

Chaplaincy Podcasts - **Faith sharing, the church, and chaplaincy with Ruth Motion, Chaplain at Kings Academy, Cheddar.**

Ruth Motion is chaplain to the Kings Academy in Cheddar, a Church of England Secondary School and Sixth Form, educating students between the ages of 13-18. Ruth is also Assistant Curate in the Benefice of Cheddar, Draycott, and Rodney Stoke forming a vital link between school, church, and the wider community.

1. Ruth mentioned that becoming a school chaplain was never 'part of the plan'. How has your own route into chaplaincy unfolded?
2. Ruth speaks about 'belonging' in school as a paid employee, she reflects that as a chaplain she belongs in her context and is 'more than a guest'. Do you feel, in your context and role, more of a guest? Or do you feel that you belong to the organisation/context in which you minister?
3. In response to dealing with the traumas and challenges of the students, Ruth reflects on the emotional and spiritual tiredness that can occur. The boundaries we set with ourselves, and others are so vital in maintaining our own emotional, mental, and spiritual wellbeing. What boundaries are you setting for yourself and with others that help to secure the longevity and fruitfulness of your ministry?
4. The parishes that Ruth is attached to as curate offer support through prayer, but also through the donating of food and drinks. This enables Ruth to provide a 'no questions asked' free offer of food to students. What are the ways that your local parishes support or, could support, your work as a chaplain? How might the local parishes and the wider community become more involved in this ministry?
5. Ruth speaks about the concerns surrounding church attendance and the lack of young people at Sunday services. Ruth poses the question 'what is church attendance'. Through her work with school Ruth brings 100s of children to worship in the local church through school services. How might the wider church be helped to expand the view of church attendance to include the myriad ways 'church' manifests within your chaplaincy context?

For further exploration:

There are many resources, films, toolkits and booklets at www.bathandwells.org.uk/chaplaincy and on other sites. More information on chaplaincy in education settings can be found here: <https://centreforchaplaincyineducation.co.uk/about-us>.

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