

Canary Wharf
Multifaith Chaplaincy



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In conversation with the Chaplaincy

VOLUME 8 • ISSUE 2



WELCOME

from this issue's editor:

Alanna Harris
Lead Chaplain

INSIDE

The Faith Advice Edition

KPMG – how faith fits in
the EDI space

One Canada Square –
faith at work with the
front of house team

Welcoming two new
chaplains to the team

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In this edition we focus on the Chaplaincy's role in offering bespoke faith advice to the Wharf's diverse business community.

CHAT WITH A CHAPLAIN - 020 7477 1073

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

*Alanna Harris*

Chaplaincy Faith Advice

I am delighted to welcome you to the latest edition of the Chaplaincy's newsletter, where we shine a spotlight on a lesser-known but vital part of our work: the Faith Advisory role our chaplains play here at Canary Wharf.

Alongside our free, confidential listening service - available to everyone on the Wharf - we also provide bespoke faith-based advice to individuals, managers, HR teams, and employee networks. Whether you are navigating a complex workplace issue, shaping your organisation's inclusion strategy, or looking to build religious literacy across your teams, we are here to support you with sensitivity and care.

As a multi-faith team, we bring deep expertise in a range of religious and spiritual traditions, and we love working collaboratively to offer joined-up, inclusive guidance that reflects the diversity of belief in today's workplace.

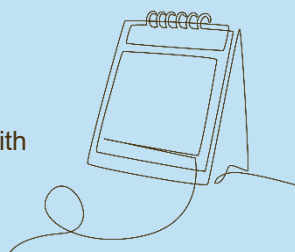
In this issue, you will hear from some of the individuals and teams we have worked with recently. Members of the chaplaincy team also share their insights on faith advice and how increased religious understanding can support inclusive team culture and faith-friendly policies. We are also delighted to introduce two new members of our chaplaincy team.

Our support is free, confidential, and tailored to your needs. We hope this edition offers valuable insight into how faith-based advice can strengthen workplace wellbeing and inclusion.

Celebrating faith in the Wharf

For a 2025 Faith Festivals Calendar
[follow the link](#)

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

*Marie Mardirossian*

Front of House

One Canada Square Front of House Manager **Marie Mardirossian** writes about the positive impact of her team's engagement with Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy.

We recently had the privilege of welcoming Chaplaincy members to one of our regular team meetings - and it proved to be an insightful and meaningful experience.

The visit gave us a deeper understanding of the vital role the chaplains play across our entire community – not just in moments of crisis, but in everyday life as well.

Through an engaging conversation, we learned how the Chaplaincy team offers support in many forms – from lending a listening ear and offering words of encouragement, to helping navigate life's bigger questions and challenges.

Having the chaplains on site is a real privilege. They are a valuable resource for all of us, and their willingness to walk alongside individuals and teams through both joyful and difficult times is something we deeply appreciate.

Following their visit, we now have a stronger awareness of how to connect others with the Chaplaincy and how to better support our colleagues and the wider Canary Wharf community in meaningful ways.

We thank the Chaplaincy team for their time, warmth, and wisdom – and look forward to continuing our connection.

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[Invite us](#) to join your team meeting too.



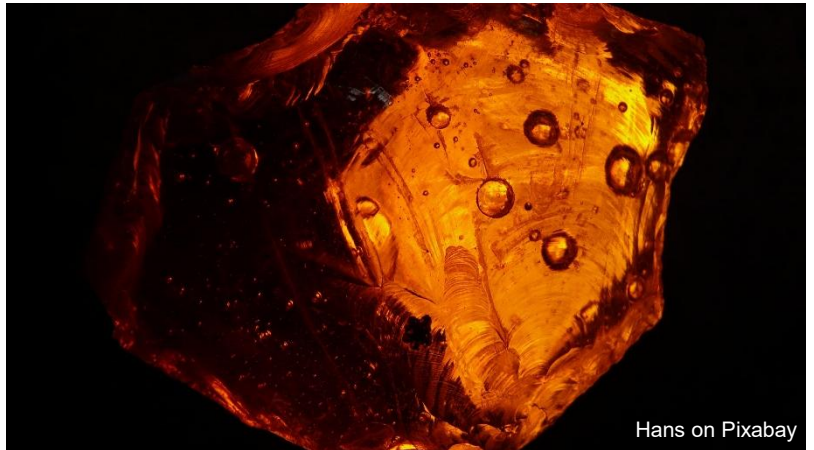
Oliver Joseph
New Jewish Chaplain

This summer the Chaplaincy welcomed its newest member, Rabbi **Oliver Joseph**.

I could never have anticipated a warmer welcome to the Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy Team. My colleagues have been kind, professional and keen to show me the ropes as I learn the inner workings of the Canary Wharf Estate. Muslim and Christian colleagues alike, there has been a hunger to learn from my experience as a rabbi and chaplain and in a mutual way, share their own experience and insight into our shared work.

I have learnt on my feet and am deeply engaged with faith leadership across Canary Wharf alongside diversity and inclusion leads, it has felt like a great privilege to represent the Jewish community on Canary Wharf. The Jewish community in these fraught times is both stretched and resilient, my role is to support our Jewish groups but also be a listening ear for my Jewish colleagues.

My unique background is that I have grown up in relationship with both the progressive and orthodox Jewish worlds and hold a broad understanding of UK Jewish life and have a depth of contacts across the Jewish community. In some corners of Canary Wharf there is a high Jewish visibility, in others, hardly any Jewish people. A strong part of my work is to engage with the Canary Wharf community, explaining what Jewish life looks like and how we develop best practice of how to engage with Jewish community. When we take care of minority faith communities, we ultimately build an open and inclusive space in which all people can thrive in their work.



Amara Sharif
A hidden gem

Cross Company Allyship Programme Lead, Inclusion, Diversity and Equity at KPMG UK, **Amara Sharif** explains how Chaplaincy faith advice has informed and enriched her work on the Wharf.

The Canary Wharf Chaplaincy is perhaps the best-kept secret in the area – and honestly, it should not be!

Having such a vibrant and welcoming space for conversations around faith and interfaith right on our doorstep is a true gift. As someone for whom faith is an integral part of life, I am genuinely delighted by its presence.

In my role at KPMG UK, working within the Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity space, the Chaplaincy has been an invaluable resource. It has enabled me to learn best practices and share knowledge with leaders across the Canary Wharf Estate – particularly around supporting people of all faiths and none. I have deeply appreciated the safe, open environment it offers to exchange ideas, ask questions, and challenge perspectives respectfully.

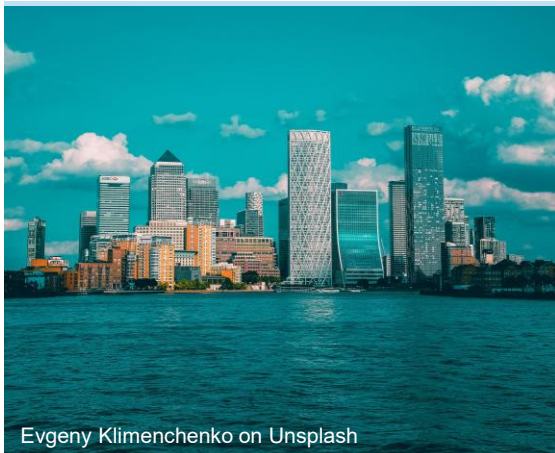
One of the most enriching aspects has been the opportunity to engage with brilliant scholars from the Abrahamic faiths. Their insights have helped me reflect, grow, and soundboard ideas in ways that have been both intellectually and spiritually rewarding.

A personal highlight has been attending the EDI forums, where we hear from companies across the estate who are actively shaping how faith is embraced in the workplace.

And of course, the interfaith iftar stands out as a beautiful moment – breaking fast alongside Christian and Muslim scholars was a powerful reminder of the unity that can be found in diversity.

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The Chaplaincy partners with businesses on the Wharf to facilitate an Estate-wide EDI Forum. [Contact](#) us today if you work in inclusion and would like to join.



Evgeny Klimenchenko on Unsplash

Alanna Harris

Practical Resources and Services

We offer a growing range of free, practical tools to support inclusion and religious literacy in the workplace:

- ✓ Briefings on key religious festivals
- ✓ Manager's guides for navigating bereavement and loss
- ✓ Information, visits, and bespoke advice around faith inclusion
- ✓ Workshops and panel discussions tailored to your organisation
- ✓ Podcast with weekly, topical 5-minute episodes

[Get in touch](#) to book a session or request a specific resource.

Saleha Islam Bukhari

Faith and Mental Wellbeing

Chaplain and Mental Health First Aider
Saleha Islam Bukhari invites you to make use of Chaplaincy resources.

The Chaplaincy team brings together colleagues with complementary expertise to ensure those accessing our services are offered both individual care and organisational guidance that helps foster a working culture that is inclusive, compassionate, and holistic.

The team includes Mental Health First Aiders, wellbeing advisors, and faith-specific advisors - Christian, Muslim, and Jewish - each member contributing distinct strengths to our shared mission. Together, we provide faith advice, confidential listening, initial support for those experiencing stress, anxiety, or low mood, and signposting to further resources when needed. Alongside one-to-one care, we also advise on corporate faith and wellbeing strategies, ensuring that both emotional and spiritual needs are respected in organisations.

Within this collaborative effort, I am available as a chaplain, counsellor, and certified Mental Health First Aider, drawing on a background in advanced Islamic studies, supporting women rebuilding after abusive relationships, and partnerships with grassroots organisations.

By combining expertise across disciplines, my colleagues and I work together to offer free access to professional, practical, holistic support. We are committed to working with you and your team to nurture the wellbeing of the whole person - heart and mind, body and soul. [Contact us](#) to find out how.

Oliver Joseph

Finding the Sweet in the Jewish New Year

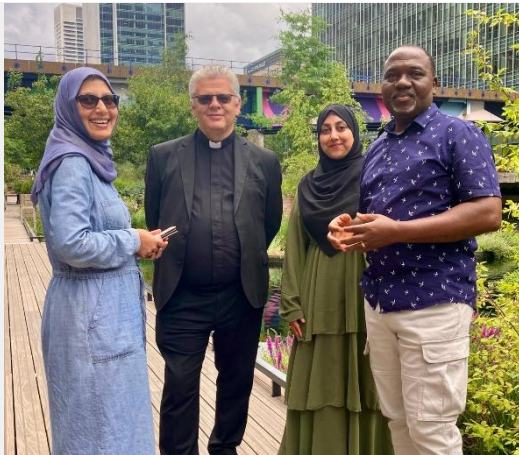
This is a joyous time of year for the Jewish community, celebrating a time when Jewish people come together both around the dinner table and in synagogue. Chaplain **Oliver Joseph** tells us more.

Rosh Hashanah is the kick-off day for the Jewish 'High Holy Days', a series of festivals over the course of a whole month. Jewish people wish each other "Shana Tova" (happy New Year) for the Jewish month of Ellul, which precedes Rosh Hashanah all the way through to mid-October, the following month. There are three core points in this festival marathon: Rosh Hashanah, the New Year; Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement; and Sukkot, the autumn harvest festival.

The uniting themes of the month are celebrating life and gratitude, accounting of what the year past has been, setting good intentions for the year ahead, and most fundamentally, judgement and wiping the slate clean for a fresh start. These days are a unique balance of celebration, heady reflection and repentance.

How might managers and colleagues support their Jewish team members? A starting place is acknowledgment of the holidays. For many Jews, dependent on their level of observance, from 22 September through to 15 October there will be a stop-start working routine, as colleagues take time off to be in Synagogue and attend to needs of family, friends and community. Whilst festive, the combined pressure of work, family and community can be weighty. If possible, colleagues could make allowances for Jewish members of the team, offering to cover, so that their Jewish colleagues might pick up the slack elsewhere in the year. Asking gentle questions of curiosity into how your colleague will celebrate this time, might help them to feel less isolated and might draw them to bring a little of the festivities to the workplace.

For those near One Canada Square over the next month, I will be bringing some honey cake in to share with our team, a piece or two might be going spare. Honey cake is one of many festive foods Jewish people like to share and enjoy during this time. Shana Tova to everyone!



Mark Ball

Welcome Maryam

The retail chaplaincy team is delighted to welcome **Maryam** (third from left) as our newest volunteer this autumn.

Maryam comes to us with a wealth of experience and energy – and that compassionate commitment to serving the wellbeing of others that marks out our volunteers as such wonderful people.

The Wharf is such a lively and interesting place to be, but retail workers in Canary Wharf's extensive shopping malls are under pressure too. Making time to visit and to listen is valuable and well-received.

Look out for Maryam visiting retail outlets across the Wharf, alongside Naima, Wayne, and Vincent (left to right).

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Contact the [team](#) to find out how we can support and advise your retail business.

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

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Sign up for our weekly podcast [here](#).

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The Christian Chaplains publish a weekly reflection - subscribe [here](#).



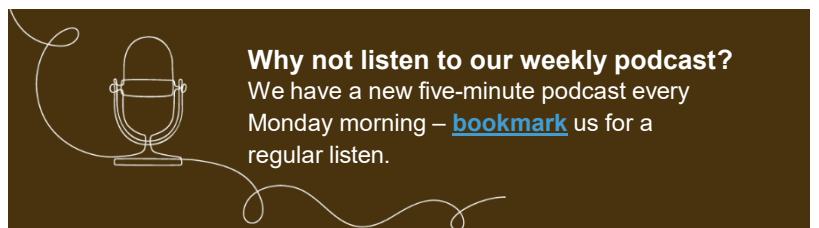
Joachim Schnürle on Pixabay

Ibrahim Mogra

Scriptural Reasoning

Scriptural Reasoning (SR) is an interactive practice in which people from different backgrounds read and discuss short, themed religious texts. The practice has been around for many years, but is becoming increasingly popular, and groups are now found throughout the world, including here in Canary Wharf. SR's focus on texts enables a rich conversation without presuming that everyone has the same areas of expertise or that they agree on theological issues. All participants are encouraged to share their thoughts about each text, regardless of whether they think of it as their own scripture or not. By listening to other people comment, participants can learn how others think and reason. SR also enables people to become more familiar with other religious traditions through hands-on engagement. It is not about seeking agreement but rather exploring the texts and their possible interpretations across faith boundaries. The result is often a deeper understanding of others' and one's own scriptures, as well as the growth of strong bonds across faith communities. Participants say that it 'inspires greater peace and understanding' and gets beyond 'superfluous talk about our beliefs and their similarities,' as well as providing opportunities to 'talk with people you may not usually talk to.'

The Canary Wharf Multifaith Chaplaincy team offer regular Scriptural Reasoning workshops and demonstration sessions for teams and groups that would like to give it a try. If you are interested in hosting a session within your company, contact me [here](#).



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](#).