

IN CONVERSATION WITH THE CHAPLAINCY

Over the time the chaplaincy has been involved in the life of the business community in Canary Wharf, we have seen many changes. One of the most marked is how the working environment has changed within many companies. The move a way from offices to open plan, employees hot desking and the increased opportunities to work from home. In a number of companies even the senior managers no longer have their own offices.

Interestingly a recent issue of the Harvard Business Review had an article about home working. It mentioned the need to ensure that each team member continues to feel valued and connected even if not physically located together within an office environment. Apart from maybe the obvious of being clear about spelling out the goals and roles repeatedly as circumstances require changes. The author raised the more important role of a manager that is to make an extra effort to stay personally connected with people, so they don't feel disconnected and lonely, and suggested acquainting team members with each other's work environments and their constraints so they understand the possible challenges each member faces with working from home. Not everyone will have a dedicated study for instance.

It is also a timely reminder that human beings are relational and communal, we need each other to function well and at our best. We need to be able to ask questions; we need feedback and encouragement. Some people work better in a crowded office, others on their own.

This a long introduction to announcing that the chaplaincy team has begun to think through how we might respond to the challenges of changed working practices particularly with more people working from home (especially as we cope with the coronavirus outbreak). So, in order to make our chaplains more available even if you are working from home, we are now offering face to face conversations over FaceTime, or Skype etc. See our [video blog!](#)

Revd Dr Fiona Stewart-Darling

Highlights



December's Carols & Candles Service was well attended. It was great that more companies participated in the combined choir. Our charities represented those working to prevent knife crime, they were Favela (Brazil) and St Giles Trust (Tower Hamlets). We raised around £1800 which was split between the charities.



In January the chaplaincy team said farewell to Geoff Nicholson who had been a volunteer with team since 2013 working with the retail tenants. He has done a tremendous job working with us one day a week building up solid relationships with the retail workers, laying a strong foundation for Barbara and her team to build on. The team will miss his wisdom and great sense of humour.



In February Ibrahim and Fiona hosted a group of Muslim students from Antwerp University. They were all studying different courses such as: economics, business, architecture, psychology, science etc. They were very interested to explore how faith was valued and accepted within the British workplace in contrast to coming from a more secular country, Belgium.

Events & Activities

UPCOMING
EVENTS

Canary Wharf Arts & Events have a photographic exhibition '[Women of Faith](#)' located in Crossrail Place Roof Garden. 1 April – 4 May.

Another Leadership and Culture Panel discussion is planned for later this year.

Christian

- 5 April Palm Sunday
- 10 April Good Friday
- 12 April Easter Day
- 21 May Ascension Day
- 31 May Pentecost

Jewish

- 10 Mar Purim
- 9-16 April Passover
- 29-30 May Shavuot

Muslim

- 24 April Ramadan begins
- 24-25 May Eid al-Fitr

Sikhism

- 13 April Vaisakhi

For more information about our activities, visit <https://canarywharfchaplaincy.co.uk>. Read our blogs and sign up on our website to receive our newsletters and event info.



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