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Chaplaincy Network Nottinghamshire News



As we begin a new year the implications of the world financial crisis is beginning to hit many people and organisations very hard. Many chaplains find themselves in contexts of reduced budgets, and potential restructuring. Another powerful context is the multi faith world in which we live and minister. In response to the gathering last May we are organising a day focussing on

Chaplaincy in a Multi-Faith context. Shanthi, our guest speaker, has experience of training and working with people of different faiths in varied situations. St Philip's Centre Leicester, where he is based, works with local authorities, the Police, Higher and Further Education organisations, health services, as well as churches, other faith groups and sector ministers.

We hope this will be an opportunity to reflect together and be better equipped for Chaplaincy Ministry in a sometimes complex and challenging multi-faith environment.

Chaplaincy so often is about incarnating the gospel. In what is likely to be a challenging year for us all, may the Word who dwelt among us be with us and encourage us in ministry.

The Revd David McCoulough
Associate Director: Partnerships
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The Venerable Robin Turner
Chaplain to Sector Ministers
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Date for the Diary

CHAPLAINCY DAY

Reflecting on Chaplaincy in a Multi-Faith Context

The aim is to equip and develop confidence in our Christian Chaplains who work in organisations with a multi-faith approach and agenda.

Keynote Speaker:
Shanthi Hettiarachchi from the St Philip's Centre, Leicester.

19 March 2009
(10.00-3.00pm)
St John's Centre,
Mansfield.

A light lunch will be provided.

To book your place please contact Catriona Gundlach on 01636 817232 or e-mail:

catriona@southwell.anglican.org

A week in the life of a Trust Chaplaincy Manager



Nottinghamshire Community Health

The Revd Paul Bentley is the Trust Chaplaincy and Bereavement Manager for Nottinghamshire Community Health, working out of Mansfield Community Hospital (MCH) but also with responsibility for the Ashfield Health Village, the John Eastwood Hospice and the spiritual and pastoral care of staff working for the Trust across Nottinghamshire.

One week in December

Wednesday, 5am, in the bath—a daily ritual and chosen place of mediation and prayer: Christmas is coming—and can't we tell. I am reading "The Christmas Stories" by Trevor Dennis as part of my preparation for the season. For the Chaplaincy Team it starts in mid-November when it is "suggested" that the tree is decorated in the Pilgrim Centre. The arguments continue until, somewhere at the beginning of December, I capitulate and the Chaplaincy joins in with the general mêlée to celebrate early.

9am at MCH the day begins with a mug of tea; sorting out the priorities, then off to a care home where I am to lead a training session. A *Grief Encounter* is meant to reflect the very spiritual nature of a person's loss and grief and it is apparent from the response of those twelve people taking part that this is possibly the first time they have contemplated the spiritual aspirations of those within their charge. Many tears are shed as carers come to an understanding of the holiness of their calling.

A message on the mobile directs me to the John Eastwood Hospice to be with a man in his dying phase of life. His family gathered round his bed wait expectantly. I have known Mike for several weeks and we have become close, now I am expected to be with his family as he makes his journey unto death. I leave later, Mike still clinging to life

but his family content to be there on his journey. On the way out I hug and pray with a member of staff soon to give birth. The rest of the day is taken with admin and a visit from a member of staff, recently bereaved.

Thursday: and the Hospice Carol Service (Part 1) looms large. If there is one place that exudes life this is it. A local school is taking part and, after obvious nerves, they too realise that this is a good place to be and join in with the familiar carols. One of the Day Patients reads a haunting poem she has written. More visits in the afternoon, including one to Mike and his very tired family. He will die this evening and I join with the family in prayer.

Friday: The second half of the Hospice Carol Service though without the youngsters this time but more than made up by the enthusiasm of the staff. A home visit on behalf of the Hospice at Home plus more admin completes the day.

Saturday: Day off. Mum-in-Law died a couple of weeks ago. Making sense of Christmas without Mum is difficult as we sort out her bungalow.

Sunday: Presiding at a Eucharist/Christingle in a local church plus a Eucharist at MCH. What a joy to preside at such a time with much joy and laughter. Part of my role is networking with the local community.

Monday: An early Team Meeting with the Chaplaincy crew of Kate, Anne-Marie, Lisa, Jeremy and me. It is so good to be with them. We share and laugh at anecdotes connected with Christmas then we go out to be with those in the hospitals and communities about Mansfield and Ashfield.

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Tuesday: More visits to carers and to patients as they try to make sense of being apart for Christmas. For many this will be their last Christmas together and they need to share with loved ones and anyone who might listen. A call to the local Mental Health Unit to visit someone who certainly doesn't want to celebrate Christmas. In his distress what can one do but pray and be there for him?

event over seventy people, patients, family, friends and staff attend—the most for many a long year. We leave feeling uplifted knowing that Christmas has begun for real and we have met with the incarnate Christ.

*The Revd Paul Bentley
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Wednesday: Today is THE carol service in the new reception area at MCH. In the



Quickfire Interview: The Revd Dr Howard Worsley, Chaplain: Nottingham Rugby Club

Q: How long have you been Chaplain?

A: Two years at Nottingham Rugby Club. This was a new chaplaincy opportunity.

Q: What were your first impressions/Reactions?

A: I was pleased as a former rugby player and somebody who understands the rugby world. A world that is very different from church culture. But professional rugby players are like anybody else, just incredibly focussed.

Q: What are you learning from the world you are chaplain in?

A: Learning to put the church world in context. Chaplaincy is a great antidote to seeing myself as a big fish. I have had to “earn my spurs” at Nottingham Rugby Club. At the beginning some of the players tended towards humour or prattish behaviour when chatting in the club bar, but over time this has changed and I have been accepted. This is partly because I understand the rugby player culture and partly because of the self confidence to carry on - to walk into the bar or changing room or whatever.

Chaplaincy is not about preaching but incarnating the gospel. It is an experience of ministry outside my usual safety and comfort zone of church and education. There is a sense of vulnerability and marginalisation in the chaplaincy role which I don't experience in other ministry roles.

Q: How have views of ministry and church been challenged by your chaplaincy?

A: A reminder that the world of sport and rugby in particular is totally different world from the church. I spend time with a missing group from most churches— young focused and very talented men. They have a lot to say to us.

Q: A final thought?

A: Long term—relationships happen.



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3 x 3 x 3 - Three week three faith study groups

In the University of Nottingham, previous experiments in organised inter-faith dialogue have usually taken the form of meetings where invited speakers from each faith state their case from the front, while the audience spectates, each person rooting for their own champion. However, this year we wanted to find a format for dialogue that would not be a spectator sport, that could be run on our different campuses, and could be repeated annually.



With the Muslim and Jewish Chaplains in the University, we tried to set up a number of study groups, each to comprise, ideally, three Christians, three Jews and three Muslims; and each to gather for three evening meetings in November.

Why these faiths? Only these faith communities have provided Chaplains recognised by the University.

Why this size of group? Small enough for everyone to have a chance to talk, large enough so that not everyone has to; and three representatives from each faith might reflect some of the diversity within faith communities.

Why three times in November? Only three times because we are not wanting to ask too big a commitment, or reduce loyal attendance to the individual faith societies in the university. November; so that new students have found their feet, and so that Jewish and Muslim holidays and fasts would be over.

We advertised the venture from the start of term, using various channels, and offering the possibility of signing up for a group on

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Dunham House, Westgate, Southwell,
Nottinghamshire NG25 0JL**

any evening, Mon — Thursday, on any of our 3 main campuses. We had 26 Christians, 13 Muslims, and 6 Jews wanting to participate. This imbalance meant that some Christians had to be turned away but we ended up with three groups on different nights, all on main campus.

The themes for the evening studies were Creation, Forgiveness and Hospitality. We used materials from the Scriptural Reasoning Society (www.scripturalreasoning.org.uk) and the Three Faiths Forums (www.3ff.org.uk) - essentially one or two texts on the theme from each faith. Each group was expected to manage its own discussion, according to guidelines provided, with a Chaplain from one faith or other visiting each group for only part of its meeting.

Most participants managed to attend all three sessions of their group, and were positive about the opportunity for sharing, and for getting to know members of the other faiths. A joint meeting for members of all groups was held at the end of the autumn term, and it was resolved to run the programme again, with three different themes, in the spring term.

I would be happy to share more details of what we did with anyone interested.

For more info contact
The Revd Canon Ian Tarrant.
ian.tarrant@nottingham.ac.uk

Please Pray For:

The right appointment at HMP Nottingham.

The Chaplains at HMP Whatton:
The Revd Des Burton and The Revd Sue Evans.

The Revd Karen Young, Mental Health Chaplain at Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust, leaving soon to get married.