

# School of Religious and Theological Studies

with

## St Michael's College, Cardiff

### **Master of Theology in Chaplaincy Studies (Health)**

*for health chaplains*

- A post-graduate, post-experience course in health chaplaincy, specifically tailored to the needs of health chaplains
- Delivered over three years via four short residential schools per year with individually-directed personal study
- A two part programme:
  - Part I : six short essay-assessed modules
  - Part II: a 16,000 word dissertation on a topic of your choice

The School of Religious and Theological Studies has a prized 5\* research rating. The course will be delivered in an ecumenical collegiate environment where study, worship and reflection belong together.



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# 1 Introduction

Welcome to this innovative, exciting and unique course that has been specifically designed with the needs, interests and resources of health chaplains in mind.

The MTh is a new course that integrates individually-directed personal study with residential learning together with other chaplains. This new route for health chaplains will come on stream in September 2004.

The course has been designed bearing in mind the following:

- i Health chaplaincy is a unique discipline. Those (lay or ordained) who work at the interface of Christian ministry and the health services encounter practical and theoretical difficulties unknown to any other teacher or Christian worker. The challenge of chaplaincy is highly context-related. No two chaplains face precisely the same situation. Each situation requires its own context-related solutions.
- ii Notwithstanding the above, *all* chaplaincy is alike in important respects. Chaplains in the army, navy, police, schools, hospitals and prisons face dilemmas of ethics and practice that in their fundamental dimensions are common to *all* chaplaincy, and yet unique to chaplaincy.
- iii Finally, there are issues of Christian ministry and practical theology faced by health chaplains which any Christian minister anywhere, lay or ordained, would recognise.

The majority of the modules are specific to chaplaincy, but not to *health* chaplaincy. They are intended to be studied alongside chaplains of other disciplines. Two of the modules of Part I are specific to health chaplaincy. They have been designed in the face of exhaustive research into exactly what chaplains in the health services say they need most, and what chaplaincy managements discern is most needed.

This course is not designed to be an induction course for those thinking of entering chaplaincy. It is for chaplains with several years of experience in their work, who wish to reflect deeply and systematically upon their experience. It is, therefore, a hands-on learning experience. The methodology is that the student will learn through guided reflection upon what they already know and find themselves doing in their place of work.

## 2 Course Aims and Outcomes

The MTh is a postgraduate, post-experience course which aims to develop intellectual competence and postgraduate skills alongside deepening reflective practice and enhancing professional expertise.

It is expected that most of the students undertaking the course will be involved in some kind of professional chaplaincy, whether on a full or part-time basis. However, it is also possible for those who do not work in the chaplaincy field directly to study on the course if this seems appropriate. The course is in principle open to all suitably qualified and motivated people of all denominations and faith communities, as well as to people who have no religious commitment or faith.

### ***Aim***

The formal aim of the course is to improve the intellectual, reflective and practical competence of chaplains at postgraduate, post-experience level with a view to making their roles more effective so they can make an enhanced and more appropriate contribution within their chaplaincy work.

### ***Outcomes***

At the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Give a critical account of the role and context of your chaplaincy task;
2. Demonstrate a firm understanding of the content and application of relevant theological and other kinds of theoretical knowledge that pertain to your chaplaincy work;
3. Show an ability to understand and use skills of critical analysis, intellectual flexibility and powers of evaluation, and to pursue independent study or research appropriate to postgraduate, post-experience levels of study in relation to your professional tasks and needs;
4. Have developed communication, information management and critical reflective skills that will enable you to respond better to the pressures of your professional activities;
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the main ethical, value and other issues and dilemmas facing health in contemporary society and to be able, through the use of relevant theories and concepts, to make a real contribution to facilitating discussion on these issues;
6. Situate your specific role as a health chaplain within wider debates and practices of practical theology, pastoral care and chaplaincy in other institutions;
7. Use appropriate skills of reflection on practice and self-understanding in the service of your pastoral, health and other activities;
8. Outline and understand the use of some new relevant practical skills that pertain to your own particular role;
9. Explain how selected different disciplinary theoretical frameworks and practical approaches may be used to enhance the theory and practice of your particular chaplaincy task.

### 3 The Course Structure

The course objectives, to inform and enhance your professional performance, will be taken up in various and different ways within particular modules and cumulatively through the scheme as you pursue it.

#### *The modules*

RTT 201	Foundations and Resources in Practical Theology
RTT 202	Facilitating Moral Thinking and Debate
<b>RTT 210*</b>	<b>Ethics and Values in Health Care</b>
RTT 205	The Institutional and Social Context of Health and Illness
<b>RTT 211*</b>	<b>Health Care in the Context of Health and Illness</b>
RTT 208	Exploring Models of Chaplaincy in Practice

\* These specialist modules are unique to the health route.

**The structure**

**Module Timetable for Part 1 of Chaplaincy MTh**

Part I

Part II

Module number	RTT	201	202	210*	205	211	208*	Thesis
Year	Residential School							
1	1							
	2							
	3							
	4							
2	1							
	2							
	3							
	4							
3	1							
	2							
	3							

\* These modules are unique to the Health Care route

In Part I, at any given residential school, the student will be introduced to the subject and specialist bibliography of the new module through up to 9 hours of tuition, seminar work and private research. A carefully devised topic title will be developed, designed to enhance the student’s appreciation of their work context in respect of the module subject.

Over the next three months, the student will read, reflect and write a piece of not more than 4,000 words for the module, under the guidance of the tutor, with whom contact is maintained through email, and supported by the study support facilities at St Michael’s. At the end of the three months period, the piece of work is submitted.

At the next residential school, the student group will present their work in seminar form to their year group to enhance the group learning experience, and begin work on the next module topic.

Part II is a 16,000 word dissertation supported by tutorials over two residentials and email contact.

## 4 Other Matters

- Tuition Fees*** Part I & 2: Fees available on request (contact details p.8)  
Payable in advance of each academic year
- Residential Schools*** Formal tuition takes place over two days, commencing at 9am and ending at 8.30pm. Students are strongly urged to live in college and participate in the worshipping life of the residential school.  
Residential fee: Available on request (contact details p.8)
- Entry Requirements*** Normal entry qualifications will be a first or second class honours degree from a British University or the equivalent abroad, or another post-graduate degree, or a lesser qualification plus relevant professional experience.
- Progression*** The scheme is in two parts:  
Part I (120 credits) : six modules of 20 credits each;  
Part II (60 credits): a dissertation of not more than 16,000 words on a topic chosen by the student and agreed by the Board of Studies.
- A candidate who has completed three modules (60 credits) may be awarded the Certificate of Postgraduate studies.
- A candidate who has completed six modules (120 credits) may be awarded the Diploma of Postgraduate studies.
- A candidate may only proceed to Part II, the dissertation, on the satisfactory completion of Part I (120 credits).
- Hours of Study*** As with any quality postgraduate course, some considerable commitment is required of the student. For guidance, it is suggested that the student set aside 8-9 hours per week for study.
- Minimum entry*** This course is offered subject to there being a minimum entry of four in any given year.

## 5 The Venue

St Michael's College is a unique institution. It is a full collegiate School member of the School of Religious and Theological Studies at Cardiff University. The School enjoys a 5\* research rating, placing it among the top five departments in the UK. Cardiff University as a whole is placed 7<sup>th</sup> in national rankings. The School specializes in practical theology. Much of this specialist expertise has gone into the design of the MTh in Chaplaincy Studies.

St Michael's is also an ecumenical theological training college. It provides initial training for ordained ministry for the Church in Wales, the Church of England, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church. It also provides a wide range of other theological training and education, including the MTh in Chaplaincy Studies.

St Michael's is therefore an academic institution of very high standard, a centre for the study of the *doing* of theology, and also a place of theological reflection, prayer and worship. The MTh in Chaplaincy Studies exploits all three characteristics.

## 6 Enquiries

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Further information about the MTh is available at: <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/relig/admission>

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