

Canary Wharf
Multifaith Chaplaincy



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In conversation with the Chaplaincy

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WELCOME

from the editors: Ibrahim
Mogra and Wayne O'Reilly

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Our 20th anniversary celebrations continue in this edition with articles from key players in the life of the multifaith chaplaincy on the Wharf – and enjoying the mother of all parties (we've got photos to prove it!).

CHAT WITH A CHAPLAIN - 020 7 477 1073

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

*News***Fiona is retiring.**

Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy is grateful to Revd Preb Dr Fiona Stewart-Darling for her leadership over the 20 years since she established the Chaplaincy. We celebrated this landmark occasion with her and all those who have supported the Chaplaincy throughout this time.

We will be introducing our new Lead chaplain to you in our September edition – watch this space!

*Editorial***A fond farewell from Fiona**

Twenty years ago, when Bishop Richard Chartres, the then Bishop of London interviewed me for a job to create a Chaplaincy at Canary Wharf he said, “I have no idea how you are going to do this role.”

The job description was vague enough, and I began with two mandates: from Canary Wharf Group to create a multifaith Chaplaincy, and from the Bishop of London that it should be financially self-sufficient after three years! All achieved and the fact the Chaplaincy is still here is proof of that.

It is only in preparing handover notes for my successor that it has dawned on me what we have all achieved together over the last 20 years. We have worked in partnership, and in so many ways all who live or work on the Canary Wharf estate have caught the vision and contributed to the evolution of the Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy. This has not been an individual project or even my personal project. It was and is our project together.

It has been a delight and an honour to have been part of an amazing Chaplaincy team who have taught me many things and worked with wonderful sensitivity and wisdom even when facing our most difficult challenges.

As I prepare to let go of the reins and hand them over to my successor at the end of June, I hope and pray that you all can celebrate the work of the Chaplaincy in another 20 years!

*Feature***“Believing it was possible!” – A celebration of 20 years of Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy**

On Monday 10 June, the Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy held an event, hosted by Clifford Chance to celebrate 20 years of Chaplaincy at Canary Wharf writes **Camilla Greene**, Northern Trust, Snr VP, Media Relations, EMEA & APAC.

The event saw attendees from across Canary Wharf’s corporate and retail tenants, past and present Steering Group members, DE&I representatives and the Chaplaincy. It also marked the retirement of lead Chaplain, Reverend Dr Fiona Stewart-Darling, who was instrumental in setting up the Chaplaincy and building it to encompass the five multifaith Chaplains today who, alongside two volunteers, provide pastoral support for the companies and employees of Canary Wharf.

Speaking at the event, the Rt Revd Martin Seeley, Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich, held up a copy of The Wharf newspaper from 1999 carrying news of the establishment of the prayer room, from which the idea of the Chaplaincy began to take shape.

As Canary Wharf began to develop, so too did the Chaplaincy. Sir David Walker, former chairman of Barclays and the first chair of the Steering Group for the Chaplaincy, noted that the Chaplaincy “was now more important than ever”, in reflection of current world events. He commended the efforts of lead Chaplain Fiona, noting that the Chaplaincy had “flourished” under her leadership.

The event concluded with a short address from Fiona who expressed her thanks to all her fellow Chaplains and thanked everyone for “believing it was possible.”





As promised here are some photos of the celebrations



And some more photos of the celebrations





The Chaplaincy – a shoulder to lean on

My personal relationship with Canary Wharf started 20 years ago when I was a journalist at The Sunday Telegraph, writes **Nina Goswami**, Head of Inclusion UK at Clifford Chance.

Back then the Telegraph was at One Canada Place. One of the biggest stories we had to cover in my time at the paper was 7/7 in July 2005. Journalists were reporting on something that had not happened on British soil before.

I recall the support the Chaplaincy gave at the time. They held the Wharf's two-minute silence for 7/7 and an interfaith event in remembrance for 7/7 on request of the Canary Wharf Group.

If we fast-forward to the geopolitical uncertainty that we face today, and the impact that it is having particularly for Jewish and Muslim communities, the Chaplaincy is there. I know how we at Clifford Chance - as individuals but also as firm - have been thankful for the Chaplaincy's ongoing and permanent counsel.

The Canary Wharf ED&I forum has been an important part of that support. We come together across organisations to discuss best practices for supporting colleagues. We learn from each other to make our organisations better.

I've been fortunate to learn from Fiona and her wonderful colleagues and lean on them when I - or my Clifford Chance colleagues - have not known what direction to take. Often the advice has been around small actions, and those who know me know I have a great belief in that small actions have a big impact.



First impressions vs lasting impressions

As I reflect on my experience with the Chaplaincy over the past years, I am struck by the profound impact it has had on both me and site personnel, writes **Dean Whitworth** from Wood Wharf Health & Safety.

My journey began with an organised meeting with Fiona. I had no idea who she was nor what she did, then she walked in, and I wondered what I had done to deserve this. How wrong I was to think it would be a waste of time. The Chaplaincy team has a wealth of knowledge and experience that I would never have had access to elsewhere.

As a mental health first aider, the team is a real inspiration and has assisted me in dealing with site issues and individuals.

Different religions within the team are greatly appreciated. For example, they helped us understand the culture regarding Ramadan and how to support fasting Muslims on-site.

They regularly attend our meetings and can support the workforce, which lessens the burden on us and provides a far better-qualified person to deal with personal issues.

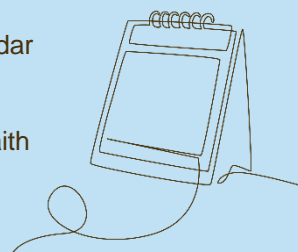
I witnessed first-hand and was impressed by the Chaplaincy's unwavering commitment to supporting workers in every aspect of their lives. From offering emotional support during times of crisis to simply lending a compassionate ear, the Chaplaincy has stood as a beacon of support and guidance.

I am filled with gratitude and hope that this article serves as a testament to the invaluable role of the Chaplaincy in our lives.

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](#)





Growth, change, celebration and progress

The past 20 years have seen much change at Canary Wharf. **Tom Venner**, Chief Development Officer for Canary Wharf Group looks to the past, present and future.

The Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy was conceived and nurtured by a collective of partners, and now is a good time for those partners and new ones who have joined over time, to recommit.

When the Chaplaincy was established, the Wharf was a place for financial services businesses. This has changed hugely over time, and today, 3,000 people live here, children come to school here and people come to study here.

The Chaplaincy has adapted through its life just as the Wharf has adapted and changed. In the coming years, it will continue to adapt and respond to the changing needs of the people who come here. As we celebrate 20 years of achievement, let us also recommit to the future of the chaplaincy, and the journey that we will go on together.

Coming up in our next issue

Announcing our new Lead Chaplain

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


"We cannot thank you enough!"

At the celebration event held at Canary Wharf on 10th June, **James Bardrick**, Chair of the Chaplaincy Board of Trustees, was among those giving presentations. Here we reproduce an excerpt from his presentation, summing up his thoughts on the work of departing lead Chaplain Fiona Stewart-Darling.

Fiona, we cannot thank you enough for your unique service. Your determination, dedication, vision, friendship, kindness and sheer hard work have benefitted the Wharf and its people in so many ways. Given your long tenured leadership, many of those things we know about. However, there are even more examples, in many more personal and confidential situations, where your personal chaplaincy has helped individuals where only they, you and perhaps the other chaplains, will know.

Indeed, it could be said that for you and your chaplaincy team, never have so few drunk so much coffee and listened and cared for so many!

No words, let alone mine, can ever sum up your contribution Fiona but you should be so proud of what you have achieved. We all certainly are, and we wish you all happiness and peace in your own next chapter.



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](#).