual practice. The Chaplaincy is working towards these spaces being available on every campus. Plans have been drawn up for a Contemplation/Multi-Faith Room in the new build at Easter Bush. The Chaplain is supporting the students at New College in their campaign for dedicated Contemplation Room/Sanctuary. In collaboration with the NHS Chaplains our medical students and staff have use of the beautiful *Sanctuary* at Little France.

9. Hosting International Conferences

The Chaplaincy has also been active in hosting a diverse series of conferences. Examples of these conferences are the Scottish Interfaith Youth Conference, the Middle Eastern Spirituality Conference and the Shamanic Spiritualities Conference. The inclusion of these conferences in the Chaplaincy programme supports the Chaplaincy's positive profile as a supporter of Multi- and Interfaith activities and creates a positive image of Edinburgh University within the City and wider.



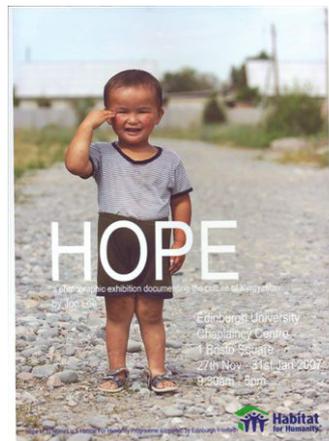
Pictures from the recent *Middle Eastern Spiritual Practice Conference* held in April 2007 in the Chaplaincy Auditorium



10. New Events to Promote Multi-Faith and Spirituality Campus-wide

The *Exploring Spiritual Practice* workshops will allow the Edinburgh University population to familiarise themselves with a range of diverse and globally representative spiritual practices. These workshops will give students and staff an opportunity to learn about spiritual practices and encourage acceptance of cultural and religious differences.

Secondly, the *Exploring Spiritual Practice* sessions also give staff and students an option to gain strength and support to cope with everyday realities. These workshops are just an example of one of the ways in which the Chaplaincy is active in supporting students and staff as well as **strengthening the University's profile** as a leading Multi-Faith University.



The *Hope* Exhibition which was held at the Chaplaincy in support of Habitat for Humanity

11. The Chaplaincy: a Supporter of Student Exhibitions

The Chaplaincy gives space and time to students to exhibit and perform their work. By exhibiting in the Chaplaincy or holding specific events where the Chaplaincy staff help to facilitate, students feel supported and the Chaplaincy ensures that it is relevant and part of a diverse range of students' lives. For instance, Catriona Murray a final year art student, created the *Reflective Paths* installation within the Chapel as part of her Masters Project. Student exhibitions included:

- *Roots*: an art exhibition exploring the roots of our lives, families, nature and spirituality by Lois Buelow-Osbourne.

- *Fairtrade Foundation Exhibition*: photographs of celebrities promoting Fairtrade products.
- *Hope*: a photo show of the encounters students had whilst helping the Charity Habitat for Humanity build houses in Kazakhstan.
- *Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace Festival Exhibition*: portrays of individuals of different faiths and spiritualities.
- *Reflective Paths*: a student's interactive Labyrinth installation built in the Chapel, to bring a new dimension to personal reflection.
- *The Anthropological Lens*: pictures taken by Anthropology students on their year abroad in various locations around the world.



From Catriona Murray's *Reflective Paths* Installation at the Chaplaincy



A picture of a boy playing at the Green Door Home Orphanage in Tanzania, taken by Edinburgh University student Nina and exhibited in *The Anthropological Lens* Exhibition at the Chaplaincy.

D. Change at the Chaplaincy



The Chaplain, Rev Williams, and Receptionist Elizabeth Forrester photographed during a chat in the Chaplaincy

1. The Chaplaincy in Transition

This last year we said goodbye to three Honorary Chaplains, Fr Martin Ganeri, Rev Jeremy Auld, and Rev Peter Clark and we welcomed Fr Tim Calvert, Rev Geoffrey Baines and Rev Frances Burberry.

With the completion of this academic year, long term projects and internships will come to an end. After three years Dr. MaryCatherine Burgess' time as an Intern Chaplain, funded by the University Development Trust, will be over. Dr. Burgess has been a great addition to the Chaplaincy team, relieving the Chaplain of her exhaustive role where she could and playing a great role in developing the Chaplaincy to better represent *all faiths – and none*. Whilst Dr. Burgess is not certain yet of her future involvement at the Chaplaincy, it is certain that she will remain a very helpful contact and friend.

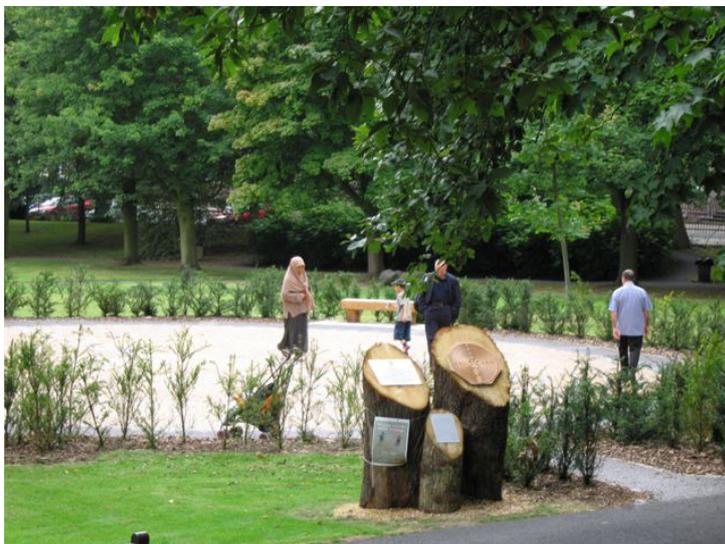
With the resignation of the Chaplaincy Receptionist Elizabeth Forrester we will lose a trusted colleague. Ms. Forrester has been an invaluable addition to the Chaplaincy, playing a key part in developing the role of the Receptionist from scratch and transforming the Centre into a place where students feel welcomed, relaxed and cared for. She is leaving us after three wonderful years and we wish her well with her new ventures.

With the welcomed return of Lesley McCorkindale, after the birth of baby Ross we also welcome Valery Cowan who will share the post of Administrator with her. Our current Administrator Alexandra Nagy will also be leaving us and starting her Graduate career at Mars. She has brought us a welcome *student's eye view* of our processes and programmes.

To relieve some of the extenuating stresses of the University Chaplain's post, the Chaplaincy is anticipating a successful bid for an Associate Chaplain post. Thanks to all of those who supported in this.

2. The Four Months Plan

Despite the Chaplaincy's wealth of achievements there are a number of new projects we will be working on over the summer months in readiness for the next academic year. For you to gather a greater understanding of how we dispense our resources and capabilities we will outline these new services. Our main aim over the next few months is to challenge the way the student and general population view the Chaplaincy. We aim to expand students' awareness of the Chaplaincy by creating better ties with the International Office, the Library, Student Groups and additional promotion. This also includes a campaign in June-August 2007 which will raise Edinburgh wide awareness of both the indoor and outdoor Labyrinths. Additionally, a separate campaign will focus on collaborating with a design and marketing team in order to create relevant and updated promotion materials for the Chaplaincy's new events for 2007/08, such as the *Exploring Spiritual Practice Workshops* and the *Tuesday Icebreaker*.



The outdoor George Square Labyrinth is a unique trademark of Edinburgh University and will be the focus of a new marketing campaign launched over the summer academic break in 2007

E. Plans for the Academic Year 2007/08

1. Introduction of New Events/Developing of Multi-Faith Contacts

We will be implementing newly focused Chaplaincy events to promote the University as a leading Multi-Faith centre and a first class support service. For instance, the Chaplaincy is cooperating with local spiritual and religious practitioners to provide the most representative palette of spiritual practices for the *Exploring Spiritual Practice* Workshops. The contacts we are developing and maintaining in the Multi-Faith community are listed in Table 1.4 below. Simultaneously, Chaplaincy staff will be contacting select members of all faiths and none throughout the University to inform and involve them in our new *Tuesday Icebreaker* event, designed to provide intentional community for the growing number of students who feel socially alienated at University.

Table 1.4 Multi-Faith Contacts Maintained and Developed 06/07
AfroCaribbean Christian Group
Baha'i
Brahma Kamaris
Buddhist
Catholic Student Union
Chinese Christian Fellowship
Christian Orthodox
Christian Union
Coptic
Feminist Spirituality
Hindus
Humanists
Iona Community
Islamic Society
Ismailis
Lutheran Society
Jewish Liberals
Jewish Orthodox
Newman Circle
Quabalah
Shamanic Works
Sikh
Student Christian Movement
Taize



All part of the Chaplaincy Community

The Chaplaincy staff and some of the Honorary Chaplains attended a special lunch together at the Edinburgh Mosque in March 2007

2. Offering More to Students

The Chaplaincy is a place that offers not just a space where students can convene, but also allows students to become part of a community. In order to allow students to gain a greater sense of this community we have established eight *Student Community Service Internships* so that students can gain community work experience. These interns are guided by the Chaplaincy Centre Receptionist and work together on a diverse range of events and projects connected to the Chaplaincy. Simultaneously we are also offering more academically oriented internships in the form of two student *Multi-Faith and Spirituality Research Internships* which will allow students to conduct guided research needed for their projects/dissertations through experiencing the Chaplaincy community.

3. Greater Support to the International Community

As Edinburgh University's international community continues to grow exponentially it is important for the Chaplaincy to adequately respond to this community's new and rising demands. In order to meet these demands the Chaplaincy is planning on further developing its relationship specifically with the International Office to provide additional support and awareness for our International/Visiting students. We aim to concentrate our support and collaboration with the International office on hosting term-time events where international students are welcomed and encouraged to socialise as well as continuing our support in crisis situations.

For instance, as a response to the recent tragic Virginia Tech shooting the Chaplaincy worked with EUSA in holding a memorial service to remember and appreciate the victims of the recent tragedy. International students and staff voiced their appreciation of this support personally:

Dear Chaplaincy,

Although I won't be attending the Memorial Service, I just wanted to say I find it very thoughtful and kind of you to offer this service, and I pray that it proves helpful and comforting to those who attend - I'm sure it will.
Thank you very much.

- 1st Year American Student

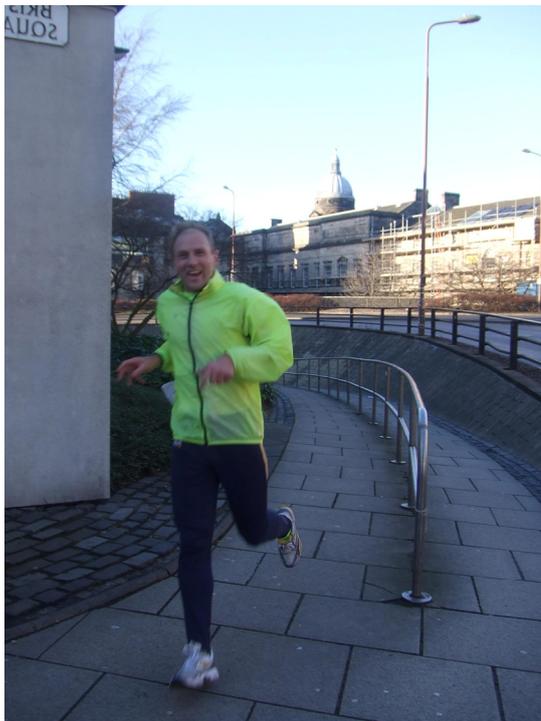
Responding to the students' fears and concerns allows the Chaplaincy to maintain its role as an integral part of University life whilst delivering an unparalleled support service.

4. Further Development of the Chaplaincy's Satellite Sites

As mentioned previously, the development of satellite Multi-Faith and Contemplation rooms have been and will continue to be a substantial focus at the Chaplaincy. Students and staff have clearly expressed a demand for more contemplation and retreat venues across all University campuses and the Chaplaincy is happy to support these

individuals and groups working with the relevant schools and colleges to ensure good practice.

The Chaplaincy also plans on increasing its human presence on sites other than the central area, with the voluntary help of Honorary Chaplains who will offer time to see students or staff at 'surgeries'. Rev Garry Ketchen has begun working with the School of Veterinary Studies and the Rev Geoffrey Baines will be available at the Kings Building's Campus as of the next academic year.



In this photograph Rev Geoffrey Baines is running to raise money for the charity *Habitat for Humanity*.

5. Refocusing of Systems and Processes

Finally, the Chaplaincy is also concentrating on improving its systems and processes in order to run more efficient and beneficial support programmes. By refocusing its systems and processes, introducing new events and working flexibly with its staff members, the Chaplaincy is actively maintaining its status as a leading support system.

F. In Closing

In the University Chaplaincy we continue to be privileged in dealing with the whole gamut of people's lives – in times of transition, questioning, personal difficulty, illness, trauma, grief, achievement and celebration. Throughout the range of contact and activity we find ourselves involved in, our service touches the lives of most of the student population and many staff. This privilege and responsibility is something we take very seriously and with great commitment. Our small staff are loyal and continually give far more than their job descriptions might suggest. In a difficult year of staff changes and growing student numbers accessing the service, the mutual support of the team has continued to model the possibility of working together across diversity, difference and difficulty with good humour and appreciation of each others' gifts.