

Chaplaincy in a changing culture, identity and diversity

with Theresa Strange, Chaplain at Bridgwater and Taunton College

Theresa Strange, is a part-time chaplain based Bridgwater and Taunton College. Based on Hope, Faith and Love, chaplaincy at the colleges embraces the following values:

- Celebrating diversity and inclusivity through supporting the spiritual needs of staff and students of all religious faiths and those who have none.
 - Being involved in projects addressing wider issues of social justice and environmental concern.
 - Contributing to building a college community that is founded on mutual respect, openness and trust.
1. Theresa describes her role as a chaplain as “being there [at the college] without an agenda.” Would you agree or disagree with this description of chaplaincy? Should a chaplain have “an agenda?” If you had to describe Chaplaincy in one line what would it be? (Theresa tries to do this at the end of the podcast – compare your answer to hers.)
 2. Richard asks Theresa the question: What does spirituality mean in this setting [the college]? Having listened to Theresa’s answer, think about the different places you occupy in your life. Does spirituality change from place to place?
 3. Theresa observes “the gift of time is one of the biggest gifts you can give somebody;” but that often her day is filled with doing. Can you think of a time in your life when you’ve had to put aside doing something important, in order to offer someone the gift of time? What was the event? What was the outcome, both for the person and yourself?
 4. Theresa reflects on a tragic event that deeply affected some students at the college. Supporting them she describes how she felt underprepared, and underequipped. Have there been moments in your life when you’ve felt underprepared and underequipped? What role did your faith play in that situation?
 5. Theresa talks about her support networks, and the need for time to reflect. Who is in your support network? What or where to you go to, to retreat from daily life?
 6. Theresa speaks about God being present in the small and in the unexpected. Have you ever encountered God in an unexpected place or situation? Where and what was this encounter? How did it change the way you view God, your faith, and perhaps how you live out your life day to day?

For further exploration:

There are many resources, films, toolkits and booklets at www.bathandwells.org.uk/chaplaincy and on other sites.

Growing and Reimagining Chaplaincy [MEv 137 Growing and Reimagining Chaplaincy: How to Start, Form and Sup – Grove Books](#) [sorry this last one is for sale rather than being free]

More information about the work of the Taunton and bridgwater Chaplains can be found here:

<https://www.btc.ac.uk/students/chaplaincy/>

If you have any questions or would like further information please contact **Revd Mike Haslam**

Chaplaincy Adviser, Diocese of Bath and Wells, 01749 685121 | 07530 677493,

Mike.haslam@bathwells.anglican.org, www.bathandwells.org.uk/chaplaincy

Next podcast

The next podcast will be Faith sharing, the church and chaplaincy with Ruth Motion, Chaplain at King's Academy, Cheddar - Monday, 6 May 2024 from 16.00-17.30. [Register Here](#)