



Chaplaincy Prayer Letter

January 2023

Happy New Year!

Christmas 2022 was celebrated with more events and visits than in recent years, although there were still various infections doing the rounds. The Chaplains took token gifts of sweets and cards to those they work with and this gesture of caring was appreciated. We received a specific donation to cover much of the cost. There were several deep conversations with people who needed pastoral care in the build-up to Christmas and also as the pressures of life had built up. Chaplains are as busy as ever listening and supporting people. It is a privilege. That we are asked about spiritual matters and can share something of our faith in Jesus Christ is a joy.

BTC was one of several chaplaincies represented at the Christmas meal hosted by a Turkish Muslim organisation. The theme was loneliness

and various speakers stressed the presence and causes of loneliness in our community. Chaplains do meet lonely people.

We have been asked to provide more Chaplain time at the foyer of the train station where we can meet passengers and railway staff. This is an opportunity to expand and to explore different times of working. We will look to engage and see where God leads.

Before Christmas we had an encouraging time at Basingstoke Baptist Church sharing about the Chaplaincy; and we have recently been warmly welcomed at St. Bede's church to give a 5-minute presentation on the Chaplaincy at each of their services and afterwards to talk to members of the congregation. We are open to visit any church that invites us or to talk to a small group. We value the prayer support of churches and individuals and also want to have good links with churches so that we can help guide people to a local church when we have opportunities to do so.

Recently we have received some positive feedback from the Magistrates' Court about the value of our service there. We have been able to expand the chaplaincy service to Stagecoach by facilitating Chaplains attending other bus stations in the region.

We had a lunch with some of our supporters recently and thought about the coming year. We liked the idea of “bold humility”. We want to share boldly the good news of Jesus Christ but in a gentle manner to show God's love and relevance to each and every person's life.

Please continue to pray for the contacts, and resultant conversations Chaplains have, that the right words will be used and appropriate support provided.

We need more Chaplains. Please consider whether you, or someone you know, could be a Chaplain. Find out more about us. You are welcome to come and see what we do and go out on a round with a Chaplain. There is no obligation.

May you know the blessing and joy of the Lord throughout 2023.

John

John Hayward

Chair of Trustees

Prayer Points

Give thanks for:

- God's blessings and for meeting our needs during another year of ministry

Pray for:

- Chaplains in the Magistrates' Court helping to resolve situations for the good
- Chaplains meeting those who are lonely
- Shop workers, often under stress from work pressures and customer rudeness
- Bus drivers
- Wisdom to best use the opportunity to be at the train station
- More Chaplains
- Closer links with more churches in Basingstoke



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