

## COMMUNITIES RESOURCES

### Local links: Chaplaincy, SU, Churches

Sometimes it can be a little overwhelming when you're starting something new, especially a new community. Having the support of others can make a huge difference and lots of them want to support you! Whether you are setting up a new SCM community, or you are taking over an existing one, here are some key groups that could offer help and support.

### CHAPLAINCY

Your university chaplaincy team is the pastoral and spiritual support on campus. That means they are here for all students of faith and none, for those who have questions about faith or need a safe space to have doubt. You can get Chaplains who are lay or ordained and you can also have Chaplains of different faiths. No matter where you are at in your faith journeys, your Chaplaincy are there to walk alongside you and provide support for whatever you need. If you're not sure who your chaplain is, just Google your university with the word "chaplaincy" and you'll be able to find them that way.

Whether you are setting up a new community or taking over an existing community, it is worth getting in contact. Many university Chaplains are supporters of SCM and hold similar values to us. When you're thinking about setting up a community, think about finding a time to meet with your Chaplain. They could be a great person to share ideas with and help you form your community. They can also provide lots of practical help, such as provide a space for your meetings, help you plan your term programme, or connect you with speakers. They might also have a budget for tea and cake, so it's certainly worth getting in touch!

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Once your community is up-and-running, set up a time for a follow-up with them about 3 months in. It is a great chance for you to check-in, let them hear how things are going and see how they can help you grow. Remember: your Chaplain's job is to support you and your faith journey. They are here to help!

### **STUDENTS' UNION**

If you would like to make your SCM community into an official society, then you will need to contact your SU. They might have rules about how many people can be in your community to make it an official society and they may have membership fees which you'll need to take into account. Nevertheless, becoming a SU society will allow you to take part in your Freshers Fair so you can get the word out about your community. Usually, your SU will be able to provide you with resources and cover some of your running costs, so it is definitely worth considering.

### **LOCAL CHURCH**

There are many churches who support SCM, either with resources or financially, and want to help your SCM community flourish! Could your local church provide a space for you to meet? Could they help you connect with other local communities? If you're interested in building social justice connections outside of campus and within your local area, your church might be the best place to look.