



ATHROFA PADARN SANT  
ST PADARN'S INSTITUTE

# BEGINNING CHAPLAINCY (HEALTHCARE)

## Induction for Newly Appointed Chaplains



**Course handbook**

Revised July 2023

## INTRODUCTION

This document is your formal introduction to the course and provides core information. It is complemented by:

- 1) St Padarn's Beginning Chaplaincy public webpage  
<https://www.stpadarns.ac.uk/en/courses/beginning-chaplaincy/>
- 2) Material on the Moodle online learning platform.
- 3) You should receive your Moodle logon a week or two before the course starts.  
You will need to access materials and engage in learning activities via Moodle.

## IN PREPARATION

To get the most benefit from your time with us, we have some work for you to do before you come. It should take around four hours to complete. Specific sessions in the timetable will draw on this work. To find out about this work, please read the section 'Preparatory Work' below.

## ASSESSMENT

There is no formal course assessment, but we invite you to write two optional assignments.

## CONTACTS

*Course Administrator:*

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*Course Support*

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*Course Lead:*

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Front cover photograph: Julian Raffay

## DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

This innovative, exciting, and unique course focuses on NHS chaplaincy but is relevant to health and social care chaplains working in other settings. We co-produced it with newly appointed and experienced healthcare chaplains.

## COURSE AIMS

The course aims to:

- give you greater clarity and confidence in your role
- inspire you to gain a deeper understanding of chaplaincy, practical theology, and reflective practice
- enable you to maintain professional effectiveness and personal integrity
- communicate what it means to be a representative member of a specific faith group – serving in a secular organization, embracing all faiths and none
- support and nurture you in becoming a research aware practitioner.

## HOW THE COURSE WILL BE DELIVERED

The course will be taught at one residential through seminars and small groups.<sup>1</sup> The course extends over 5 days from 12.30pm on Saturday until 12.30pm on Wednesday.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

After completing the course, an engaged participant will:

### *Subject knowledge*

- understand the context within which NHS chaplains operate
- have basic knowledge of major ethical theories and their application.

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<sup>1</sup> In the event of further Covid-19 restrictions, the course may be transferred online in compliance with Welsh Government guidance.

### ***Subject specific skills***

- be able to apply diverse theoretical perspectives to practice
- demonstrate independence of thought in reflecting theologically on the relationship between 'being' and 'doing' in public ministry/practice.<sup>2</sup>

### ***Key skills***

- have confidence in demonstrating initiative, self-direction, and independence in tackling and solving problems
- exercise their learning skills to pursue further professional development or academic study.

## **INDICATIVE CONTENT**

Note: The course content is regularly reviewed in response to changes within healthcare research, policy, and practice. Participant feedback also drives continuous improvement. The content may include:

- the distinctive role of a chaplain within a healthcare context
- the nature of healthcare organizations
- reflective models appropriate to healthcare chaplaincy
- ethical models and their application to healthcare chaplaincy
- understanding pluralism
- issues of health and illness.

The above will be studied with reference to the students' professional/vocational practice by means of critical theological reflection, drawing upon historical and contemporary writings and scholarship.

## **PREPARATORY WORK**

If you wish to work with printed copies of the presentation handouts et cetera, please print these off at home and bring them with you.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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<sup>2</sup> Participants who are not members of a theocentric faith (or any faith) may substitute the word 'philosophy' for 'theology' where relevant.

## ***Information gathering***

Please read and have available (electronically or printed) the following pieces of information:

- your job description and person specification – we will not ask to see these
- your chaplaincy department's mission statement (or equivalent statement of the aims and objectives of the department)
- your organisation's Chaplaincy Policy (if one exists)
- UKBHC [or equivalent] [Guidance](#) (please select for your nation)
- UKBHC (2015) [Healthcare Chaplaincy Bands and Duties Framework](#)
- Swift, C. (2015) [NHS Chaplaincy Guidelines: Promoting Excellence in Pastoral, Spiritual & Religious Care](#)

For a simple introduction to the facets of chaplaincy, you may want to read Threlfall-Holmes, M. & Newitt, M. (eds.) (2011) *Being a Chaplain*. London: SCM.

**Please bring these resources with you (electronically or printed) to the residential.**

## ***Preparatory exercises (optional)***

### *Reflective exercise 1*

Write a short piece (between 300 and 500 words) considering your experience as a chaplain. To what extent has this ministry/practice affected you as a person, and to what extent have you influenced the ministry/practice of chaplaincy in your healthcare context?

### *Reflective exercise 2*

Write a second short piece (again between 300 and 500 words) comparing your experience with the information you have gathered about your post as a chaplain. Are there gaps and differences? Were there things in the [Framework](#) or [Guidelines](#) that surprised you.

### *Reflective exercise 3*

In the light of exercise 2 above, please send an email (again, of 300-500 words in length) to [julian.raffay@stpadarns.ac.uk](mailto:julian.raffay@stpadarns.ac.uk). This should have the following elements:

- a) a very brief list of any degree(s) you may have and their subject(s)

- b) a simple statement of what you would like to learn over the Beginning Chaplaincy residential.

If you can, please enter the phrase 'BC reflective exercise' in the subject line. Please submit these items no later than a week before the residential.

The purpose of exercise 3 is to focus your mind and enable us to tweak the programme around participants' needs and interests.

## **ETHICS BACKGROUND**

Ethics features as an important part of the week's training. We have experienced huge variety in participants' experience and knowledge of the principles of ethics. We therefore invite you to read at least one of the following. When you receive Moodle access, you can [download](#) them free of charge.

Though it's generally advantageous to read the most recent edition of a book, if you're buying, you can often save more than half the price by buying an earlier edition and/or a second-hand copy.

The books below are ordered in increasing complexity. So, if you have never studied ethics, choose Sandel. If you have studied ethics a while ago, go for Bauman. If you're confident in your knowledge of ethics, select Beauchamp and Childress.

Sandel, M. (2009). 'Doing the Right Thing', In *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?* London: Penguin, Chapter 1, pp. 3–30.

Bauman, Z., (1993). 'Moral Responsibilities, Ethical Rules', In *Postmodern Ethics*. Oxford: Blackwell, Chapter 1, pp.16–36.

Beauchamp, T. L., and J. F. Childress. (2019). 'Nonmaleficence', In *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*. Eighth edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter 5, pp.155–202.

## **CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AND CO-PRODUCTION**

In running Beginning Chaplaincy, we are committed to continuous improvement. This means that we regularly revise seminars and documentation. Please do not be surprised therefore if something presents slightly differently from what you expected. Rest assured; we promise to consult you ahead of any major changes!

Additionally, we are all learners - participants, administrative, hospitality - and academic staff alike. We invite you to co-produce the best possible learning experience with us and for subsequent student cohorts. With this in mind, we look forward to your feedback throughout the residential and not just at the end.

Again, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

## **OUR POSTGRADUATE CHAPLAINCY STUDIES PROGRAMME**

If you have found Beginning Chaplaincy inspiring, why not consider further study with us? You can enrol part-time for a Certificate (one year), Diploma (two years), or Master's (three years). Several students have done this.

The course is validated by Durham University, one of the Russell Group's 24 world-class research-intensive universities. St Padarn's Chaplaincy Studies programme is a unique development that supports in-service chaplains in their practice and ministry.

The programme will expand your thinking and broaden your awareness of both the theoretical and practical aspects of your work. A substantial 'placement' module undertaken within students' workplaces aligns our programme to professional accreditation criteria.

The aim of St Padarn's programme is to offer postgraduate education in chaplaincy studies in partnership with the relevant professional bodies:

- as continuing professional development at an advanced level for individuals engaged in chaplaincy work
- for candidates for chaplaincy ministries who have already studied theology to degree level
- for individuals wishing to pursue chaplaincy studies at postgraduate level.

The usual entry criteria are a 2:1 degree with two years' experience of chaplaincy or a 2:2 degree with substantial professional experience. If you do not meet these criteria, please get in touch to discuss your available options. You may be invited to write 2000 words on the question: 'How has your ministry and/or professional practice prepared you for this course and how will the course further support your ministry/practice?' This same question is the first of the optional assignments we set at the end of the Beginning Chaplaincy residentials.

For further information, including academic and residential fees, please either visit our website [www.stpadarns.ac.uk/en/courses/ma-chaplaincy/](http://www.stpadarns.ac.uk/en/courses/ma-chaplaincy/) or contact Tina Franklin, Postgraduate Coordinator. We welcome informal enquiries.

## **READING AND RESOURCE LIST**

The precise nature of the indicative reading will depend upon specialisms.

An asterisk (\*) indicates resources you may want to consider buying or asking your employer to stock.



### *Non-academic background texts*

Gawande, A. (2014). *Being mortal: Illness, medicine, and what matters in the end*. New York: Metropolitan Books.

Kay, A. (2017). *This is going to hurt: Secret diaries of a junior doctor*. New York: Little, Brown.

Watson, C. (2018). *The language of kindness: A nurse's story*. London: Chatto & Windus.

### *Bachelor's level introductory texts*

Cobb, M. (2005). *The hospital chaplain's handbook: A guide for good practice*. Norwich: Canterbury Press.

Lartey, E. (2020) 'Back to the future: Intercultural, postcolonial and inter-religious streams in practical theology'. *Practical Theology*, 13 (1-2), pp. 150-161.

\* Threlfall-Holmes, M. and Newitt, M. (2011). *Being a Chaplain*. London: SPCK.

\* Wells, S., Quash, B. and Eklund, R. (2017) *Introducing Christian Ethics. 2nd edn*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

### *Bachelor's advanced and master's introductory texts*

Gordon, T., Kelly, E., & Mitchell, D. (2010). *Spiritual Care for Healthcare Professionals: Reflecting on Clinical Practice*. London: Radcliffe Publishing.

Messer, N. (2002). *Theological Issues in Bioethics*. London: Darton, Longman and Todd.

\* Swift, C. (2014). *Hospital chaplaincy in the 21st century: The crisis of spiritual care in the NHS*. 2nd Edn. Aldershot: Ashgate.

### *Master's advanced texts*

Beauchamp, T.L. and Childress, J.F. (2013) *Principles of biomedical ethics*. 7th edn. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Benatar, S.R. (2021) *Global health: Ethical challenges*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Brown, M. (2010) *Tensions in Christian ethics: An introduction*. London: SPCK.

Francis, L., Hancocks, G., Swift, C. and Robbins, M. (2009). 'Distinctive Call, Distinctive Profile: The Psychological Type Profile of Church of England Full-time Hospital Chaplains', *Practical Theology*, 2(2): 269-284.



- Fraser, D. (2010). 'Pastoral Heart and Critical Mind: The Shaping of Chaplaincy in the NHS', *Practical Theology*, 3(2): 179-190.
- Gill, R. (2006). *Healthcare and Christian ethics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Kwan, S.S.-M. (2021) 'Is hospitality enough for Interfaith Spiritual Care by Christians?'. *Practical Theology*, 15 (3), pp. 206-218.
- Matthews, P. (2018) Ethical questions in healthcare chaplaincy: Learning to make informed decisions. Philadelphia: Jessica Kingsley.
- Hancocks, G., Sherbourne, J. and Swift, C. (2008). 'Are they refugees?' Why Church of England male clergy enter healthcare chaplaincy. *Practical Theology*, 1(2): 163-179.
- Mowat, H. (2005). *What do chaplains do? The role of the chaplain in meeting the spiritual needs of patients*. Aberdeen: Mowat Research.
- Mowat, H. (2008). *The potential for efficacy of healthcare chaplaincy and spiritual care in the NHS (UK)*. Aberdeen: Mowat Research.
- Newitt, M. (2010). 'The Role and Skills of a Hospital Chaplain: Reflections Based on a Case Study'. *Practical Theology*, 3(2):163-177
- Pattison, S. and Pill, R. (2004). *Values in professional practice: Lessons for health, social care and other professionals*. London: Radcliffe Publishing.
- Raffay, J. et al. (eds.) (2022). *Coproduction: Towards equality in mental healthcare*. Monmouth: PCCS Books.
- Trull, J.E., and Carter, J.E. (2004). *Ministerial ethics: Moral formation for church leaders*. Grand Rapids: Baker.
- Youngblood, P.W. (2023) 'Chaplains as hosts: balancing humility and assertiveness in spiritual care'. *Practical Theology*, 16 (2), pp. 232-246.

#### Websites

- College of Healthcare Chaplains <https://www.healthcarechaplains.org/>
- Network for Pastoral, Spiritual and Religious Care in Health <http://network-health.org.uk/>

#### Journals

- Health and Social Care Chaplaincy* <https://journal.equinoxpub.com/HSCC/>
- Practical Theology* <https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/yppt20>