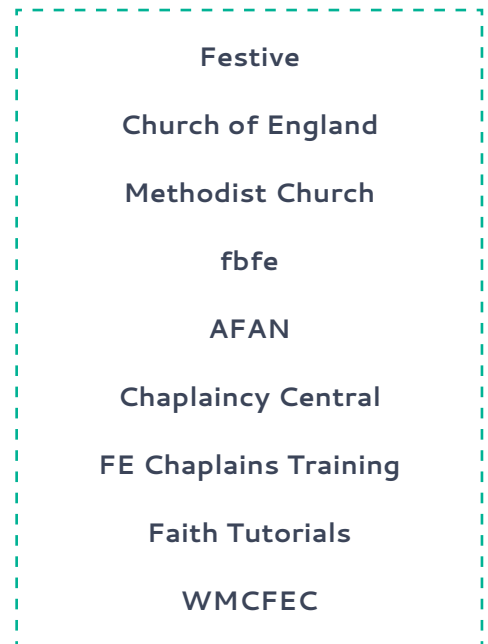


A Review of Organisations Working with FE and College Chaplains

After recently being asked for information on the different agencies offering chaplaincy support, we have compiled this document, reviewing the various organisations that came to mind.

Rather than trying to explain what each does, we have wherever possible, tried to use each organisation's own words. We have also suggested a Unique Selling Point (USP) for each, by way of a quick guide to which organisations would be relevant to a particular circumstance.

The organisations are listed right in no particular order



Festive (www.festive.org.uk)

Our Mission is to work as part of the Christian Church for the benefit of Further Education Colleges and Sixth Forms in the UK for the Glory of God. Festive works on the basis that Christians are 'Christ's Ambassadors' wherever they are. We aim to support those working and studying within the FE sector in effectively fulfilling that role. To do this we offer:

Prayer | Advice | Resources | Training

Festive is aware that students and staff within the FE Sector hold a diverse set of beliefs and practices. We advocate Christians to '...in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.' (1 Peter 3:15).



USP: Appropriate and intentionally Christian support for FE Sector chaplains, staff and students.

National Denominational Support: Church of England

The Education Division supports a network of college chaplains through dedicated support and professional development training opportunities (including a monthly e-bulletin, annual summer conference and new chaplains training residential) and the facilitation of regular diocesan level networking events. Around half of all FE colleges in England have some form of chaplaincy provision.



USP: Professional Church of England FE Chaplaincy support, for all chaplains, not just CofE.

National Denominational Support: Church of England

The Methodist Church has a long history of chaplaincy work going back to the time of the Wesleys and you will find Methodist Chaplains in some quite surprising places. Chaplaincy schemes may be supported and run by the local Church, the Circuit, the District or the Connexion, but there is always some sense in which the chaplain is "sent" by the Church. Chaplains always work with the support of the Church – they are never alone.



Chaplaincy is within the Mission department of the Church structure – disciples and ministries learning network, and currently is overseen by a Church and Community Development Officer.

USP: Bringing a missional approach to chaplaincy by encouraging local people to offer their service to FE Chaplaincy.

National Denominational Support: Church of England

'We are a national independent inter-faith charity working with the learning and skills sector, faith and local communities and national and local faith/belief based groups. fbfe exists to support the further education sector to engage positively with faith and belief.'



From May 2015 the focus of fbfe is 'to provide strategic support for sector leadership, principals and their senior teams, other education and training providers and sector stake holder organisations. In that context fbfe prioritises issues which the sector had expressed an interest in surrounding Values, leadership, Prevent, Inspection, British Values and the links of these issues to SMSC/Citizenship. This maintains fbfe's commitment to on-going support for the FE sector.'

USP: Strategically placed to complement Chaplains' work with senior management in matters of faith and belief and SMSC.

AFAN – All Faiths and None

AFAN is an educational facility and forum for discussion for FE students and teachers (and anyone else who can utilise it!) 'AFAN is a registered charity, with a team consisting of people with very different worldviews: both religious – Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, and Pagan – and non-religious – Humanist and Atheist – committed to exploring faith, belief and values within and across the diverse traditions we come from. We do not claim to have all the answers, and the perspectives we present are personal and not necessarily shared by others with the same worldview. The resources are designed to be fun to use, and to stimulate discussion, reduce intolerance, build mutual understanding, and encourage recognition of common values and unique differences.'



USP: The delivery of SMSC to staff and students in colleges for which there is an increasing demand.

Chaplaincy Central

Is for anyone who is a 'chaplain in a school or FE College or is interested in developing or supporting chaplaincy. The website creates a hub for the sharing of news, ideas, resources and best practice so that all those involved in school or FE chaplaincy will find support and encouragement through being better connected with one another and Chaplaincy Central.



Chaplaincy Central is a newly registered charity formally launched in June 2015 and a National Mission Partner of Scripture Union. The trustees and reference group 'represent a breadth and range of theologies and traditions embodied in Chaplaincy work and they seek to work together in unity. All involved are convinced that CC is inspired by the Holy Spirit in bringing together such a well-balanced and capable group of people willing to take the work of educational chaplaincy forward'.

USP: First place to look for resources of all kinds, from a rich breadth of Christian tradition and suitable in an Interfaith context.

FE Chaplaincy Training

The FE Multi-faith Chaplaincy Training Project has its origin in conversations between members of the FE Chaplains' Support Group in the Diocese of Bristol in which concerns were expressed about the sustainability of the large increase in FE chaplaincy provision since 2006/7.

The group identified 'chaplain succession' as a major source of fragility in sustaining the current level of multi-faith chaplaincy presence in FE Colleges and seeks to encourage those wishing to explore chaplaincy work in this large and vibrant sector of education by offering a series of readily available training opportunities. >



FE Chaplaincy Training Continued

The project, as conceived, is concerned with developing two new sets of distinct training materials. A free, user-friendly, interactive web-site of four courses directed towards the recruitment of new FE college chaplains. A text-based training manual entitled 'Sustaining Chaplaincy', primarily directed towards placement students and serving chaplains at the start of their college ministry.

USP: FE Multi-faith Chaplaincy Training.

Faith Tutorials

The Faith Tutorials project exists to produce resources that can be used in Further Education and 6th Form Colleges. 'We create free tutorials that can be used by anyone who wishes to engage young people on topics of faith and culture. The Faith Tutorials project is an independent project licensed under a Creative Commons (CC) license.

Each set of tutorials is presented as a 'menu' with three courses; a Starter, a Main and a Dessert. In some tutorials there is a Take-Away option which can be used to supplement the tutorial and allow the learner something to walk away with. Within each course are a choice of activities. A tutor can pick or choose which activities they feel would best work in their context.'

USP: Ready-to-use Further Education Tutorials for all faiths and none.

WMCFEC

The West Midlands Churches' Further Education Council exists to support colleges in the SMSC development of students and the training and resourcing of staff in matters of faith and spirituality; and to support churches in valuing FE and lifelong learning as part of their wider involvement in education, and providing resources and training to partner colleges in their work.



To fulfil these aims, the Council initiates projects, organises training and networking events and brings together chaplains and others working in Further Education.

The Council's membership is drawn from across the different Christian churches represented in the West Midlands region, including individuals with years of experience working within the FE and lifelong learning sectors. Rooted in the Christian faith, we enjoy working with and for people any faith and none.

USP: A West Midlands church-based support group for work with FE Colleges and Chaplains of the region in matters of faith and spirituality and with people of any faith and none.