

## Preparation in Exile: Higher Education Chaplaincy Edition.



We gathered together as 35 Higher Education professionals and volunteers to discuss what life may look like in the midst of the uncertainty of the coming term.

We broke off into 7 different breakout rooms and here are the highlights of advice, information and comments from each room.

### Room 1

- Important to communicate with the Institutions in order to information passed on to students so they know the Chaplaincy is still operational, just virtually.
- There is an opportunity to link up with local students that live at home rather than on a campus.
- Now that physical geography matters less there is an opportunity to work and partner with a number of different chaplaincies in different institutions
- With social media content, the response in the initial phase was to broadcast but now we are exploring what true interaction on these platforms mean.

### Room 2

- Life is hard right now and it is OK to be struggling.
- Meditation activities are getting high levels of engagement.
- In some cases, attendance has gone up due to the nature of virtual meetings, how do we keep contact with these people comfortable virtually but not physically?
- Is adding to the pile of endless content useful right now?
- In light of the pandemic, do we need to talk about death more? And how could we hold fitting memorials to those in our sector we have lost.

### Room 3

- Online death cafés have been working well.
- 1-2-1 work has continued although encounters on a day to day basis are missed.
- Mindfulness and social opportunities have been attended well.
- It has been difficult to get communication to students through universities and they do not like Zoom due to privacy issues.
- Zoom sessions are continuing but a different demographic is now participating in the calls.

### Room 4

- Chance encounters are missed.
- There may be a greater need to continue services over the summer when they would usually shut down on campus.
- Using forms of communication that students can respond too when they are ready for example a WhatsApp prayer and share.
- Students (like people in general) love a good Zoom quiz.
- The reality is, who knows what Fresher's will look like.

#### Room 5

- Furlough has changed the nature of Chaplaincy.
- Information from the institutions is hard to come by... mostly because they don't have any yet.
- Flexibility is incredibly important right now and actually finances may dictate our work rather than need.

#### Room 6

- New starts have enabled communication to happen across all departments and being in touch with the wider staff of the institution has been nice.
- Creativity WINS!

#### Room 7

- How to acknowledge students leaving and arriving university, looking at online leavers' services.
- It's been exciting to be able to create connections globally.
- Supporting University staff has been even more important over the last few months.

SCM is excited to be [Marking Milestones](#) to help those in the university community not miss out on some key moments over the coming months.

To find out more about how SCM can support you and how to become a Link Chaplaincy check out the [chaplaincy pages](#) on our website.