



Newsletter

Summer 2016

Welcome to our Newsletter for Summer!

My, doesn't time fly, as the saying goes!

Already we are into summer and the longest day of the year will soon be upon us. They say as you get older the days go by more quickly. I'm not sure if this is because we have more to do or whether we take longer to do things?

Time for those in employment also brings with it the need for payment for a job well done and increasingly employers are becoming aware of the cost of labour charges in their business. For those who are self-employed this is of course a factor, but for those employed in larger companies, whether SMEs or larger conglomerates, the introduction of the "living wage" has had an impact on costs and profit margins. Some companies welcome this initiative, whilst others are struggling with an already narrower profit margin and are having to cut labour costs to make ends meet. In effect this means fewer staff working longer hours; in many cases it could be

older staff not being replaced whilst less costly younger staff (under 25) are employed. As the retail sector becomes more and more hostage to online selling the pressure on town stores and businesses increases.

The next time you are out shopping please give a thought to those who serve you - they are probably feeling very pressured and tired from working long hours. A kind word often goes a long way!

Why not think about joining us as a chaplain and have the opportunity to get alongside people in their working environment and encourage them? Or perhaps you might be interested in volunteering in a magistrates court, or doctors' surgery or a care home - the opportunities are many and varied. You could make a difference - please get in touch!



Mandy Bowskill
Lead Chaplain

Places the Chaplains Visit

- * Festival Place and The Malls including Debenhams, Sainsbury's, Wilkinson and Superdrug
- * Restaurants and Eateries in Festival Square, and the Cinema
- * The Sports Centre
- * The Bus Station
- * Top of Town including Market Traders
- * The Council Offices
- * The Police Station
- * Age Concern at Church Cottage
- * Oasis Café at the United Reformed Church
- * Matrix House
- * Asda at Brighton Hill
- * BCoT
- * Car Boot Sales at the Vyne School
- * Multi-faith Forum at Chute House
- * Gillies Health Centre
- * The Bus Maintenance Depot at Houndmills

Still on the front line

They thought he'd taken leave of his senses. His brother determined to give him a good talking to. "It won't last" he said as he tried to dissuade Chris from what he called "religion". "I'm as good as you", said his Mother-in-law, "you don't have to go to church to be a Christian". 49 years later Chris is still a Christian, and he still goes to church, not because he has to, but because he wants to. It was 1966, the year England won the World Cup when Chris stood up at a Billy Graham meeting at Earls Court in London to give his life to Christ. He has never looked back.

Chris found his role in life in 1971 when he joined the Hampshire Ambulance Service. For 25 years Chris was on the front line as an Accident and Emergency paramedic and in the final years of his career he moved over to High Dependency Ambulance work involving, for example, transporting patients to specialist hospitals.

Married for 50 years to Lesley, with 4 children and 11 grandchildren, Chris is now on a different front line as a Volunteer Chaplain. When asked why he volunteered as a Chaplain, Chris simply replied, "because I love people". He says that he "loves to listen to people's stories

and situations; each one is different." Many times he has offered to pray for people and never once has his offer been refused. A particular joy for Chris is to have the opportunity to speak of the Christian faith to those who ask him to explain it.

Chris is Chaplain to the Police Station, Superdrug, Boots, Wilkinson and the Sports Centre.



Chris Seymour
Chaplain

A Chaplain's View

As always, the day starts with the Lord Jesus and a cup of tea. Personal prayer, worship, and the study of his word, the Bible, are absolutely essential to me. He and I are going to work together today and so amongst other things it is good to discuss the day and what it may hold.

I live no more than 15 minutes walk from my "patch" in Basingstoke town centre. However it often takes me longer than that because I meet people whom the Lord brings across my path. This morning is no exception.

The man that I meet is an old acquaintance. Tragically, the theory of evolution and a scientific background stand squarely across his path to full acceptance of the Bible as the truth of God. We greet each other and stand like rocks in a stream amidst the flow of shoppers. This morning, we discuss the origin of life and how the Biblical Christian faith impacts on evolutionary theory. We part amicably after some twenty minutes. I am grateful that the Lord brought to mind a number of things that helped me to explain that science and the Bible are not mutually exclusive.

I continue my walk to my destination. As always, I pray as I arrive that the Lord and I enter together. I sign the visitor's book and then I am free to walk amongst the workers and shoppers. Sometimes I see a worker who is new to me. I introduce myself and explain who I am, what I do and why... the beginning of a relationship.

I meet an old friend and he opens our conversation with a question about the upcoming referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union. We agree that it is a tricky decision and that we do not have much trust in what we are hearing from both sides of the argument. I tell him that although I am a citizen of the UK, I am also a citizen of another Kingdom, one that is not of this world. This is the Kingdom of God, which is of far greater importance than the United Kingdom. This leads on to the opportunity to explain the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I leave him with a small booklet which he can read at his leisure and which repeats what I have told him.

An elderly married couple, doing their weekly shop, whom I often meet, say "Hello". I stop to chat with them for a while. I speak to a number of other workers, one of whom tells me about a very sad situation in her life. I listen attentively, saying very little. At the end, I promise to pray for her and the situation. She thanks me for just listening.

I sign out and go home, with much to think and pray about. I thank the Lord Jesus for his guiding and inspirational presence with me.



Peter Warne
Chaplain

Statistics January to April 2016

Conversations with people can be about anything, but often there is something specific they need to talk about. The Chaplains have supported people with issues ranging from work and health to family and relationships, faith and loneliness.

Significant Conversations	615
Chaplain Hours	670
Lead Chaplain Hours	248
Total Hours	918

Our needs for 2016/17:

- * To be able to offer chaplaincy to more venues within the town. If you know of somewhere that needs a Chaplain, please let us know.
- * To recruit more Chaplains (2 hours once a fortnight is the minimum we suggest).
- * To increase awareness amongst local churches of the benefits of having Chaplains in the congregation, and of the benefits of Chaplaincy to the community.
- * To continue to pay our rent and our Administrator, Libby Ham.
- * To increase our income, enabling us to raise our profile and to fund a paid Lead Chaplain.
- * To find a replacement for the Lead Chaplain role as Mandy retires.

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