

IN CONVERSATION WITH THE CHAPLAINCY

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Canary Wharf
Multifaith Chaplaincy



This month's editor is
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EDITORIAL

Today marks the end of the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week, a celebration of unity in diversity and respect between people of all faiths. Members of the chaplaincy were delighted to take part in multifaith events within companies celebrating this. The aim of this week was to promote mutual understanding and inter-religious dialogue to constitute important dimensions of a culture of peace. Recently we witnessed the most exquisite display of illuminations, the hugely popular Canary Wharf Winter Lights which drew in people from all different cultures and backgrounds, thereby promoting a culture of peace. It was truly an inspirational sight to see the long January nights lit up in the most impressive manner. What a perfect way to combat the January blues.

We have plenty more to look forward to as Valentine's Day approaches next week. Many people will be thinking of their loved ones and engaging in loving gestures towards each other. Some may even be considering taking the next step in their relationship which can be a life changing decision. If you are one of those people then come and speak to us, we are here to support you in your happy moments as well as in your challenging ones. If you would find this helpful the chaplaincy offers marriage preparation. We also have many faith celebrations approaching us this month which symbolise the coming of spring, light, life, renewal, and hope.

Some of us may also be occupied in planning for the International Women's Day in March, a global day to recognise and celebrate women's and girls' social, economic, cultural, and political achievements. Evidently, we find celebratory achievements from female role models here in Canary Wharf itself. As Chaplains we recognise the importance of these events in the business community and would be delighted to support you in any way we can - so reach out to us. It is events such as these which create awareness of the continuous hard work and the progress being made towards achieving gender equality, inclusion and diversity in the workplace.

In this edition we continue with our series of interviews, about how individuals and companies value the chaplaincy service. Fiona meets Steve Kerr, a Security Duty Manager from CWG

INTERVIEW WITH STEVE KERR BY FIONA STEWART-DARLING

Steve Kerr grew up in Glasgow. Before he joined CWG security team he was in the army and saw five tours of Northern Ireland. He has been a Security Duty Manager for many years; indeed, I have known Steve for many of them.

Steve, what do you like about working in Security in Canary Wharf?

"I started with the group at the very early stage of the estate build. What I like most is the people I have been privileged to meet and become friends with over the years. This is closely followed by the sense of achievement. We have gone from an old piece of waste docklands to a bustling community serving London and the UK".

Steve, why do think the chaplaincy team is important for the security team?

"It is really good that the Chaplains are always on the estate, visible and often seen around - people know who they are. They are friendly and easy to chat to. They are just happy to chit chat, with no agenda. They do not push religion down people's throats. When there is an incident, we call them and they will come immediately, it does not matter which member of the team, or what religion - they are just happy to come to be with the security team, quietly supporting, listening, happy for team members to off load on them. Having someone on hand to chat to after an incident is helpful, knowing that's it safe to talk without feeling judged about how they feel, when perhaps they might feel uncomfortable telling colleagues. Then the person can go back to work with a sense of support and the knowledge that someone is always there for them. The chaplains will also keep a gentle eye on someone they might be concerned about - following them up but in a gentle kind of way."

How important do you think chaplaincy is?

"It is good to have a diverse chaplaincy team, as more than ever the security team is very diverse. The CWG values are important - and it is important that staff freely align with these values. That motivates the security team, as we all have this bond and belief in shared values. The chaplains are always around the estate; you can arrange to have a cup of tea or coffee with them, or just wait until you bump into them. They always have time.

The security team are trained in customer care, putting the customer first and learning to calm situations down, being helpful directing visitors - but also, they are there to ensure the estate is a safe place. They now come from a variety of backgrounds, police, military, civilian etc. It is important to know that there is always someone on hand to support and care for them who is independent from their managers - that they can be called on whenever.

The CW estate would be poorer without the presence of the Chaplaincy team. This was seen in NY after 9/11. The small church that survived was a hub for all faiths to gather and support the city response."

FAITH FESTIVALS - FEBRUARY

CHRISTIAN 2nd Feb Candlemas
SHINTO TO 3rd Feb Setsubun
JEWISH 6th Feb Tu B'Shevat
BUDDHISM 15th Feb Parinirvana
ISLAM 18th Feb Isra and Mi'raj
HINDU 18th Feb Maha Shivaratri
HINDU 21st Feb Birthday of Sri Ramakrishna.
CHRISTIAN 22nd Feb Ash Wednesday
BAHA'I 25th Feb -1st Mar Ayyám-i-Há Intercala



[REGISTER HERE for](#)

PANEL DISCUSSION: ETHICS SERIES ON LEADERSHIP & CULTURE

"Can culture survive in times of turmoil?"

Thurs 9th Feb, 5:15pm - Clifford Chance, 10 Upper Bank Street

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!](#)