

Canary Wharf
Multifaith Chaplaincy



Scan to follow!

In conversation with the Chaplaincy

VOLUME 7 • ISSUE 4 • OCTOBER 2024



WELCOME

from this issue's editors:
Mark Ball and Ibrahim Mogra

INSIDE

Getting to know the team!

—
Alanna Harris –
new Lead Chaplain

—
Core team members –
in their own words

—
Retail volunteers –
who are they and why do
they volunteer their time?



The Chaplaincy welcomes new Lead Chaplain, the Revd Alanna Harris to the Wharf. As they celebrate the start of this exciting new chapter, team members tell us more about who they are and what makes them tick.

CHAT WITH A CHAPLAIN - 020 7 477 1073

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

Editorial

A new chapter begins!

With the arrival of Alanna Harris, our new Lead Chaplain, we take this opportunity to introduce ourselves as your Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy team. We are excited to be connecting with you all this autumn!

—
We would love to meet you, hear your story, and connect with your team. [Email us now to arrange a visit!](#)



Alanna (c) with the core team and members of the Board

Catholic Chaplain **Wayne O'Reilly**

I first started my role as Catholic Chaplain at Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy in March 2023. I must admit, I had my reservations as I perceived Canary Wharf as a place with just tall glass buildings where you rarely saw anyone around. Thankfully, I was proved totally wrong!

I became a Deacon five years ago. I serve in a parish in Fulham, with a particular focus on youth engagement. As part of that, I am involved in a community project looking at ways of reducing knife crime.

Deacons may marry - and my wife Emma and I have six daughters, which has brought its own challenges! We also have four grandchildren who keep us active. Faith plays an important part within the family and is reflected in my everyday life and influences every decision I make.

I am a football fan who supports QPR - and I attend every home game. I also enjoy taking our dog on walks. I am a Star Wars fanatic too!



Muslim Chaplain **Saleha Islam**

I have been part of the Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy team for several years now, having started as a retail volunteer chaplain.

Off the Wharf, I have been developing my role offering compassionate guidance and leadership within the community. I regularly deliver talks at the London Islamic Cultural Society (LICS), the London Muslim Centre (LMC), and on university campuses across the city, addressing key issues that resonate with people from all walks of life.

I was fortunate to be one of the first female Muslim scholars to appear on a live Q&A show IslamiQA on Islam Channel. I regularly help individuals navigate their faith with confidence. My passion for learning the science of Quranic recitation and my training in professional counselling allows me to combine intellectual insight with practical, pastoral skills. I also serve as a Shariah Council Judge, offering empathetic support and legal guidance, especially to women seeking Islamic divorce. In addition, I volunteer with grassroots organisations, collaborating on initiatives to empower marginalised communities.

I am committed to actively working to build bridges of understanding and dialogue between different faith communities through interfaith engagement. As such, I am a member of the Tower Hamlets Interfaith Forum (THIFF) and the Christian Muslim Forum (CMF).

I love to travel with my family and experience different cultures and cuisines. I am married with two adult children and live in North London with my family.





Lead Chaplain
Alanna Harris

As Lead Chaplain at Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy, I am delighted to be part of a team that has provided such vital spiritual and pastoral support to the Canary Wharf community over many years.

Having lived in the Docklands area for nearly fifteen years, I feel deeply connected to the people and places here and am passionate about creating inclusive spaces where spirituality and life's challenges can be explored with courage and hope.

I am driven by a belief that faith, ethics, and community are integral to our daily lives, whether we are at work, at home, or somewhere in between, and I thrive in roles that allow me to nurture meaningful connections and support those around me. This has been a central theme throughout my career, including my time as Events and Operations Manager at the think tank Theos, and as Head of Events at the Christian charity Tearfund. Before starting here on the Wharf, I served as Anglican Chaplain with the multifaith team at Charing Cross Hospital, and was Associate Priest at St Katherine Cree, the Guild Church for Workers in the City of London.

Outside of work, you will often find me enjoying the cultural side of London, whether a visit to the theatre or an afternoon at an art gallery.

I am also an avid windowsill gardener, a swimmer, a cyclist, and a runner. Thankfully, I have East London's green spaces and waterways and the nearby Epping Forest to provide me with the perfect retreat for recharging, reflecting, and simply enjoying the outdoors.



Muslim Chaplain
Ibrahim Mogra

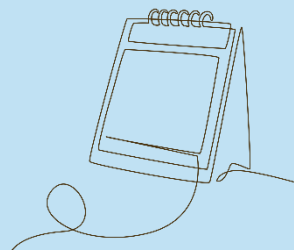
I was born in Africa and migrated to England in my late teens to pursue my studies in medicine. However, I made some new friends who were studying theology at a Muslim seminary in the north of England. I got interested and when I was offered a place, all it took was a phone call to my father who gave me his blessings to pursue my new career. That eventually brought me here - now the longest serving member of the Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy team.

I enjoy meeting people and learning about their culture, religion, faith, language, and food – and the Wharf is one of the best places to do that! Nature and human invention fascinate me. I am a lifelong Liverpool FC supporter. I like watching Formula One and boxing. I keep tropical fish and enjoy DIY - which I find therapeutic. I am also enjoying the joys of being a new grandfather!

Celebrating faith on the Wharf

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

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



YOU ARE INVITED TO A SERVICE OF

WELCOME AND COMMISSIONING

of the **Revd Alanna Harris** as the new Lead Chaplain of the Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy led by the Bishop of Stepney.

6pm on Thursday 24th October
Refreshments will follow the service
All Saints Poplar Church, Newby Place, E14 0EY
RSVP jane@canarywharfchaplaincy.co.uk

Office Manager

Jane Tappeneden

I have been working for Canary Wharf Group for over thirty years and during that time have seen such a lot of change and development on the Estate. My role within the company is split between Procurement and the Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy.

I have been with Chaplaincy since 2012 as the Office Manager. My work with the team is extremely varied, including payroll, DBS checks, arranging meetings, and other office tasks.

I live in Essex with my husband, our two grown up children, and our family dog, Bear. I enjoy travel and socialising with family and friends - and am also a frustrated seamstress!



Volunteer Retail Chaplains

Angela Dietrich and Vincent Omonigho

Angela – Before joining the Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy, I had been feeling my life was in need of a new purpose, having been retired for over ten years. Meeting Mark and Jan at a Volunteers' Fair at Whitechapel Town Hall, I was immediately drawn to the Chaplaincy. I had previously trained as a Buddhist chaplain but had never had the chance to put it into practice! Now I hope I can help make a difference for people. When I retired from educational consultancy, I was able to devote more time and energy to Buddhism – and being a chaplain feels part of that endeavour now.

My hobbies include seeing friends, visiting art galleries, listening to music, surfing the web, and brushing up on my reading. I also love swimming, travelling whenever feasible, and I hope to get back into writing in some capacity.

I have published two books and numerous articles, mostly about Eastern Religions and Anthropology. One of my books, however, is a Nepalese cookbook! I lived in Nepal for five years and in Asia for ten years in total. Cooking and international cuisine are passions of mine - another reason I love the vibe and diversity of Canary Wharf!

Vincent - Originally from Nigeria, I live here with my wife and our two children. I heard of Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy when I attended the Tower Hamlets Volunteer Fair. Mark and Jan explained what the team does, and I thought it sounded interesting enough to find out more! I am so happy to be volunteering alongside them both in this great work now.

Since joining the Chaplaincy, I have been learning a lot of new skills and meeting people from all around the world. My confidence in talking to people has improved tremendously – as has my capacity for listening attentively and remembering names!

I am a Christian and worship with the Redeemed Christian Church of God in Hackney. I love music - especially music that uplifts, inspires, and brings hope in challenging situations. Playing table tennis and watching football are two big passions! I also enjoy learning and have taken courses in both mental health and business administration.

Christmas is coming!

Advance notice that this year's Carol Service is moving to a new venue and will take place in the Crossrail Rooftop Garden:

Wednesday 18 December, 5.30pm

Information on how to book tickets will be coming soon – but pencil it in!



Lead Retail Chaplain

Mark Ball

My first two years with the Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy have been a wonderful opportunity to connect with and serve the needs of all kinds of people in all kinds of work – something I have been passionate about for over twenty years of ministry.

I commute to and from Rochester three days a week, where I also work as an assistant priest in the town's Church of England parish. Previously, I was Lead Chaplain with Kent Workplace Mission and Lead Chaplain at Bluewater – a role that brought me back from two years in Colombia, where I was teaching English in business and in universities. I continue to teach online in my spare time.

I volunteer with the World Community for Christian Meditation, coordinating resources for learning meditation internationally.

And my free time is always best spent being uncle to my adorable nephews and niece!

Would you like to find out about volunteering with the retail team? If faith informs your perspective, you are a good listener, and you want to support your neighbours at work, contact Mark [here](#) to arrange a visit!

—

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



Volunteer Retail Chaplains

Naima Sokawalla and Jan Evans


Naima – I love volunteering my free time with Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy. I am a warm and friendly person – and like making a positive difference. I feel good when I am appreciated, which motivates me to always go the extra mile. In this role, I really enjoy interacting with different people in varying backgrounds. I know the value of a good chat with family or friends, and that helps me want to be compassionate for others.

I enjoy travelling, love to swim and am a big foodie! As an accountant who spends a lot of time on the screen crunching numbers, my volunteering and hobbies help me unwind and relax.

Jan - Though originally from Penang, West Malaysia, the East End has been my home for nearly fifty years. Friends at church helped ease the initial culture shock – and I grew to love sausage and mash, and quickly learned that 'toad-in-the-hole' had nothing to do with amphibians!

Retirement means having more time now to hang out with our energetic grandchildren. I also enjoy helping at a parent and toddler group at church. I have recently started swimming with a friend - I totally need the exercise!

God has given me a loving family and church, shaping my character and values. And it feels a real blessing to be giving something back in gratitude now as a volunteer with Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy.



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.](#)