



EDITORIAL

The long winter nights are beginning to draw in, and just a reminder the clocks change on Sunday 31st Oct. The good news is that on Sunday we get an extra hour in bed. But it also signals the beginning of winter, when we see the leaves on the trees change colour and eventually fall, we see the changes. For us in Canary Wharf it signals the arrival of the ice rink and the hours of fun that is to be had, and all the other things we look forward to in winter.

Last month I mentioned some of the changes happening in the chaplaincy team, and this month we give you an opportunity to discover more about Saleha, in an interview she had with Moshe. This month we welcome too two volunteers who will be joining the chaplaincy retail team and they will be with us until July next year.

The Chaplains have also been involved in conversations around the discussion document produced by the Bank of England/PRA/FCA on Diversity and Inclusion, and will be discussing the next Chaplaincy Steering Group with representatives of companies based in Canary Wharf. This is a well timed document especially as October was Black History month. I also had the privilege to attend the Canary Wharf Group event where the speaker was The Rt Hon David Lammy, MP for Tottenham, gave his audience much to think about and reflect on.

I am very aware that COP26 is happening at the end of October, and the leaders of many countries are meeting to produce strategies to tackle climate change. An historic and crucial meeting of world leaders for the future of our planet for generations to come. We all hope that they may share wisdom and insights and generosity as well as compromise as they work together. Meanwhile we can all do our part however small in contributing to protecting the environment in which we work and live.

And finally, the Christian church is about to enter a season of remembrance, beginning on 2nd of November with All Souls day. Which is an opportunity to remember family members and friends who have died either in the last year or much longer ago. Maybe it is more poignant this year, given those of our community who have lost family members, friends or colleagues over the last year or so and not been able to attend their funerals due to Covid restrictions. Whatever you believe, if you might find it helpful to just to light a candle and spend a moment remembering them. *Revd Prebendary Dr Fiona Stewart- Darling*

Interview with Saleha – October Newsletter

Tell us a little about yourself. How did you become a chaplain?

“It was a long journey. I began my Islamic seminary course in 2012. Having spent six years studying theology and Islamic sciences, you could say that I felt there was something missing. Having spent so long in a traditional Islamic setting I felt almost that I was cut off from the world. I was born and brought up here in London, so I felt like I needed to reconnect with society. I felt limited with my skills and this is when I heard about the Christian-Muslim summer school in Oxford and thought that this might be the answer for how I felt. This is where I was able to build a relationship with people of other faiths.

From this I began to work as an NHS chaplain at the Royal London Hospital. In 2018 I visited the Canary Wharf Chaplaincy and it really sparked off my interest and eventually I took a volunteer position with the retail chaplaincy.”

What are the differences between working on the specialised chaplaincy team to the retail tenants and working on the chaplaincy team for the rest of the working community?

“When we returned after Covid, the management structures had all changed in many of the retail outlets, so the we had to start again from scratch building the relationships up. Although there have been many changes in other sectors, the chaplaincy for the general working community is made harder because many people are still working from home which is something the retailers can't do, so there may not be the opportunities to meet in person.”

What is the best part of working as part of a multifaith team?

“I would say definitely the interesting conversations! I think we get to learn from each other – but not just each other. We get to learn about ourselves through engaging with others and how we react to others. It broadens your mind and makes you more accepting of different situations, different people and different faiths. It opens up your mind and I think it makes you a better person. Some of the best friendships that I have developed have been through my multifaith work and I feel that somewhere it is our faith that brings us together. I think it helps you bond. You feel like it's your family outside of your family.”

What do you see as the biggest challenges for people in the coming year and how do you think the chaplaincy can help?

“From my own point of view, it's the uncertainty. We are still surrounded by uncertainty so in terms of what our work-lives will look like and how are family lives are affected. I think you develop an emotional intelligence from your own experiences. I believe we can provide support for all workers – whether retail or corporate. But we can't expect people to open up straight away; it requires effort to build trust with people. It's a bit like saying 'when the student is ready the teacher will appear.' When the person is ready to speak, it will happen.”

Tell us something interesting about you that we don't already know!

“After graduating, one of my lecturers who is a prominent figure in Islamic Law recommended me to a Shariah Council. I was surprised to find that I was the only female judge on the panel. It was quite a unique experience.”

The Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy provides well-being support for everyone who works on the Canary Wharf estate by offering face-to-face and online meetings to help individuals who need guidance. We also offer faith advice to companies and guidance on issues relating to diversity and inclusion.

We are generously supported by the Canary Wharf Group and are free to those individuals who use our services while being fully independent. We treat all our conversations with the strictest of confidence. If you would like to speak to us for an informal chat about what we offer, or to meet with one of the chaplains, please see our website for our [contact details](#) or email talktous@canarywharfchaplaincy.co.uk.

CLIFFORD CHANCE Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy

WEBINAR INVITATION
ETHICS SERIES: FLEXIBLE WORKING AND ITS IMPACT ON THE OFFICE, ITS CULTURE, VALUES AND LEADERSHIP
THURSDAY 30 SEPTEMBER, 5:30PM – 6:30PM BST

The latest session in our Ethics Series is organised in conjunction with the Canary Wharf G30 Conduct and Culture Group and Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy. With panellists drawn from the UK, but suitable for a global audience, we will consider working patterns coming out of the pandemic and the impact on flexible working policies and the long hours culture.

Our expert speakers are:

 PETER CHENE Chief Executive, CFO	 SHIRAH PADMANABHAN Chief Auditor, Europe, Middle East & Africa, CIB	 SHAHAR SCANTLEBURY Partner, Middle Advisory Services, Ermol & Young LLP	 DIANA STEWART-HISE Co-Founder and Development Director, Tinswale Foundation	 ALASTAIR WOODMAN Customer & Partner, Clifford Chance LLP
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Our Ethics Series in partnership with the G30 Conduct and Culture Group took place on Thursday the 30th of September to discuss **"Flexible Working and its Impact on the Office, its Culture and Leadership"** The recording of the panel discussion can be viewed [here](#).

We are delighted to welcome our Retail chaplaincy volunteers, Bhanuka and Sheila. (From left to right: Saleha, Bhanuka, Sheila and Fiona).



UPCOMING FAITH EVENTS IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

October Faith Festivals

- HINDUISM** **21-04 Mahalaya** Marks the beginning of Navratri and Durga Puja.
PAGANISM **31-01 Samhain** Marks the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter.

November Faith Festivals

- CHRISTIANITY** **02 All Souls Day** Commemorates the faithful departed, family members and friends who have died.
- SIKHISM** **04 Bandi Chhor Divas** Commemorates the peaceful release of 52 kings and princes by sixth Sikh Guru (Guru Hargobind) darkness and knowledge over ignorance.
- HINDUISM** **04 Diwali** Festival of lights symbolising the victory of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.
- BAHAI** **06-07 Birth of Bahá'u'lláh** One of the twin founders of the Baha'i faith, who was born in 1817.
- ALL** **07-14 Inter Faith Week** A week to focus on inter faith understanding and cooperation.
- ALL** **14 Remembrance Sunday** Commemorating the contribution of military service people in the two World Wars and later conflicts.
- SHINTO** **15 Shichi-Go-San** Festival celebrating the growth and well-being of young children.
- SIKHISM** **18 Guru Nanak Gururab** Celebrates the birth of the first Sikh guru.
- ISLAM** **19-20 Mawlid** Observance of the birthday of prophet Muhammed.
- BUDDHISM** **19 Sangha Day** Celebration in honour of the Sangha, and a chance for people to reaffirm their commitment to Buddhist practices and traditions.
- SIKHISM** **24 Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur** Commemorates the 9th Sikh guru who undertook the sacrifice for protection of the oppressed.
- BAHAI** **26-27 Day of the Covenant** When Bahá'is celebrate the appointment of `Abdu'l-Bahá as the Centre of Baha'u'llah's Covenant.
- BAHAI** **28 Ascension of `Abdu'l-Bahá** Commemorates the death of `Abdu'l-Bahá.
- CHRISTIANITY** **28 Advent Sunday** The first day of the season of Advent.
- JUDAISM** **29-06 Chanukah** Celebrates the rededication of Jerusalem's Second Temple and the miracle of its menorah, which was kept alight for eight days with one day's oil.