

IN CONVERSATION WITH THE CHAPLAINCY



EDITORIAL

The Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy team provides chaplaincy to many aspects of life on the Canary Wharf estate. This includes, office workers and their companies, retail tenants, construction workers and the security teams. Sadly, recently we had to provide bereavement support to a construction team as a member had died suddenly and unexpected.

As we have mentioned we have a Trainee Muslim Chaplain, Naila and each month we provide her training around a theme, this month it is Diversity and Inclusion. It just so happens that Damien Gannon from CW Construction wrote an article for the CW Construction Spotlight Newsletter. So, with his permission it is reproduced in this edition of our Chaplaincy Newsletter.

We are all waiting for the Prime Minister's announcement re lifting of restrictions on 21st June. Whatever he announces the Chaplains are back physically in the Wharf and look forward to seeing you all in person soon too. *Revd Dr Fiona Stewart-Darling*

CHAT TO A CHAPLAIN – Just to remind you even if we are not always visible in Canary Wharf, we are still happy to catch up over a coffee either in person or virtually! To contact us email us at talktous@canarywharfchaplaincy.co.uk

Extract from CW Contractors Spotlight Newsletter

The Spotlight Newsletter has various focuses. Recently they produced one focusing on equality, diversity, and inclusion in construction, and mention how chaplaincy can support this.

Damien Gannon, Acting Associate Director, Health & Safety CW Contractors, wrote:

Ensuring Diversity and Inclusion in the workplace is not just a matter of having a diverse workforce, it is about individuals and companies' wellbeing. Seventeen years ago, Canary Wharf made a decision to engage with a full-time chaplain based full time on the estate. At the time Canary Wharf had over 60,000 people working within Canary Wharf, which has significantly grown over the last decade or so. The chaplaincy is key to ensure the pastoral needs of the workforce, which includes a number of construction projects. Furthermore, they are instrumental in creating a culture where everyone, whatever, their background, race, religion, gender, sexuality etc. is accepted and valued and nobody stands out as 'different'. It is about people being able to bring their whole self to the construction projects. The chaplain visits our projects regularly and is able to engage with the workforce. In the past it has been a cause of bemusement or sometimes amazement of why they are there. But the workforce is now familiar with seeing chaplains walking around the site. They add value to our projects, focusing on the wellbeing of the operatives who often discuss those things that matter to the individual, seeking advice on spiritual or general life matters."

Fiona gave Damien the following quote for the article:

"Being a Chaplain wondering around a constructions site has often been a cause of bemusement or sometimes amazement, why am I there! The very first time I was on site, I was asked who had died? I replied, no one, that I come to see the living! In recent years I have begun to see more female construction workers, indeed recently I saw a group of four construction workers and three were women.

As a chaplain I find it is not just about creating an inclusive culture and ticking the box, it is more than that, it is about creating a culture where people can be themselves and talk freely about those things that matter, whether it's their recent divorce, or a daughter telling her dad she is gay, or a son telling his religious dad that he no longer believes in God. Inclusion is also about being able to hold differences and disagreements without them becoming barriers between colleagues or friends and souring the working culture. It might a political disagreement, or one about religion and sexuality for example. As chaplains we can hold that space between people and help them to respect and work effectively together with one another even if in the end there still agree to disagree."