

IN CONVERSATION WITH THE CHAPLAINCY

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Canary Wharf
Multifaith Chaplaincy



This month's editor: [Fiona Stewart-Darling](#)

Chat with a Chaplain

We are always available to catch up, either in person or virtually

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Editorial

As I write this editorial, it is clear the warm sunshine has arrived, which always lifts my spirits, and I hope is lifting yours too. Some of you who have children may have just enjoyed a half term break and maybe have been away on holiday. We have had our first BBQs of the year - summer is on the way!

May was a busy and interesting month. It was Mental Health Awareness month, and the chaplaincy was asked to contribute to an article by a Financial Journalist, from Fund Europe. We supported the Canary Wharf Contractors' week of activities around mental health (see Dean Whitworth's piece below). The BBC approached us and interviewed Ibrahim and me for a programme that went out on [Radio 4 on 22 May](#), looking at faith in the workplace and the role of chaplaincy.

This month we look forward to interviewing for a new Jewish Chaplain, so watch this space. We are also partnering with The Global Ethical Finance Initiative (GEFI), which Barclays has kindly offered to host. We will be discussing 'Our latest Radical Old Idea', exploring what we might learn from once-dominant faith perspectives that prioritised ethics above commercial imperatives. It is a hybrid event taking place on Thursday 22 June. [Register here!](#)

Chaplaincy is known for pastoral care, support and faith advice to both individuals and companies. But we also facilitate a number of networks across the Wharf, many of which have been running for some years. I have invited participants to write reflections on two of them, the G30Conduct and Culture interest group, and the Canary Wharf Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Forum. During Covid we also facilitated a forum for Heads of Human Resources, enabling them to share the challenges of managing a workforce during the pandemic and good practices and then managing bringing people back into the office. There are a number of faith-based networks including the Faith and Work Forum which has tried to equip managers to reflect on how their faith influences good culture, ethics and values in the workplace. There is also Chaplaincy Steering Group comprising of some of the major tenants on the Wharf: Barclays, Citi, Clifford Chance, Deutsche Bank, HSBC, JP Morgan, KPMG, Morgan Stanley, State Street and Northern Trust.

As summer gets underway, we hope that for your good mental wellbeing that you enjoy time away from your desks and places of work! And don't forget our [weekly podcasts](#).

Mental Health Awareness Week - Dean Whitworth

This is the second time that we have run the exercise week at Wood Wharf during the national Mental Health week for the mental health charity Mind.

When people physically exert themselves for work there is very little enjoyment in it, however what I witnessed during the week was although people were really pushing hard, they were enjoying it, it's about oxygenating the brain, meeting others, the competitive nature comes out in many, but no one left disappointed just pleasantly exhausted! This gave a couple of teams a chance to take part together affording team bonding and comradery to build.

Having the chaplaincy team turn up and be available is very beneficial because it shows the workforce that there are people who they can approach if they want to chat.

Dean Whitworth (Senior Health & Safety Manager, Canary Wharf Contractors)



G30 Conduct and Culture Interest Group - Kate Gibbons



In 2016 I attended a conference at Queen Mary College about the G30 Conduct and Culture Report, which had some wonderful speakers, including the marvellous Baroness Onora O'Neill, one of the world's leading philosophers. Less well known to me was Fiona Stewart-Darling, of the Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy, but that was not to last long, because after this meeting, in true Fiona fashion, she brought her energy and drive to bear, introduced herself and asked if I would like to join a forum, she was forming to keep the report's flame alive in Canary Wharf. Her plan was to draw together those attendees at the Queen Mary meeting who hailed from Canary Wharf with a view to founding a group which, through its work and activities would help keep under discussion the important issues raised at the conference and keep the precepts of the paper under consideration in the minds of the occupants of Canary Wharf.

Seven years later the group is still going strong. It has participants from major businesses on the Wharf including banks (HSBC, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank, Barclays, Citi), and professional services firms (KPMG, EY, Clifford Chance). Its major focus is on convening audiences from across the Wharf to consider issues of ethics in business. We have upwards of one hundred in the audience for these events - including during Covid. Speakers have included Andrew Bailey (Governor of the Bank of England), Professor Alex Edmans (London School of Business), Susan Liataud (Chair of LSE), and Hana Searson (Global Head of Culture at Citi).

We also held a joint event with the Royal Navy entitled, 'Making Decisions in the Crucible'. The sessions are thought provoking and appeal to a wide range and demographic of audiences and occupations centred on the Wharf. Often our speakers have a faith background, but not necessarily and this provides a diversity of viewpoints and a stimulating debate. The Chaplaincy has provided a wellspring of support and contacts and ensures that despite the mercantile nature of the occupations of many of those working at Canary Wharf, they are afforded the opportunity to look beyond their desks and consider how that work may fit within an ethical construct. This is such a valuable role in an age where so many important moral issues confront us - from Generative AI to new ways of working and how we can support the next generations in to the workplace post COVID. I thank Fiona and the team for having made all this possible.

Kate Gibbons (Partner, Clifford Chance)

Canary Wharf Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Forum - Nina Goswami on behalf of members of the Forum

Fiona initiated the forum with Pauline Miller, Head of D&I at State Street around 2007, although Pauline left the Wharf in 2020, the forum has continued to flourish.

We very much value this forum as it is very different from other groups dealing with these issues. The group meets under the Chatham House rule of confidentiality, which creates a safe space to confer with direct competitors without fear that conversation will be shared. The forum creates space for honest, open and transparent conversations that is not available elsewhere for best practise to be shared. It offers support and is helpful to know other ED&I people on the Wharf are trying to tackle similar issues. We also appreciate that the discussions are wide ranging in topics and not just those associated with faith or religious practice. The Forum provides the opportunity for people to network and discover best practice outside their own industries which can often bring a different perspective.

For us it is important that Chaplaincy facilitates the Forum because the Chaplaincy provides the neutral glue that holds the space, they can move easily and sit comfortably across different industries and types of organisations. They can provide a helicopter view, they are able to put people in touch with those who are facing similar challenges, linking people with common challenges so we can tackle these together.

Nina Goswami (Head of Inclusion UK, Clifford Chance)

Faith Festivals - June

Buddhism	4	Chokor
Christianity	4	Pentecost (Orthodox)
Christianity	8	Corpus Christi
Sikhism	16	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev
Hinduism	19/20	Ratha Yatra
Paganism	21	Midsummer Solstice
Islam	26	Beginning of Hajj
Islam	29	First day of Eid-al-Adha
Christianity	29	Saints Peter and Paul

