

## Chaplains AGM Report 2022

It has been another interesting and disruptive year filled with the uncertainties of Covid and the interruption of lock down and working from home. Despite all of this it has been a thoroughly enjoyable experience and my relationships with staff and students have continued to grow. Working on-site once Covid was very active in the community was very stressful for me with my health conditions. There is a high chance that catching Covid could trigger my other conditions and I am also immune compromised due to necessary medications, I have had 4 doses of the vaccine but my specialist's still feel that I am high risk, as a result I am working from home. I am back to not having a desk space due to a re allocation of offices so when I was on campus I was working in the staff room in the hub when needed.

I am in regular contact with the international team, student accommodation and the mental health business partner and have enjoyed working together with them on different events and projects. I have been working with the mental health business partner on staff well-being and how we can work together to support staff who are struggling. We have also put together a list of resources and helpful information that we are hoping to rollout to staff in the near future. I have also enjoyed working alongside the new mental health nurse who focuses on students.

I am part of the well-being champions and as part of that I am part of a focus group that is looking at the prayer rooms and trying to come up with a solution that is more multi faith and suits the needs of a wider range of people because the current ones are very Muslim and there are many other religious groups who don't feel comfortable in the current space.

I am still seeing more staff than students, although when I am on campus I am having lots of casual conversations with students. While working from home I keep regular contact with all of my regular students and maintain contact with my staff connections via teams. Some days are busier than others and I am still able to attend to students needs despite being offsite and I am still able to develop new relationships with students thanks to referrals from the counsellors. I have enjoyed seeing growth in the people I have been working with. One of the highlights for me has been one of the staff I see regularly becoming a Christian. I look forward to continuing to support her in her journey.

I am being called on more and more for karakia or blessings including for vet nurse labs and rooms in student village among others. I have also been asked to perform a wedding later this year by a staff member.

The students group that was running last year has not continued at this stage with majority of the students in it finishing their studies at the end of last year. This is something that I would like to see restart, I have been in touch with the students who are still at Wintec and we are currently in discussions about what they would like to do this year. I am continually looking for new ideas and ways to engage with students. Unfortunately O week did not go ahead this year so I did not have the opportunity to take names and numbers of new students who may be interested in being part of a Christian group. I would also like to get a group up and running at Rotokauri campus and this is one of my goals for this year.

I have been continuing to meet regularly with both my spiritual director and my supervisor and have found their support to be a comfort especially during lockdown when it is easy to feel isolated.

I look forward to this year and hope that we will soon be back to some form of normality.