

This month's editor is
Revd Deacon Wayne O'Reilly



EDITORIAL

The nights are closing in as we enter November. The days may seem shorter, but that has not stopped the Chaplaincy team! We recently held a meeting, where we discussed how we as a team can continue to meet the needs of people working and living on the Canary Wharf estate.

We are delighted to welcome our newest member; Revd Mark Ball is our new Team Leader of the Retail Chaplaincy. Mark has hit the ground running and we have an interview in this newsletter with him. We wish Revd Mark all the very best in his work here at Canary Wharf.

The team continues to build new relationships 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. We always look forward to working with new partners and drawing on our years of experience helping professionals foster a diverse and inclusive workforce.

The chaplaincy work for individual employees also continues, with us offering both online and face-to-face pastoral meetings to all employees. We are here to provide independent and confidential support to all those who work on the Canary Wharf estate who may be experiencing difficulties in their lives.

Just to remind you and your colleagues that our services are free. We offer face-to-face or online opportunities to meet. Just contact us and as far as possible we will see you the same day. We are here for everyone. Our primary concern is to help those who come to us navigate the issues they have, regardless of whether they are part of a faith tradition or not.

CHAT WITH 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! [Talk to us!](#)

SALEHA INTERVIEWS MARK BALL, OUR NEW LEAD RETAIL CHAPLAIN

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

"I studied languages at school, I did French and German and discovered that I enjoyed them and could do them too. At university, languages was the obvious choice of course because I enjoyed learning about other cultures. I continued with French and German and also took up Spanish. I worked in retail for four years after university, before studying theology and training as a priest with the Church of England. I worked in parishes in Lancashire, Essex and Kent, before taking a three-month sabbatical. I chose to volunteer teaching English in Colombia – an exciting adventure that gave me a love for the country, and for teaching English too. I really enjoyed helping people see the value of learning English and helping them grow in confidence."

"Teaching English - and doing the job as a person of faith - allowed me to learn more about people and their context, and to understand the reasons they were learning the language. This allowed me to communicate passion and encourage people to connect and develop, not only with English, but with themselves. Language forms and shapes us, and deeply."

"After returning for a couple of years to complete the work in the parish in Canterbury, I trained to teach English professionally and went back to Colombia. I taught business English in the workplace and students at university. I had planned to stay for one year, but ended up staying for two! Finances and visas meant staying longer was not possible, and so I started looking for jobs back home in the UK. The one I ended up getting was Lead Chaplain at Bluewater in Kent, where I served for nearly four years before coming here."

What does chaplaincy mean to you?

It is learning about the reality of people's lives and developing meaningful connection. Religion is not about being in a bubble, but about learning from the experience and wisdom of those who have gone before us, as we find our place and make our way in the world. We can only do that authentically in relationship with everyone else trying to do the same. Chaplaincy is about being a good neighbour.

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

Life's challenges are always the same – different situations present themselves throughout different stages of our life. We get caught up in our present challenges and can lose perspective. Perspective is where faith and spirituality can sometimes help.

What are you looking forward to most with working as part of a multi-faith team?

I am looking forward to finding out what multifaith looks like at the Wharf and to exploring what it is like working alongside people of other faiths with the shared intention of encouraging wellbeing with the working community.

FAITH FESTIVALS – NOVEMBER

CHRISTIAN Nov 1- All Saints Day
CHRISTIAN Nov 2- All Souls Day
HINDU Nov 8 - Kartik Poonima
SIKH Nov 8 – Guru Nanak Birthday
ARMISTICE DAY 11 November
CHRISTIAN Nov 27- Start of Advent

INTERFAITH WEEK 12-20 Nov

The aims of the week are to:

1. strengthen good interfaith relations at all levels.
2. increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbours and to the wider society.
3. increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.

