

Canary Wharf
Multifaith Chaplaincy



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In conversation with the Chaplaincy

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WELCOME

from the editors: Saleha Islam
Bukhari and Mark Ball

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Our 20th birthday celebrations continue in this edition with articles focusing on multifaith collaboration on the Wharf – and the launch of our anniversary logo!

CHAT WITH A CHAPLAIN - 020 7477 1073

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



News

Anniversary Logo

Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy is grateful to the team at Comms Crowd for helping us celebrate our landmark twentieth anniversary with a wonderful new logo for the year!

Featuring our distinctive trademark colour scheme, the logo will be appearing on our website and in all our marketing and correspondence throughout this celebratory year.

Editorial

Multifaith collaboration

In our often fractured and polarizing world, cooperation and collaboration that bridges division and builds peace stands out as a sign of hope, write **Saleha Islam Bukhari** and **Mark Ball**.

Charlie Chaplin said of religion: 'It has given people hope in a world torn apart by religion.' Humour is one way we can shed light on things that need challenging and disrupting, not least our habitual human tendency towards narrow-mindedness and self-righteousness. But the irony in Chaplin's rebuke is powerfully painful.

It will always be easier and more convenient to separate ourselves into 'them and us', to focus on distinction and division. It may well at times even be necessary. Whenever we do so, however, we reduce ourselves, as well as the other, to less than we can be.

As well as our tendency to close off and to shut down, we each have an innate, expansive capacity to be open to that which is other than ourselves, different from our own experience, beyond our current understanding.

Finding creative, practical, and meaningful ways of enabling faith perspectives to impact positively and constructively in our worlds of work - and beyond - is a challenge we can choose to rise to.

In this April-May edition, as many amongst us celebrate the major festivals of Easter, Eid-ul-Fitr, and Passover - we have chosen to highlight some of the collaborative signs of hope shining brightly here in this little microcosm of global diversity that is Canary Wharf.

Feature

Working together as a multifaith team

We asked some of our chaplaincy team colleagues to reflect on the joys and challenges of working in multifaith collaboration, in what **Fiona Stewart-Darling** describes as 'sharing in the privilege of chaplaincy together': 'Working with people of other faiths is a journey of discovery and generous hospitality. Holding on to the integrity of our own faiths whilst working together as a team enables us to draw on our individual traditions in sharing in the privilege of chaplaincy together.'

Newest team member **Jeremy Lawrence** highlights the advantage of working together rather than adopting a more piecemeal alternative: 'A multifaith team enables a holistic approach to attend to the Estate as an organic whole, rather than approaching spiritual and welfare issues on a faith-by-faith basis. Collective faith literacy is enhanced through collaborative endeavours, learning from each other, developing sensitivity and respect, and building bonds of understanding.'

Ibrahim Mogra points out that it is often joyful, but not always easy: 'I enjoy asking colleagues about their religions and community roles. Sharing my own beliefs and practices, I get a lot of satisfaction knowing that I have helped them understand Islam and Muslims better. Global politics can present challenges, but we respectfully listen to one another, even if sometimes agreeing to disagree.'

Focusing on mutual learning, **Wayne O'Reilly** concludes: 'It is important to have an accurate, well-informed idea about religious traditions that affect our lives. We have a great deal to learn from one another. Listening and responding with openness and respect we can acknowledge differences but build on shared hopes and values.'





Guest Writer

Supporting Faith Forums

As Co-Chair of the EMEA Muslim Faith Forum at Morgan Stanley, I have had the pleasure of working with the Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy on multiple occasions over the last few years. We have invited members of the Chaplaincy to talk on a variety of topics ranging from the importance of Ramadan, introducing Interfaith Week, the impact of climate change, and topics related to race and diversity. The discussions have explored these topics through the lens of faith, writes **Romana Malik**, Head of EMEA Risk Reporting.

The process of working with the Chaplaincy has always been very straightforward. We typically set up an initial call to discuss the involvement we would like from them, and we set our expectation with them. We have always found this process very easy as the members are fully trained and most importantly understand the professional corporate culture. Our Muslim Faith Forum operates within a diverse workplace and our intention is always to be as inclusive as we can with our message.

The members of the Chaplaincy are very knowledgeable in their respective fields and have come to our firm to talk about topics on a variety of subjects. They are always very well prepared and spend time organising their message. They are a pleasure to work with!

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Chaplaincy team members will gladly discuss how we can help support your Faith Forum - or assist you in setting one up! Contact us [here](#).



Guest Writer

Faith and Belief at HSBC

At the start of 2024, HSBC created a global Employee Resource Group (ERG) for Faith and Belief, explains **Carolanne Minashi**, Group Head of Diversity and Inclusion.

HSBC supports ERGs across our global business connected to a variety of Diversity and Inclusion topics. Prior to the establishment of this new group, we had more than 3,000 colleagues engaged in various faith and belief groups.

Whereas the different faith groups are diverse, there is also much that unifies them. By bringing the groups together, we create governance to our disparate groups, amplify the voices of colleagues' lived experience, and establish a connecting force for interfaith collaboration.

Global ERG leaders are a sounding board, a partner, and a critical friend. Their insight and support around complex issues informs all areas of the business in advancing our inclusion agenda. It is often in times of crisis that their impact is really felt. When time is not your friend, it is invaluable to have a group of colleagues that can provide specialist insight and support.

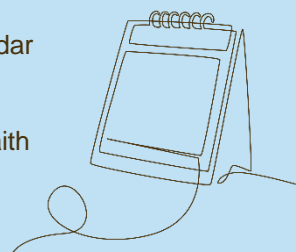
Faith is considered personal. However, it is also an integral part of some people's identity and can codify the clothes they wear, the food they eat, and their way of approaching life and work and interacting with each other and the world.

This new group will foster a culture of authentic and sincere religious inclusion and help create a healthier and more productive workforce, enabling HSBC to stand out as a bank committed to fostering an inclusive environment.

Celebrating faith on the Wharf

For the 2023/2024 Faith Festivals Calendar [follow the link](#)

For activities in the Canary Wharf Multifaith Prayer Room [check here](#)





Meet the team

Chaplaincy Retail Volunteers

The Chaplaincy engages well with those working in the shops and service outlets, cafes, restaurants and bars that are such a vital dimension to life on the Wharf.

Working with Lead Retail Chaplain Mark Ball in this well received and much appreciated ministry of attentive listening and wellbeing support is our wonderful team of volunteers: Bhanuka (l), Naima (c), and Jan (r).

From different local faith communities, their particular faith perspectives motivate them to volunteer several hours a week - but they simply relate to everyone 'human to human'.

They agree that it feels good - and important - to be serving their diverse neighbours at work as a diverse team modelling a way of being and doing together.

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Contact the retail chaplains [here](#).

Coming up in our next issue

- 20th anniversary celebrations
- Reflections from past team members
- Humanity in the light of AI

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If you would like to receive our newsletters, or read past editions, Please click [here](#).



Matt Grayson


Feature

The Tailor of Canary Wharf

Over the past few years, we have had the great pleasure of getting to know Ray Roberts, Master Tailor, and Manager at English Tailoring for an amazing 25 years! Ray, who has been tailoring for 60 years, had walked through Saville Row as a fourteen-year-old and whilst peering through the windows had thought to himself: 'One day I'd love to be able to do that!' All these years later he has certainly proved to be true to himself! Ray's passion in tailoring won him an apprenticeship at Hector Powe, one of the oldest family-owned fashion houses in London where he met English Tailoring founder, Stephen Williams. The rest, as we say, is history.

As Ray approaches his much-deserved retirement this year, we are sad to be losing such a unique personality and wanted to take this opportunity to thank him for the many engaging conversations and much wisdom he has shared with us. When asked to share his thoughts about the Multifaith Chaplaincy, he said, 'Mum always used to teach us to treat others the way we would like to be treated. In the end, we are all God's children.' He explained how he believes the Chaplaincy puts these two principles into practice in a meaningful and helpful way. Ray's words reflect the way he has always welcomed customers, enquirers, lost shoppers, and all members of the community to the shop on South Colonnade, ushering everyone in with a warm inviting smile, like a 'ray' of sunshine!

Happy Retirement, Ray!



Why not listen to our weekly podcast?
 We have a new five-minute podcast every Monday morning – [bookmark](#) us for a regular listen.

Fancy a coffee and a chat?

All it takes is a quick call. A Chaplain will respond and try to meet with you the same day, or as soon as is mutually convenient. We can have a coffee and a chat, meet online, message or email. Whatever works for you. [Contact a chaplain](#).