

## IN CONVERSATION WITH THE CHAPLAINCY



### EDITORIAL

As we came into the month of July, many of us were full of anticipation, expectation, and excitement.

For the football fans the nail-biting Euro 2020 football matches, including the England Squad reaching the finals. Yes, and lots of disappointment loosing in penalties. But the England Squad played amazingly well to get this far and there is always the World Cup! But also, well done Italy! And in the true spirit of the game when done all the teams who made it to the final 16, after all we are an international community.

Sadly, there was not only celebration but a darker side of racism behavior. We work in a multinational and multicultural community which is modelled by many working in very diverse teams within their companies. One of the important things about valuing those who are different is to learn from them. As Ibrahim has shared, we do this regularly as a team.

The other great anticipation is 19<sup>th</sup> July, the great unlocking and relaxing of restrictions put in place due to Covid. We are still cautioned to be sensible in our behavior as restrictions are removed. We are aware that many of you, will now begin to return to the Office – the Chaplaincy Team is here ready to welcome you!

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](mailto:talktous@canarywharfchaplaincy.co.uk)

### Ibrahim Mogra writes about the Practice of Scriptural Reasoning

The practice of scriptural reasoning has been going on for many years and people in more and more countries are taking it up. It involves identifying a topic for discussion between people of different religions and selecting short passages from their respective scriptures on the theme of discussion.

Our Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy team has also been engaged in scriptural reasoning since the inaugural session that was conducted by Emeritus Professor David Ford from the Cambridge Inter Faith Programme at the University of Cambridge. On our team, there is representation from Christianity, Judaism and Islam and so the scriptures we use are the New Testament, the Hebrew Bible and the Qur'an.

The point of the whole exercise is to increase our understanding of other scriptures, to find similarities and to explore differences. Sharing my own scriptures with Fiona and Moshe has been a joyful experience and one that makes me feel very proud. At the same time, I have been humbled by their sharing of their scriptures with me. I truly feel privileged and blessed to be learning from them and sharing with them. I have been fascinated by the detail in the New Testament about the names of places and people. I've been thrilled with some of the teachings in the Hebrew Bible that are so similar to those in the Qur'an. As a child, I was taught that Muslims believe in the Tawrah (Torah) and the Injil (Gospels of Jesus) but never got to reading them. Now I'm not only reading them but also learning from them with help from Fiona and Moshe.

We each take it in turns to choose a topic for discussion using our different scriptures. Last month we explored 'Non-Violent Responses to Hatred' and this month we have explored how each faith understands and uses their scriptures. Doing scriptural reasoning together has strengthened our relationships and trust within our team and enrich us in our faiths too!

We hold our sessions once a month and are wondering if others within the business community would like to join us. We usually meet for just over an hour. If you are interested, then please do contact one of the chaplains.