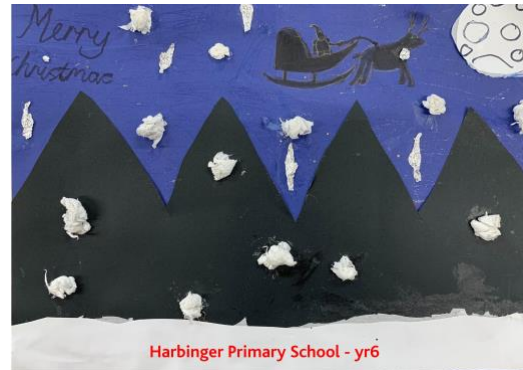


IN CONVERSATION WITH THE CHAPLAINCY



EDITORIAL

Once again, we are delighted that a local primary school on the Isle of Dogs has designed our retail Christmas card. This year it was Harbinger Primary School who submitted 6 designs, one from each year. We chose two winners, one from year 2 and other year 6 which we have shared with you. In the New Year hopefully, we will be welcoming all six children to Canary Wharf to collect their prizes.

It is with great sadness that the chaplaincy team says goodbye to the Revd. Barbara Hume who has led the chaplaincy Retail team since 2018, she is retiring for the second time at the end of December. She has done much to develop the retail team and built lots of relationship with the retail working community. We have asked her to reflect briefly about her time with the team later in this newsletter. We will miss her very much.

The other staffing news is that Naila Salim our chaplaincy trainee completed her probation with us at the end of November and we are delighted that she will continue her two-year trainee programme with the chaplaincy until the end of January 2023. As part of her training programme, we are giving her opportunities to experience chaplaincy in other sectors. Last October she experienced a university chaplaincy and in the New Year she will do a placement at a prison.

The Chaplaincy continues to build new relationship with companies moving into the Wharf, both in helping them to understand the support available to them for their employees in terms of pastoral care and how the team of chaplains can act as faith advisers to companies too.

Generally, many people we have discovered within the office-based community, were beginning to become anxious around mid-November as Covid infection rates in Europe and the other parts of the world have risen. Concern has been about being able to spend time with family and friends at Christmas. The latest announcement by the Prime Minister 'work from home if you can and go to work if you must' has once again created uncertainty but not just for office workers. Those who work in retail, or the food and beverage industry are anxious and concerned too as they need customers to survive. As chaplains, we are very aware of these anxieties and tensions around the Wharf and are still on site to support you all.

As many of us look towards Christmas as a religious festival or just a break from work, we pray that you will stay safe and well and together we hope for a brighter future in 2022.

Revd Prebendary Dr Fiona Stewart- Darling

BARBARA – reflects on her experience as Lead Retail Chaplain



It is with heavy heart that I retire at the end of this year from my role as Lead Retail Chaplain.

I have had a wonderful time in the three and a bit years I have been at Canary Wharf. The role is heavily pastoral and I have dealt with people's issues such as; feeling vulnerable in a foreign land, bereavement, redundancy and mental health concerns, to name but a few. It has taken time and patience to build up relationships with people and so rewarding when I have been trusted and greeted warmly by members of staff. Especially rewarding was to receive calls from staff during the pandemic because they didn't know where else to turn and to be able to listen, then signpost them on to the relevant agencies.

I have also had the pleasure of building and working with a wonderful retail team as well as working with the wider Canary Wharf Chaplaincy team. Working with colleagues of other faiths has brought a depth to my work that I haven't experienced before and has also enhanced my own faith as a Christian Priest.

Canary Wharf is a good place to work. The staff are very professional and a high standard is expected from everyone including the chaplains. The ongoing training sessions on different subjects set up by the Lead Chaplain Fiona Stewart Darling, that myself and my colleagues receive, ensures that we as chaplains are enabled to continue working to that high standard.

I have enjoyed being part of the chaplaincy team and will miss them all terribly, they are a fantastic talented bunch, I will also miss the shops, the buzz of the 'Wharf' and all the staff that work there. I wish you all a blessed Christmas and New Year.



REFLECTION - Moshe reflects on Chanukah at Canary Wharf

We are deeply grateful to the Canary Wharf Group for allowing the Chanukah lights to be displayed in Jubilee Park during the Jewish festival of Chanukah. On the second night of Chanukah, our Jewish chaplain, Rabbi Moshe Freedman joined with Rabbi Ephraim Carlebach (right) from the Jewish community in Greenwich and Docklands area to celebrate Chanukah and light the Chanukah lights together. Rabbi Carlebach provided refreshments for all the participants of hot chocolate and doughnuts - which are traditionally eaten on Chanukah.

COP26 and Scriptural Reasoning

Every month the chaplains take time out to learn together by exploring each other's holy texts - the Hebrew Scriptures, the New Testament, and the Holy Koran. Known as Scriptural Reasoning, we have explored classic theological ideas such as God's covenant with us, Abraham's hospitality, and the idea of Stewardship and taking responsibility for the world in which we live. This helps us to understand other religions and highlights the similarities between our religions. Around COP26 we were enthralled to learn how contemporary issues such as taking care of the environment are discussed universally by our holy texts, all of which contain timeless lessons for all humanity.

Upcoming Faith Events in December and January

December Faith Festivals

Buddhist: 8th December - Bodhi Day Commemorates the day that the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama (Shakyamuni) experienced enlightenment.

Hindu: 14th December - Geeta Jayanti Commemorates the birthday of Bhagvad Gita, the sacred text of Hindu.

Christian: 24th December - Christmas Eve Time for preparation for Christmas.

Christian: 25th December - Christmas Day Commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ and is widely celebrated by the exchanging of gifts

January Faith Festivals

Christian: 6th January – Feast of the Epiphany: The day that commemorates the first manifestation of Jesus to the Gentiles for Christians. It is celebrated on January 6th as it marks 12 days after Christmas when the three kings arrived in Bethlehem.

Christian: 7th January – Coptic Orthodox Christmas: The date that Orthodox Christians celebrate Jesus's birth in the Julian calendar.

Buddhist: 10th January – Bodhi Day: This day celebrates the Buddha's enlightenment; it is celebrated by Mahāyāna Buddhists.

Sikh: 13th January – Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday, the date used to celebrate the tenth Sikh Guru and spiritual master.

Baha'i: 16th January – World Religion Day: A day in the Baha'i faith that celebrates common themes for faiths across the world.

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

#safeplacetochat
#ethicsvaluesfaith
www.canarywharfchaplaincy.co.uk