

Mapping chaplaincy in Cornwall: A report

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For further information and subscription details please contact:

Theos

Licence Department

77 Great Peter Street

London

SW1P 2EZ

T 020 7828 7777

E hello@theosthinktank.co.uk

www.theosthinktank.co.uk

Mapping chaplaincy in Cornwall

introduction

In 2015 we published our first report on chaplaincy in the UK.¹ We saw it as an old form of ministry developing in new and unexpected ways. Our initial research revealed that chaplaincy is growing and becoming increasingly diverse. This second project seeks a deeper understanding of chaplaincy in different areas of the UK. This report is the second mapping exercise out of a series which will, it is hoped, cover the whole of the UK in due course.

Based on quantitative research, the following report attempts to show the scope and range of chaplaincy in the county of Cornwall and provide a snapshot of what is going on 'on the ground'.² The results were drawn from an online survey conducted between November 2016 and March 2017. The survey was to be filled in by the chaplain working alone, the team leader or the lead chaplain from each setting and organisation. The data we obtained paints a picture of a vibrant and extensive chaplaincy scene within Cornwall.

We set out to find evidence of the following:

1. What fields and organisations in Cornwall have chaplains
2. How many chaplains there are both overall and in each field
3. What this means in terms of how many hours a week these chaplains put into their roles and how they are paid (if at all)
4. What is the religious/belief breakdown of these chaplains
5. What sort of training these chaplains have
6. Whether there are bases or facilities for chaplains in their various organisations

We had **27 respondents** representing **chaplaincy bodies and individual chaplains** working in the county of Cornwall. The said respondents are associated with the following chaplaincy settings:

1. Apostleship of the Sea
2. Plymouth/Cornwall Air Training Corps
3. Devon & Cornwall Police
4. Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust
5. Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
6. Multifaith Chaplaincy Falmouth University & University of Exeter (Penryn & Truro Campuses)
7. Penlee Lifeboat
8. Penzance Town Council
9. Truro Agricultural Chaplaincy
10. Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service Chaplaincy
11. Bishop of Truro's Chaplains to Head-teachers
12. The Callington Cluster
13. Bodmin College
14. St Julia's Hospice
15. The Order of St John/St John Ambulance
16. Duchy College
17. College of the Bards of The Gorsedh Kernow
18. Cornwall Airport Newquay Airport Chaplain
19. Royal Air Force St Mawgan
20. Railway Mission
21. Mothers Union, Truro Diocese
22. Royal Cornwall Show Chaplaincy Team
23. Olive Tree Penzance and Treth fresh expression under Churches in Communities
24. Diocese of Truro Readers (Licensed Lay Ministers)
25. Truro School
26. Diocese of Truro Social Responsibility Team
27. Town Centre

Between them the chaplains cover **17 primary fields:**

1. Agriculture
2. Ambulance/Emergency services
3. Deaf/deaf blind

4. Transport
5. Higher Education
6. Further Education
7. Healthcare
8. Military
9. Police
10. Port/Sea
11. Town Centre
12. Transport
13. Education
14. Politics
15. Minority groups (Jewish community)
16. Vulnerable adults
17. Workplace

and a further **8 other sectors/settings** (sport, parish, court, national groups [e.g. Polish, Nigerian], ballet, home and family, residential care, theatre). In total these chaplaincy teams or organisations work with over **116 institutions or organisations**.

The table below shows the main chaplaincy fields that we discovered in our research and their specific settings in Cornwall:

Broad field	Specific setting
Agriculture	Annual Agricultural Show
Culture	Ballet
	Theatre
	Sport
Education	School
	Further education
	Higher education
Healthcare	Hospital
	Hospice
Military and related	Army
	RAF

	Air Training Corps
Family and support	Home and Family Life
	Residential Care
Localised/Geographically situated	Lifeboat
	Port
	Town Centre
	Residential care
Emergency services	Police
	Ambulance
	Fire and Rescue
Justice	Court
Transport	Railway
	Airport
Vulnerable people	Deaf / deaf blind
	Homelessness / Addiction
Politics	Mayor
	Town Council
Workplace	Social Responsibility Team
Minorities	Faith minorities
	National groups
Religion	Chaplaincy to Lay Ministers

The 27 chaplaincy bodies or individuals that responded to the survey reported a total of **198 chaplains** active in Cornwall. Across all these chaplaincy bodies, there were an additional **64 members of staff** acting in a support capacity while not being directly involved in chaplaincy work.

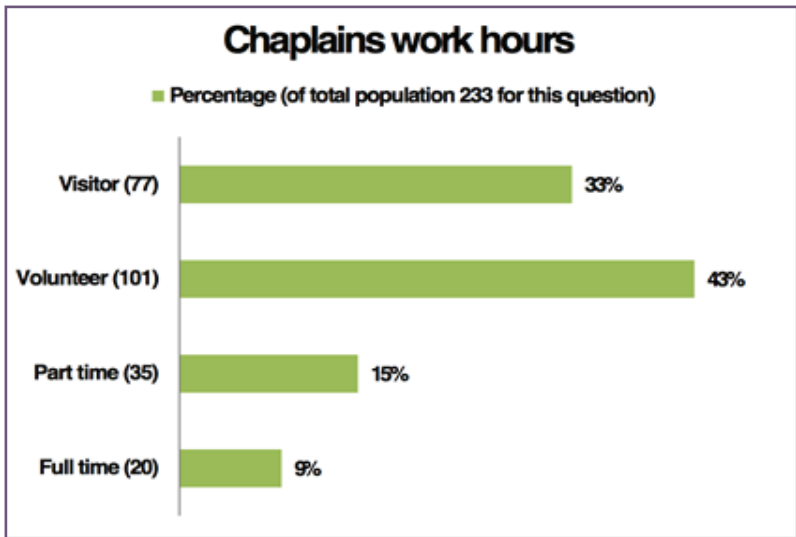
However, we found that almost half of the respondents to our survey are chaplains **working alone (44%)**. This is a striking finding, not least because it changes the picture most people have of chaplaincy. In the popular imagination chaplains are usually institutionally embedded in settings such as hospitals, prisons and schools, working in teams. While this is still often the case, this finding shows chaplaincy becoming a single person enterprise in Cornwall. In contrast, our previous study of chaplaincy in Luton revealed 9 chaplaincy bodies with 169 chaplains in total, the majority of which were working in healthcare and justice sectors as part of large chaplaincy teams.

how many hours a week do the Cornwall chaplains put into their roles, and how are they paid (if at all)?

This section shows the level and nature of chaplaincy involvement for the chaplains found to be active in Cornwall. For this question the total was 233, a higher figure than the total number of chaplains reported (198).³ There is obviously a large gap between a full-time chaplain and one who can be referred to if required, but is not in the organisation much in practice. For this purpose we defined four levels of chaplaincy involvement:

- **'Full-time'** indicates a chaplain working more than 30 hours a week.
- **'Part-time'** is any chaplain who works between 5 and 30 hours a week.
- **'Volunteer'** chaplains are those who work less than 5 hours a week, but with regular hours (NB: 'volunteer' is used here in that context only, and is not related to whether these chaplains are paid or not).
- **'Visitor'** chaplains are those involved on an occasional basis for particular needs, but who have no regular hours.

As the graph below shows, most chaplains in Cornwall work less than 5 hours a week, on a volunteer basis. A significant number (77) of chaplains are called in to address particular needs without having regular hours. These are called 'visitor' chaplains.



Out of all the respondents, **66 %** reported that they or their teams have **chaplains who receive some form of financial reimbursement for their work** (these can include a salary, stipend, honoraria, expenses, and others). This is a higher percentage than we identified in Luton, where only 34% of the chaplains received a salary, stipend or some other form of financial support.

Of the total chaplains reported in Cornwall, however, **only 11.5 % of these receive a salary or stipend for their work**. As the table below shows, the majority of these are, perhaps unsurprisingly, chaplains working full-time. It is striking to note how few part-time chaplains receive a salary or stipend (**17% of the total for that group**), the discrepancy between the remuneration of full-time and part-time chaplains being particularly wide.

	Paid a salary or stipend	Total number	Percentage of total for that group
Full-time	18	20	90%
Part-time	6	35	17%
Volunteer	3	101	3%
Visitor	0	77	0%
Total	27	233	11.5%

In most cases, the salary or stipend for the chaplains identified above is paid by the host institution (e.g. NHS trust or University) or an independent chaplaincy organisation.

Some chaplains are not paid a salary but receive financial reimbursement for expenses or honoraria. 50% of respondents indicate that they receive this from the institution (NHS trust, university etc.) in which they work. The rest are paid by a religious body – in most cases, a church -, an independent chaplaincy organisation such as Workplace Matters or other funding bodies who facilitate the chaplaincy activity.

	Paid honoraria or expenses	Total number	Percentage of total for that group
Full-time	7	20	35%
Part-time	8	35	22%
Volunteer	53	101	52%
Visitor	7	77	9%
Total	75	233	32%

A significant 65% (13) of respondents receive financial support to cover training and/or administrative costs from churches or faith and belief bodies, 30% (6) from private donations and 20% (4) from other trusts or charities.

what training and professional qualifications do Cornwall chaplains have?

52% (122) of chaplains have completed training courses or programmes in the form of ordination and ministerial training, or theological training from university level up to doctoral level. This is a relatively high percentage compared with our findings in Luton, where only 23% of the chaplains identified had religious training (particularly ordination). This may suggest that chaplaincy in Cornwall is more clerical than elsewhere.

82 (35%) chaplains have completed chaplaincy-specific training pertaining to their fields of work (e.g. Police and Home Office chaplaincy training). The fairly low percentage indicates a need for providing further chaplaincy-specific training opportunities (i.e. courses, study days, conferences) to chaplains active in Cornwall.

44 (18%) of the chaplains were reported to have completed a relevant professional qualification (e.g. certificate in counselling and bereavement training).

16 of the respondents (59%) have safeguarding policies in place. For the majority of these the policy is laid out by the institution in which they are active (e.g. RAF) or the Anglican Diocese and the Methodist District respectively. We recorded 12 respondents who did not answer the question. Only 2 respondents indicated that their chaplaincies did not have a safeguarding policy to which their chaplains adhered.

what is the religious/belief breakdown of these chaplains?

The data shows a chaplaincy scene in Cornwall that is overwhelmingly Christian. All of the chaplains or chaplaincy bodies listed at least a Christian chaplain and the total number of Christian chaplains reported was 184.

Chaplaincy activity from other religious groups, on the other hand, is virtually non-existent in Cornwall, according to our data. Out of the total 27 respondents, only one reported a Muslim, a Buddhist, a Sikh, a Pagan and a Baha'i chaplain. These, we found, were operating in the same setting (i.e. hospital).

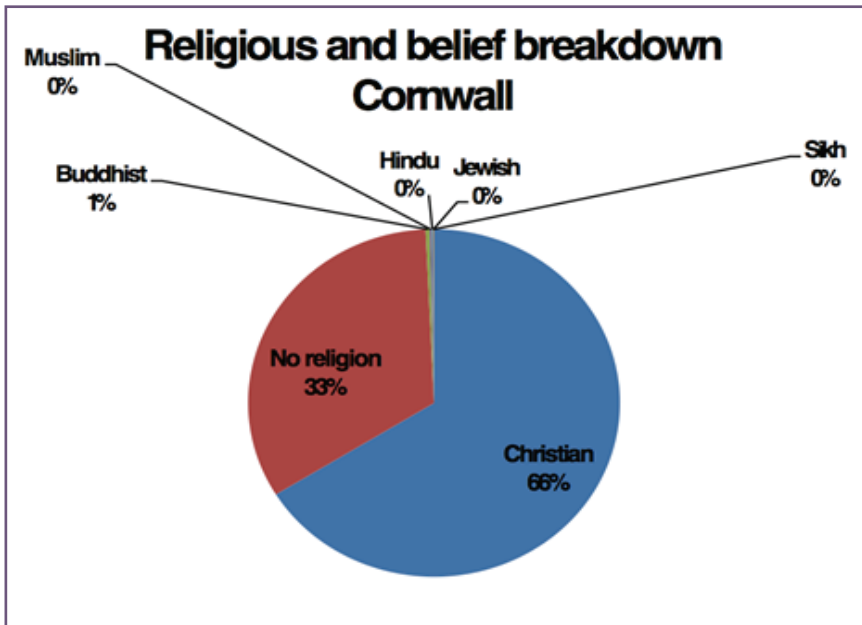
There were also three respondents who reported, in total, four non-religious/humanist chaplains active in their setting. Their presence may signal a slow but steady expansion in non-religious chaplaincy. This would be consistent with the steady rise in the number of 'non-religious' in Cornwall, the UK generally and, indeed, across the Western world.

Religion/belief	Total number of chaplains	Percentage of total reported (194)
Christian	184	95%
Muslim	1	0.5%
Jewish	1	0.5%
Buddhist	1	0.5%
Hindu	1	0.5%
Sikh	1	0.5%
Pagan	1	0.5%
Baha'i	1	0.5%
Non-religious/Humanist	4	2%
Total	194	100%

Working with the data available, it is interesting to compare this with the religious breakdown of Cornwall. The two largest groups represented are Christians and the non-religious, notwithstanding the discrepancy between the number of non-religious chaplains and the actual population group they represent. The low number of religious minorities is particularly striking, well under 1% for each religious group.

The chaplaincy data on other religions mirrors the data showing the religious and belief breakdown of the total population of Cornwall (according to the 2011 census), which shows a clear religious homogeneity. 60% of the total population in Cornwall identifies as Christian, with the next religious groups to follow at 0.32% Buddhists and 0.16% Muslim.

This is in contrast with the findings of our research into chaplaincy in Norfolk. There we discovered a much wider spread of chaplaincy with many religious and belief groups represented in chaplaincy work.



Denominational breakdown of Christian chaplains:

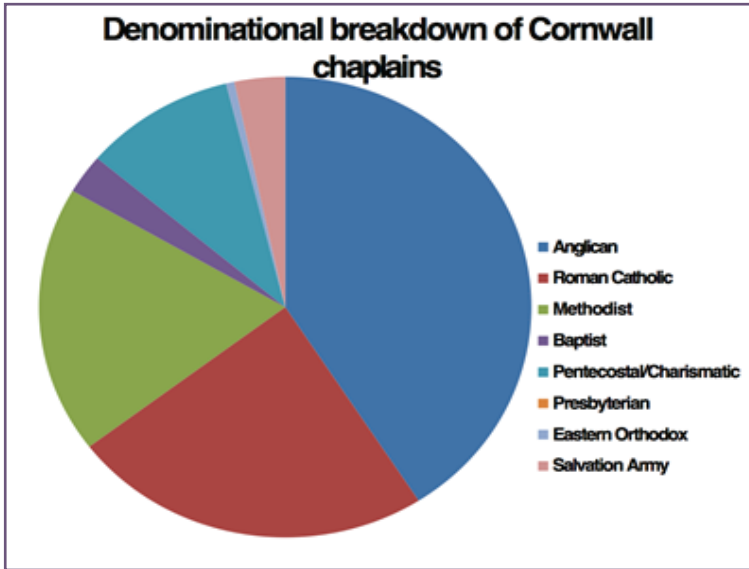
Denomination	Number	Percentage of total Christian chaplains reported (181)
Anglican	74	40%
Roman Catholic	43	23%
Methodist	34	19%
Pentecostal/Charismatic	18	10%
Salvation Army	6	3.3%
Baptist	5	2.7%
Eastern Orthodox	1	0.55%
Total	181	

As the table above shows, Anglican chaplains are the most prominent chaplaincy group in Cornwall. 20 chaplaincy settings (out of the total 27) reported having Anglican chaplains active. This chimes with the findings of our report on chaplaincy in Norfolk and Luton, but also with Todd, Slater and Dunlop's report on Anglican involvement in chaplaincy,⁴ which suggested many more Anglican chaplains were active than those identified in diocesan records.

Fifteen of the chaplaincy bodies reported Methodist chaplains (34 identified in total). This is a higher number than we discovered in Norfolk, where in 12 chaplaincy bodies there were only 12 Methodist chaplains, one for each setting, and Luton, where only 3 Methodist chaplains were reported.

There were 9 fields that reported Roman Catholic chaplains. These were found, not only in hospitals where they might be expected to show up, given the particular needs of Catholic patients, but also in police, school, and agricultural settings.

Six settings in Cornwall reported chaplains belonging to the Pentecostal/Charismatic tradition. This is a relatively high number which chimes with our findings in Luton, where we identified 11 chaplains. Taken together, these figures may indicate a growth in interest in chaplaincy from the Pentecostal/Charismatic traditions. However, further regional mapping exercises of chaplaincy are needed before we can draw any firm conclusions.

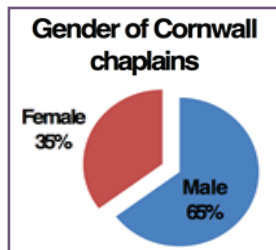


what is the gender breakdown of Cornwall chaplains?

As the table and graph below indicate, we discovered a gender imbalance in favour of male chaplains active in Cornwall. This imbalance is not reflected in the gender breakdown of the population of Cornwall, where the number of females is slightly higher than males (52% female and 48% male).

This confirms, on the one hand, the findings of the 2013 report produced by the Archbishop's Council Research and Statistics department within the Church of England. This indicated that despite an increase in the number of female chaplains (since 2002), only 23% of Anglican chaplains were female.⁵ On the other hand, this contrasts with the results of our research on chaplaincy in Norfolk, which showed the number of male chaplains was close to the number of female chaplains (58% male, 42% female).

Gender	Number
Male	127
Female	69
Total	196



what bases or facilities do Cornwall chaplains have?

16 respondents (52%) said they operate from a dedicated office or base. In the absence of a permanent base, and relative to the nature of their chaplaincy work, some chaplains make use of the space that is made available ad hoc within the organisation or setting they find themselves in. Others move and work throughout the county.

final comments

This report does not and, indeed, could not present an exhaustive picture of chaplaincy work in Cornwall. It can be safely presumed there are other chaplaincies in Cornwall which are operating under the radar and could not be identified and included in this research. There are also chaplains who did not, for whatever reason, respond to our requests for information and therefore do not feature in this report.

references

- 1 Ben Ryan, 'A Very Modern Ministry: Chaplaincy in the UK', Theos report (2015): <http://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/publications/2015/03/11/a-very-modern-ministry-chaplaincy-in-the-uk>.
- 2 This work is based entirely on the data recorded through the survey. We cannot take responsibility for the accuracy of the information provided by the survey respondents.
- 3 The discrepancy in data, here and elsewhere, is down to the vagaries of reporting (i.e. inconsistent information provided in the survey).
- 4 Todd, Andrew, Slater, Victoria and Dunlop, Sarah, 'The Church of England's involvement in chaplaincy: research report for the Church of England's Mission and Public Affairs Council', Cardiff Centre for Chaplaincy Studies report (2014). Accessed 10.05.2017, available at <http://orca.cf.ac.uk/62257/>
- 5 'Statistics for Mission 2012: Ministry', Archbishop's Council-Research and Statistics, The Church of England (2013): <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/1868964/ministry%20statistics%20final.pdf> accessed 31st March 2017.

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