

IN CONVERSATION WITH THE CHAPLAINCY

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Canary Wharf
Multifaith Chaplaincy

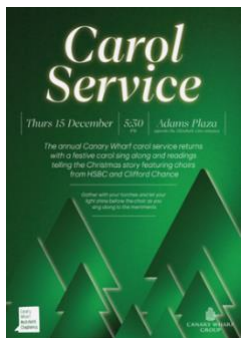
This month's editor is
Shaykh Ibrahim Mogra



This year's retail Christmas card comes from Yr 6, Mayflower Primary School.

EDITORIAL

It has been wonderful to be joined by our new colleague, Mark, and to get to know him and tell him all about us and our work and interests. We are looking forward to working together. The decorations and Christmas trees are all up and the sales are in full swing. As we walk around the stores hoping to bag a bargain, let us remember the true significance of this time of the year for Christians in particular, but also for Muslims who hold Jesus and his virgin mother Mary very dear to their hearts. Wishing everyone who will be celebrating, a merry Christmas and a happy new year.



Canary Wharf Carol Service this year features choirs from HSBC and Clifford Chance and takes place outside in Adams Plaza:

Thursday 15 Dec, 5.30pm

Music as we gather will be by the Salvation Army.

FAITH FESTIVALS – DECEMBER

CHRISTIAN 8th Dec Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

JEWISH 19th - 26th Dec Hanukah

SIKH 21st Dec Martyrdom of Sahibzada Ajit Singh and Sahibzada Jujhar Singh

CHRISTIAN 25th Dec Christmas Day

ZOROASTRIAN 26th Dec Zartosht No Diso

SIKH 26th Dec Martyrdom of Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh

BUDDHIST 31st Dec Bodhi Day

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!](#)



INTERVIEW WITH CAROLANNE MINASHI BY IBRAHIM MOGRA

Carolanne Minashi is the Global Head of Inclusion at HSBC. She came to know about the Canary Wharf Chaplaincy during its early days when with D&I at Citi. Fiona, then the only chaplain, approached her and told her about the work and support that was available to everyone, whether of faith or none. Carolanne thought it was a brilliant support mechanism to have which she described as the “4th emergency service”:

“We have more than 120,000 people working here... they come with all their different kinds of issues, whatever is going on at home or at work. So, from an employer or HR perspective you are dealing largely with problems to do with their work life but not delving into their homelife. Chaplaincy gives a different dimension and not everyone wants to use corporate support structures. The work of chaplaincy is highly individualised and tends to be one-on-one support. This makes it almost invisible. More advertising brings the challenge of capacity with it, but it would be good because chaplaincy is the best kept secret on the estate.”

What do you have to say to the people on the Estate?

“To the individual I'd say the chaplaincy provides valuable support where you will get gentleness - and it's for everyone. It's not trying to follow anyone's HR rule book. It's there just to serve people who are in need at the point of need.”

What do you have to say to the corporate sector?

“From a corporate perspective chaplaincy has helped me by providing great quality guidance and advise. That's everything from needing a technical answer on a particular faith tradition and answers to legitimate questions that I need to have the right answer for. It has also helped me think about how to blend faith and belief into a diversity and inclusion strategy. It fits really well there. And there is a hesitance and reticence to put that in, unlike other strands of diversity like gender or ethnicity or LGBTQ, these are protected characteristics that you are familiar dealing with whereas faith and belief is slightly more difficult for big organisations to get their head around. So, chaplaincy has really helped me explore that with peers and employees and leaders. The heart of chaplaincy is the pastoral care it gives individuals but it also offers interesting support to people who are in professional leadership or HR jobs.”

How important do you think chaplaincy is?

“I think it would be a very good idea to include the chaplaincy in all emergency contacts lists. Chaplaincy has been critical especially in sad incidents involving deaths. During those very difficult times, the presence of the chaplaincy in the room during bereavement was extremely helpful. Chaplaincy was there not only in the immediacy of the bereavement but for months after.”

What's your vision for the future of chaplaincy?

“I want to see chaplaincy to be a long term sustainable enduring aspect of the wharf. I worked on the wharf before moving to the heart of the City. When I asked for a chaplain, there wasn't one. This was a real wake up call for me of how this very valuable, beautiful thing that happens on the Wharf is crucial. I don't think we realise how lucky we are. And I really missed not having somebody that I could pick up the phone to. I think it's something to be treasured and protected and I don't want it to be taken for granted. So, what I want is a sustainable long-term plan for chaplaincy because it really does offer something that I think is very special. I've seen the Wharf develop and there's clearly lot of care and investment put into the growing cultural agenda of the Wharf, but we mustn't lose sight of what chaplaincy can do to support.”

Thank you to Carolanne for her time!