



# SUPPORTING SPORT IN WALES

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**SPORTS  
CHAPLAINCY UK<sup>®</sup>**  
SERVING SPORT THROUGH EXCELLENCE IN CHAPLAINCY





## Who We Are

Sports Chaplaincy UK (SCUK) has had the privilege of providing chaplaincy to UK sports for 25 years and is recognised as the leader in our field across the world. The charity started by John Boyers whilst serving as chaplain at Watford Football Club, and is currently chaplain at Manchester United. We now provide support to over 80 of the professional English and Welsh football sides, plus nearly all the main Scottish and Irish sides. Our current CEO, Warren Evans, has developed sports chaplaincy throughout Rugby League in the UK. Over the years we have developed chaplaincy into many UK sports at varying levels from professional to amateur sport and including disability /all ability sport. We now have over 500 volunteer sports chaplains serving sporting communities across the UK. Through the years relationships have been built with players, coaches and the whole staff and volunteer base at clubs and match officials via visits to training facilities, stadia and community clubs. Chaplaincy recognises that a healthy heart and mind is needed to go alongside the physical strength and tactical awareness that sports people need to fulfil their potential and achieve their dreams. We have partnership agreements with many key governing bodies like the PFA, Premier League, English Football League, Disability Sport Wales, SFA, and RFL to name a few, where we are the recognised suppliers for this kind of specialist support to sport.

## Our Objectives

Sports Chaplaincy UK is the charity that facilitates, trains, supports and encourages chaplains for the benefit of the whole of the sporting community; people of faith and of no faith. It is recognised that there is a need for high quality pastoral and spiritual care. This generally involves visiting offices and training facilities on a weekly basis and being available to listen and bring support to all. Each chaplain will bring with them a vast range of skills, knowledge and expertise. A chaplain should be extremely supportive, bring a non-judgemental, listening ear and an empathetic and compassionate presence.



## Sports Chaplaincy UK Values

**Presence**, simply means being there. A Chaplain becomes a connection point from which a journey of building trust and building relationship begins.

**Excellence**, in everything that a Chaplain does and says, and where a Chaplain should be continually looking to improve their pastoral skills which are extremely valuable.

**Relationship**, Chaplains are by their very nature relational, so when engaging with people they need to be sensitive and compassionate.

**Confidential**, a Chaplain must be a trusted and safe port of call.

**Humility**, a Chaplain must be beyond reproach which talks about integrity with a focus on serving and not seeking kudos for themselves.

## The Need For A Chaplain

Pastoral care encompasses a wide variety of issues and offers support at times of personal crises as well as during everyday life. Problems faced by sports players are no different to those faced by society as a whole but, there are some features unique to the sporting world, which create an additional need for chaplaincy support:

- \* The highs and lows of the sporting lifestyle.
- \* A high number of young people who are forging a career in the spotlight of their own communities, often needing a confidential listening ear.
- \* The need to incorporate overseas players and their families into local life.
- \* High odds against becoming a successful player can lead to feelings of failure and despair.
- \* The work is physically demanding and potentially dangerous.
- \* Injured players often require ongoing care to keep mentally fit whilst recovering physically.
- \* Intense and unique working hours.
- \* Preparation for life after playing, "transitioning", in collaboration with player welfare services.
- \* Having a trusted confidant to discuss the wider challenges of life with and with a wider perspective than just sport



# Sporting Life Endorsements:

## What We Give

## Training

## Types of Support



Chaplains can be of help to all sorts of people involved with sport, when crisis, need, or difficulty comes. I commend the idea of sports chaplaincy and the work of Sports Chaplaincy UK to you"

**Sir Alex Ferguson, CBE, Director and Ambassador at Manchester United**



Sports Chaplaincy has been of huge personal and group benefit within our female international team camp environments. The support has been provided within all our age group teams and senior squad and has proved to be extremely beneficial for players and staff with regards to dealing with the pressures of achieving competitive excellence. The listening capacity and non judgemental approach has allowed people of all ages and varied personal circumstances to feel welcomed into the environment and well supported throughout personal and team challenges.

**Jayne Ludlow, Women's National Teams Manager Football Association of Wales**



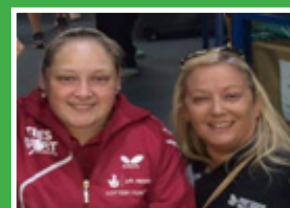
Chaplaincy brings a whole other dimension... It brings a personal touch. People feel they can be listened to as individual. If chaplaincy was established in every club I think it would be of huge benefit.

**Sir Ian McGeechan**



Providing Sports Chaplaincy has become an important part of our approach to equality and ethical behaviours .....Aside from providing a friendly, familiar face and an open door to confidential advice and support for everyone, there have also been occasions when our Sports Chaplains have made significant and timely interventions supporting athletes, staff and wider service users through some difficult and challenging times. Experienced and well trained, the Chaplains have brought added value to our organisation.

**Jon Morgan, OBE, Former Director of Disability Sports Wales**



We currently have 45 chaplains in Wales (and growing) supporting professional, semi- pro, amateur and all ability sports clubs up and down Wales. We have also provided chaplaincy support at major sporting events that have taken place in Wales like the Rugby Union u20s world cup, World Student rugby 7s, the European IPC All -Ability games and the 21st World Golden Oldies rugby tournament. Some of our chaplains have served at Olympic, World and Commonwealth games. Our chaplains work on a voluntary basis and are dedicating a minimum of 6 hours per week to supporting their clubs (both sporting and non-sporting staff). Many chaplains are giving significantly more time, but as a conservative estimate, Sports Chaplaincy UK are helping to resource Welsh sport with over 17,500 hours of support each year. That equates to over £500,000 worth of in kind support.



Sports Chaplaincy UK has worked to ensure that there is a level of consistency across our chaplaincy. To this end, each chaplain will have attended an induction training day covering issues ranging from safeguarding to the unique role of being a professional sportsperson. We are working hard to develop sports chaplaincy across Wales liaising with clubs and local faith communities to find, equip, release and support chaplains across various sports. Chaplains are there to support the whole club and so some clubs have more than one chaplain in post. All our chaplains agree to ongoing continuous professional development to ensure we are as "fit" as possible to deliver. This means undertaking specialised training in things like bereavement, dealing with addictions, debt management, mental wellbeing and so on.



- Non judgemental good listeners
- Character Development
- Lifeskill teaching
- A wider life perspective
- Ethical and moral awareness
- Social Justice work like feeding the homeless
- Charity support
- Suicide intervention
- Bereavement
- Funerals
- Scattering Ashes
- Mental health and wellbeing issues
- Relationship breakdown and counselling
- Addictions
- Job issues
- Education
- Career development support
- Hospital visits
- Faith Matters
- Pre match prayers
- Debt guidance
- Prison visits
- Take Weddings
- Christenings / Dedications

\* We are able to work positively alongside sports psychologists

Sports Chaplaincy UK  
is supported by:



DISABILITY SPORT WALES AND THE FAW PREMIER LEAGUE  
ENDORSE AND PARTNER WITH SPORTS CHAPLAINCY UK - WALES



**HELPING  
TO  
DEVELOP  
THE  
COMPLETE  
PLAYER**

## Clubs with Sports Chaplaincy UK Chaplains in Wales

### RUGBY UNION:

- Welsh National Women
- Cardiff Blues
- Cardiff Blues Academy
- Cardiff Blues Women
- Dragons
- Dragons Academy
- Ospreys
- Ospreys Academy
- Ospreys Women
- Scarlets
- Scarlets Academy
- Scarlets Women
- RGC
- Bridgend
- Cardiff
- Carmarthen Quins
- Ebbw Vale
- Pontypridd
- Swansea
- Ammanford
- Beddau
- Gwernyfed
- Pentyrch

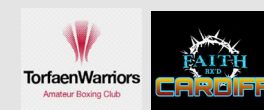
### FOOTBALL:

- Welsh National Women's Academy
- Swansea City FC
- Swansea City Football Club Academy
- Swansea Ladies FC
- Cardiff City FC
- Cardiff City FC Academy
- Wrexham
- Newport County FC
- Aberystwyth
- The New Saints
- Newtown\*
- Bangor City\*

\* affiliated with SCUW

3 chaplains working  
with DSU.

### OTHER SPORTS:



We have 4 gym chaplaincy roles



### SUPPORT SUMMARY:

In-kind hours: 17500

Sports Chaplaincy UK Training & Support: 500 hours

Total Chaplains No: 45

Value added - £500,000 worth of volunteers support

£5m of wellbeing interventions including suicide issues where 1 suicide intervention alone has a value of £750K to the wider society.

It is our plan and hope to offer a chaplain who is local and on call to any sports club across Wales who wants such support.

We are seeking to develop partnership agreements with Welsh sporting bodies where we currently partner with Disability Sport Wales and FAW Premier League.





Andrew Millward  
Managing Director Ospreys

We are delighted with the work our chaplain does with our age-grade players, providing them with invaluable holistic support which aides them in becoming better people as well as better players.



Richard Hodges  
Elite performance Pathway Manager,  
Cardiff Blues

We have been fortunate enough to have a chaplain for over 5 years now. He is now part of the wood work at the region where his work is invaluable to all, from academy to 1st team. His manner and nature are vital components in his chaplaincy work and we couldn't envisage a performance environment at the Blues without him.