

Presentation by Fiona Foreman – Higher and Further Education Chaplaincy

Report

1. Overview of Chaplaincy in the Church

- Chaplaincy is gaining recognition across various sectors, including **education, healthcare, military, prisons, and universities**.
- The Church of England is actively **elevating the profile of chaplaincy**, with **Bishop Ruth Horsley** serving as the **Lead Bishop of Chaplaincy**.
- **Dr. Josh Hunt** has been appointed as a **chaplaincy specialist**, particularly focusing on schools and Further Education (FE) colleges.
- More than **20 dioceses** have financially invested in chaplaincy development, highlighting its growing importance.

2. Role of Chaplains

Chaplains play a critical role in supporting individuals **inside and outside traditional church settings**. Their work includes:

- **Providing pastoral care and spiritual guidance** in schools, universities, hospitals, and community spaces.
- **Engaging in interfaith dialogues** to foster unity among different religious groups.
- **Advising institutions** on matters of religion and spirituality.
- **Supporting people facing personal crises** through **mental health initiatives, bereavement counseling, and ethical discussions**.
- **Helping students and staff** navigate complex political and social challenges, particularly in higher education settings.
- **Advocating for marginalized groups** within institutions, ensuring inclusivity and fairness.

3. Educational Chaplaincy Developments

- The Church is **expanding its chaplaincy presence within colleges and universities**.
- The discussion encouraged **parishes to connect with institutions** in their geographical area to **offer chaplaincy support**.
- The importance of establishing chaplaincy networks between **churches and schools** **was highlighted**, particularly for students transitioning from parish life to higher education.
- An example was given of how **students benefit from chaplaincy presence**, helping them maintain **spiritual support at university**.

4. Models of Chaplaincy

The discussion identified five different models of chaplaincy:

1. **Missional Chaplaincy** – Actively sharing faith in an institutional setting.
2. **Pastoral Chaplaincy** – Offering emotional and spiritual care.
3. **Parish-Connected Chaplaincy** – Chaplains working as **extensions of church communities**.
4. **Prophetic Chaplaincy** – **Speaking truth to power**, challenging institutions to **address social justice issues**.
5. **Sacramental Chaplaincy** – Providing **spiritual rituals like Eucharist and prayer services**.

5. Challenges and Opportunities

- **Challenges in Chaplaincy:**
 - **Limited awareness** of chaplaincy roles within local churches.
 - **Difficulty in establishing connections** between students and chaplains.
 - **Resource constraints**, such as funding and volunteer availability.

- **Opportunities for Chaplaincy Growth:**
 - Encouraging churches to **identify institutions in their area** (schools, colleges, and universities) and **offer chaplaincy services**.
 - Developing **volunteer networks to support ordained chaplains**.
 - Strengthening **communication between churches and universities** to ensure students have access to **spiritual guidance**.
 - **Raising awareness** among congregations about chaplaincy roles and their significance.

6. Encouragement for Parish Involvement

- Churches were urged to **contact local schools and universities** to explore chaplaincy opportunities.
- Parish leaders were encouraged to **pray for institutions and chaplains**.
- Churches could **engage in chaplaincy outreach** by offering **volunteer chaplaincy services** within **universities, healthcare facilities, and correctional institutions**.

Conclusion

Chaplaincy is an **essential, growing ministry** that extends **beyond church walls** into **secular institutions**. Churches have opportunities to **engage with universities, schools, and the wider community** by **offering spiritual support, fostering dialogue, and promoting justice**. Strengthening **connections between churches and chaplains** can lead to a **more integrated approach to ministry**.