

Canterbury Tertiary Education Chaplaincy

2025 UC Chaplaincy team: Rev Dr John Fox (0.5FTE), Cassandra Allpress (0.5FTE), Paul Hegglyn (0.2FTE), Dr Mary Allan (volunteer), Fr Michael Terese (volunteer).

Overall summary: The UC Chaplaincy occupies a unique missional space in our city: our regular presence on campus allows us to build genuine, long-term relationships with staff and students for whom the trials and transitions of life through up questions about where or who their faith and trust is in. Our ministry is also in a missional phase. While we continue to be attentive and available to people who come seeking our help, many students don't know who or what a Chaplain is, so much of our energy is going into developing our pastoral care networks relationships with other support services so that we are on their radar for referrals and developing outreach modalities.

Major activities undertaken since the last report and what these have achieved:

- We run a regular **Community Lunch** (affectionately named by one student as "the church lunch"). In 2024, through the support of three local churches, we served approx 737 vegetarian meals to students. In 2025 our numbers have quickly grown to 50 people regularly each week. This space is enabling increased peer-based relational support, public conversation about spirituality, and an accessible place for students to seek Chaplaincy support. For Easter 2024 we turned our lunch into an Easter feast, to which many of our community came and heard the gospel shared. We partner with St MJs and Headspace Gap year (Brethren) to disciple young adults into mission through this venture.
- Through a partnership with St Vincent De Paul we've been able to start a weekly **free vegetables and bread pop-up stall**. In terms of increasing our contact with students this pop-up functions similarly to the Community Lunch but has a much wider reach.
- +John continues to grow **Chaplaincy presence at College House**, now regularly leading 5+ Chapel services annually. His continued presence there is crucial for maintaining and strengthening the Anglican character of the Hall.
- In 2024 we delivered over 287 hours of **pastoral care to staff and students** at UC. The topics of these conversations were wide-ranging including: study stress, church abuse, romantic drama, bereavements, divorce, mental health struggles, future direction, discrimination in the classroom, challenging family life and workplace conflict. We also supported the UC Serious Incident Response group on three occasions.

- We continue to gather **Christian club leaders** every semester for Chaplain's Shout, to build visible unity amongst Christians on campus
- We have helped launch three **Vocational Christian Networks**: Christians in Engineering, Christians in Science, and Christians in Commerce. These networks allow Christian students to support each other as they navigate their present and potential future vocations. Christians in Arts is in formation.
- We have continued work on addressing key blockers to Faith, this year further developing interfaith relationships with Jews, Muslims, Bahai and our local Buddhist temple, working to develop the UC Faith Calendar and building good neighbourliness and respect for religious liberty.

Major activities planned for 2025–2026.

- We will continue to run our **Community Lunch** strengthening the discipleship pathway for Christian students and create a pathway for students who attend lunch to explore the Christian faith and spiritual practices.
- We will find ways to express **ecumenical Christian worship** on campus throughout the year.
- We continue our work in building a Christian response to student alcohol culture, in partnership with our friends and local groups.
- We are involved in the development of a **freedom of speech policy** on campus.
- John is developing a new plan for staff support
- We continue to scope apologetic and evangelistic events for next year.

What you see as emerging issues for your group.

- The sustainability of funding is a key issue for sustaining our presence on campus. At the moment we can only afford to have one Chaplain on a permanent 0.5 FTE contract, the remaining 0.7 FTE is fundraised each year, and means we can only offer fixed term contracts—making it challenging to have continued presence on campus.