

# Winchester City Centre Chaplaincy

## Annual Report 2016-17 for Winchester churches



The City Centre Chaplains visit staff who work in the city, at the workplace, in shops, offices and other organisations. We build friendships, listen, and support people when they need it. Chaplaincy is free of charge to receiving organisations, and confidential. We serve people of any background or faith.

At the start of 2017, the team, led by Howard Rowe, has grown to 13 chaplains. As a result, our work has expanded in scope and effectiveness, and we have had many significant conversations with staff in the organisations we serve. People value being able to talk to an independent chaplain about any subject, knowing that someone listens without judging, and cares.

Workplace Chaplaincy supports the city centre and its people where they need it. We work closely with other organisations including the City Council, BID and Street Pastors, and are an initiative of Churches Together in Winchester. We are working to serve all city centre organisations.

### Some facts and figures for 2016/2017:

We have visiting arrangements with the majority of the 800+ organisations operating in the city, including the City Council, the Law Courts, City Police Service, Debenhams, M&S, The Brooks and a host of smaller businesses. Our records and estimates for the past year show that:

- The team of Chaplains made around 11,000 visits (over 1800 chaplain-hours) to people at the workplace during the year, covering around 3,500 staff, most of them on multiple occasions, because chaplaincy is about long-term relationships.
- Of those visited, around 700 people chose to engage in significant conversations on a confidential basis. The most common topics of conversation were:
  - Work, employment and business situations
  - Relationships both inside and outside the workplace
  - Personal/family health and wellbeing
  - Future plans, uncertainties, life-choices, faith
  - Money matters
- Around 230 people requested 1:1 support or asked that the Chaplain pray for them.

### The Chaplaincy Team:



Howard



Angela



Peter



Wendy



Susan



Kate



Liz



Nigel



Carol



Law Courts team

Jane, Margaret, Mary, Chris

### Hopes and plans for the Chaplaincy in the coming year:

Our Lead Chaplain, Howard Rowe, is retiring at the end of April, and it is vital that we identify and appoint the right person to be the new leader. At the beginning of the year we can report that there

is interest in the job from a number of people from local churches, and that interviewing will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> March. Please pray for the right person to be appointed to this role.

We have a great team of chaplains, and are always looking for new volunteers to grow the retail and office team and our effectiveness. And we would particularly like to identify a young mum to be part of the Mums' Chaplaincy team. If you love God, are good at listening, and could spare an hour or two a week to visit staff in agreed organisations, you could probably be a good member of the chaplains' team. Why not contact us to discuss and arrange a 'taster session' when you can see what a chaplain does, with one of the existing team?

We continue to pray for wider church involvement across the city and the surrounding area in the work of the chaplaincy. Would your church consider **sponsoring a chaplain** or **committing to pray regularly** for the chaplaincy, using the quarterly prayer sheet?

#### **Some stories from the chaplaincy team:**

These are genuine situations and stories but names and details have been changed.

Danny, who works in a large shop in Winchester, told his chaplain that his partner has been diagnosed with a serious illness. The chaplain listened to Danny express his fear for the future, and suggested they meet to talk further in a local café one lunchtime. Over a cup of tea, Danny unloaded his concerns and his chaplain offered to pray for him and his partner in the café where they were. The chaplain continues to visit Danny regularly at the workplace.

Gale, a team leader in a High Street office, always welcomes her chaplain when she calls, and likes to introduce her to new team members. This time, Gale wanted to talk about challenges with her teenage children. In a quiet corner of the office, Gale spoke of her own teenage years, and her need for wisdom to deal with her own family now. She said it was a huge relief to talk about it to her chaplain. Gale asked the chaplain to pray for her family.

Diggory works in an office in Winchester. His chaplain knew he had been through a hard time previously with the breakup of a relationship. This visit, Diggory excitedly told his chaplain that he'd met someone new and was hopeful for the long-term. His chaplain listened and was able to share in Diggory's excitement.

Manda, a shop assistant, told her chaplain she was struggling to make ends meet and was worried about credit card debts. Her chaplain listened and suggested Manda might consider joining a money management help group run by a local charity. Her chaplain connected Manda with the right person.

Hogan, a part-time agency worker, had been asked to be a godparent to his nephew, and asked his chaplain what this would mean. His chaplain agreed to get some good information, and, over a cup of coffee the next week, they talked about God, faith, and how to pray. Hogan has said yes to being a godparent and has been reading Luke's gospel. His chaplain visits regularly and encourages him.

#### **Please pray for Winchester:**

**Please pray for the good of the city, its businesses and the people who work there. Pray for the chaplains, for courage, listening ears, good friendships and good conversations.**

**If you would like to know more about the City Centre Chaplaincy, please contact the Lead Chaplain, Howard Rowe, at [chaplain@winccc.org.uk](mailto:chaplain@winccc.org.uk), or call us on 07834 540106.**

**Feb 2017**