

## Student Experience Committee

### Report from the Chaplains at the Multifaith Centre

There has been a steady increase in people using the Centre, both in planned events and in more informal spontaneous times. The various worship activities number around 40 each week, representing a diverse cross-section of different faiths. The worship is now at capacity on occasion, and looking forward this may need to be addressed, especially with regard to fire limits.

The common room is also more busy, and there are a number of students and staff who have become regular users, finding in the Multifaith Centre a place of calm and security. Others come as need prompts them, when they are looking for support and guidance. As the examination period starts, we have found more students using our meditation sessions and mindfulness colouring sessions.

With the increased number of students there is a greater call on Chaplains' time and demand for the Centre to be open for longer hours. We are exploring the possibility of a Chaplaincy Assistant role. This would be to assist in administration and perhaps enable the Centre to be open for longer hours.

Recently the Vice-Chancellor visited and we shared our thoughts around the 2030 vision and future faith provision. Amongst those are the needs of international students, who often come from communities of faith and expect to be able to practice their faith within the university environment. As the university has attracted more international students so the importance of providing for their spiritual needs has become more apparent.

This term the Newman Lectures, a collaboration between UEA and the Diocese of East Anglia, have been particularly successful and attracted large numbers. They reflect a growing interest in religious literacy, which is a field being actively explored by the Humanities Institute.