

IN CONVERSATION WITH THE CHAPLAINCY

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Canary Wharf
Multifaith Chaplaincy



This month's editor: The Team

Chat with a Chaplain

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

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Time of Reflection at Barclays

The Barclays Multifaith network invited us to help them to plan and take part in an event called *A Time of Reflection*. Its purpose was to bring a sense of hope, comfort, support, closure and healing to those who grieve the loss of loved ones, friends and colleagues. Contributions were made from several faiths: Christian (Fiona), Muslim (Ibrahim), Jeremy (Jewish) and Sikh and Hindu Barclays colleagues. It was a privilege to hear from other faith traditions and the event gave a real sense of respect and support.

This was a hybrid event - many Barclays colleagues joined from around the UK. Afterwards there was a sense that this should be repeated, and participants might tell their own stories of their

Ibrahim explains the practice of Scriptural Reasoning.

The chaplaincy team has been doing scriptural reasoning together for a few years. It involves identifying a discussion topic and using short passages from our respective scriptures as a basis for discussion. The aim is to increase our understanding of other scriptures, find similarities and explore differences.



SCRIPTURAL
REASONING

On our team, there is representation from Judaism, Christianity and Islam, so the scriptures we use are the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, and the Qur'an. Recently Saleha and I were sharing passages from the Qur'an with Fiona from the Bible, and Jeremy from the Torah, though all the team is involved in the discussions and people take turns to lead.

I have been fascinated by the detail in the New Testament about the names of places and people and excited to learn about some of the teachings in the Hebrew Bible that are so similar to those in the Qur'an. As a child, I was taught that Muslims believe in the Tawrah (Torah) and the Injil (Gospels of Jesus) but never got to reading them. Now I'm not only reading them but also learning from them with help from my Christian and Jewish colleagues. It is a joyful experience, and one that makes us all feel very proud.

We hold our sessions once a month and may extend sessions to others in Canary Wharf. Watch this space for news about that!



Saleha reflects on Interfaith Week activities.

Interfaith week aims to celebrate religious diversity and strengthen ties between communities of differing or no faiths, religions and ways of life. The Chaplaincy team often helps companies think through what kind of activities they might like to do in Interfaith Week. This year a number of companies held events within the week.

This year the Chaplaincy team was invited to join activities Morgan Stanley, organised by the Faith forums. The event encouraged learning and understanding through conversations with people of different faiths and no faiths. Food provided by the Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and Christian faith forums were very colorfully displayed, drawing people in to celebrate and inviting them to ask questions about the events of the week.

The event provided a fantastic network opportunity for people working at Morgan Stanley, as well as between the Chaplaincy team and Morgan Stanley. Contact details were exchanged, and the possibility of future events was discussed.

Through the valuable relationships formed in Morgan Stanley we have been able to support other interfaith and faith forum events. For example, this year I was guest speaker for a panel discussion titled *Developing spiritual resilience in Islam* organised by the Muslim Faith Forum at Morgan Stanley. The event was open to people of all faiths or none. I talked about how primary and secondary trauma can affect us in everyday life. Primary trauma comes from direct experience, while secondary trauma can come from many sources, such as someone who has experienced primary trauma, social media or graphic news reports.

Many people shared personal experiences. I hope we can continue to provide safe spaces for important conversations like this in the business community.



Diwali at Clifford Chance

The Diwali celebrations held in Clifford Chance were certainly colourful, with food, wonderful Lassi to drink, music and dancing. It was an eye opener to discover that while Hindus, Sikhs and Jains all celebrate Diwali they do so for different reasons.

For Hindus the holiday symbolises the return of Prince Rama of Ayodhya with his wife, Sita, and brother, Lakshman, from a 14-year-long exile and a war in which Prince Rama stood victorious. People of Ayodhya lit lamps along the way to light their path in the darkness. To Jains Diwali is the day when the last of the Jain Tirthankaras, Lord Mahavira, attained nirvana, also known as complete knowledge and enlightenment. Lord Mahavira established the dharma followed by the Jains worldwide. For Sikhs, Diwali is a story of the struggle for freedom. It celebrates the victory of the sixth guru, Guru Hargobind, from the designs of Emperor Jahangir, who, in 1619, imprisoned him and 52 other princes. Guru Hargobind refused to leave the prison for freedom until he was able to bring all of the princes with him.

Thank you Clifford Chance for a great evening of celebration.

Chanukah—What's happening on the Wharf

Fiona was recently at an early Chanukah event at Clifford Chance. She found the one of the speeches made inspiring and we quote part of it here.

“The Festival of Lights reminds us that Chanukah is not only a story of courage, faith and resilience, but also hope and the triumph in the light over darkness. This is particularly apposite to us all at this time given the current events in the Middle East. Chanukah also reminds us, as humans of our responsibility to share our light with others, bringing warmth and happiness to those around us, and contributing to and supporting our society.

We are part of a diverse community that spans across continents and cultures. So we take much pleasure in learning from each other so we can work together to do what we can to build a fairer, more united society. Uniting through diversity is the heart of our approach to our people and our community. So let us reflect on how we can use our talents and light to support each other and our wider communities in these difficult times.”

Thanks go to Clifford Chance for permission to reproduce this quote.

As usual many of the companies will have their own Chanukah celebrations as usually this year. Also as has become the tradition over the years there will be a Menorah in Jubilee Park. The Chaplains wish our Jewish colleagues and friends “Hanukkah sameach!”



Christmas - What's happening on the Wharf?

Those of you who remember the annual Canary Wharf Candles and Candles Services and looked forward to them as part of your Christmas Celebrations, will have noticed this has not taken place for a few years.

However, we are excited about the new format for the Canary Wharf Carol Service which we began last year. This is an outdoor event still with a combined choir and the band of the Salvation Army.

Do join us - [Tue 12th December, 5pm in Adam's Plaza between One Canada Square and Cross Rail.](#)



Coming up in our next issues

- Looking forward to the New Year with chaplaincy
- What you might hear in our podcasts
- A feature on fasting in different faiths (Ramadan begins in March)
- What are distinctly human traits AI can't replicate?

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Fancy a coffee and a chat?

All it takes is a quick call. A chaplain will meet you the same day, whenever and wherever you feel most comfortable, for a coffee and a chat – or if that feels like too much, online, by messaging, or via email. [Contact a chaplain.](#)