

IN CONVERSATION WITH THE CHAPLAINCY

October 2023 Vol 6:10

Canary Wharf
Multifaith Chaplaincy



This month's editor: Revd Wayne O'Reilly

Chat with a Chaplain

We are always available, face-to-face, by phone, or online

020 7477 1073



Scan to follow!

October is often seen as a time of change; the seasons change as we leave behind summer and enter into Autumn. Time changes as the clocks go back and we gain an extra hour in bed. Likewise, the chaplaincy team has seen a change as we welcomed Rabbi Jeremy Lawrence to the team, whose interview forms part of this newsletter. Though not part of the Chaplaincy team we also welcome Fr Andrew Bowden who will celebrate the weekly Tuesday Catholic mass on the wharf.

On the Wharf itself Congratulations goes to one of our Steering Group members Gerard Voogt (Head of Commercial Management, KPMG) who overcame his fear and safely abseiled down the KPMG building to raise money for Marie Curie. Also, this past month we have another in our series of Panel conversation, which will be reviewed in this edition.

We are looking forward to Black history month in October, team members would be delighted to receive invites to any events you may have planned.

Also, a reminder that interfaith week is coming up in November



Interview with Rabbi Jeremy Lawrence

Rabbi Jeremy welcome to the multi-faith team here at Canary Wharf, can you tell us a little bit about yourself? I am delighted to be here thankyou Wayne and working with the team. I have spent the last 25 years running synagogues as an Orthodox Rabbi in Australia, New Zealand and here in London.



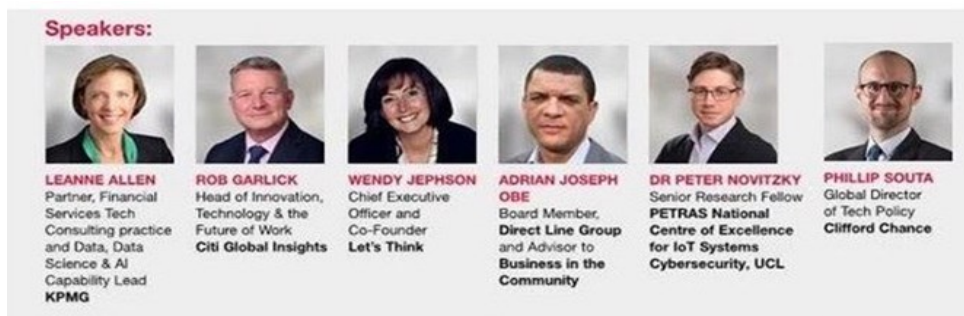
I understand Rabbi Jeremy there are some important festivals coming up with the Faith could you explain what they are? We have just had the Jewish New Year and year of atonement which are two of the most solemn days of the year and we about too at the end of this week enter into Sukkot, the festival of booths also known as tabernacles which on one level commemorates the Jews in the wilderness travelling from Egypt where protected by God in booths, but that is also a metaphor for our vulnerability in this world. So, we do quite literally move our houses and living into to shacks(booths) with a lattice roof through the rain can fall, the purpose of which is to remind us of our own vulnerability in this world. We take our meals, and some people take their beds out and your supposed to do your work in this booth (sukkot)as a way of showing our exposure and that God is our ultimate protector. At the end of this festival, we have the festivals of Shmini Atzeret and Simchat Torah, which are a conclusion to the festive season. Simchat Torah is the day where we commemorate the and begin it again completing the reading of the Torah in its annual cycle and begin it again. I think one of the wonderful messages in that is the idea just as you come to a closing chapter in life, another one begins.

What challenges do we think we face as a multifaith team which are maybe specific to working at Canary Wharf? The work of chaplaincy team covers all people working and living on the estate and that has its various challenges. As regards to the cooperate sector, one of the challenges is bringing faith values and religious and ethical basis into what is a challenging environment, where the working environment can often seem to be cut-throat . As a chaplaincy team I think we are there sometimes to mellow the ethos and bring comfort to the people through the ethics and values we share.

Our latest panel conversation.

The theme was "Applied ethics and Generative AI: Challenges and prospects for businesses"

It was organised in conjunction with the Canary Wharf G30 Conduct and Culture Group (which is comprises of members from Clifford Chance, HSBC, KPMG, Credit Suisse, EY, Citi and Barclays) and Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy. The panel focused on how to get the best out of the new technology given the various ethical challenges it presents around accuracy, consistency, plagiarism, breach of copyright, data privacy and confidentiality, deep fakes, cyber- attacks, hallucinations and inherent bias. They also began to explore the impact it might have on future generations, and the ethical implications of the changes that AI may bring on society.



As you can imagine this was a broad ranging topic and covered much ground. The panel conversation was recorded and once the speakers have agreed they are happy with the final version, it will be incorporated in a Blog on our website for those of you who missed it can listen to the discussion.

Just to give you two things I took away from the conversation were, the huge question of what kind of society do we want to live in, and secondly, I struck by the comment that 'Algol plus humans will always outperform Algol or human solely'.

Black History Month.

October has been designated as black history month. Black communities have made significant contributions to civilization in the kingdoms of Mali, Nubia, and Egypt, to name a few examples. The modern world also has benefited from the rich and diverse contributions of black people in the field of science, medicine, philosophy, art, literature, education, music, sports, business, and politics.

In the field of philosophy, art, and literature we can think of influential figures like Frantz Fanon, Cornel West, Toni Morrison and Maya Angelou. Through their words they have fostered dialogue, challenged colonisation and societal norms, and inspired millions.

In the field of medicine, Dr. Patricia Bath, a pioneering ophthalmologist, developed laser cataract surgery.

In music, the likes of Nina Simone, Marvin Gaye and Bob Marley reshaped popular culture and inspired significant social change through their thought-provoking lyrics which ignited movements and gave a voice to the voiceless.

Brave people defied racial discrimination and fought against it. Look at the civil rights movement and the role of Martin Luther King Jr, Rosa Parks and Malcolm X whose courage and perseverance continue to inspire activists around the world in their pursuit of equal rights for all. Nelson Mandela's spirit of reconciliation, forgiveness and peace is an inspiration for generations to come.



October Faith Festivals

2nd October Gandhi Jayanti

6th October Shemin Atzert

7th October Simchat Torah

22nd October Durgashtami

22nd -24 October Dussehra/Vijaya