



## Chaplaincy Prayer Letter

### September 2023

Greetings - as we move into autumn, but have weather appropriate to the height of summer... It is a 'new start' season with schools back and church activities restarting in full. There is renewed enthusiasm and excitement. Chaplains have been busy throughout the summer and have had a surprising number of conversations on spiritual matters in the Courts, shops and on the streets. They have been able to bring God, with His love and grace, into some difficult situations that people face. Some people have gone on to seek Him in their local churches.

A verse from Isaiah is an encouragement:

**... lift up your voice and shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God!'**

The whole Bible is the story of God's mission to draw people back to Himself and we all have a small part in that mission. We can invite people into our communities and we can also go out to meet people in Basingstoke who would not otherwise consider coming to a church or expect to feel welcome there. We can surprise them with God's love and welcome!

**Thank you** for your support in this ministry. Your prayers are precious to us and we do see them answered, as we meet people and seem to be given the right words to say to encourage and support them. Some people we meet regularly, others are by God's one-off contact.

Work at the Courts continues three mornings a week and we now support the monthly Living with Loss Café at the Discovery Centre.

We are also looking to facilitate more Christian presence in the town centre at Christmas, and value your prayers for that – for what is appropriate and possible, and for sufficient support from church groups to make it happen.

Sadly, the loss of Malcolm Read this summer has impacted us in several ways. His enthusiasm and commitment inspired us and he had built up a good relationship with staff at the bus station and Top of Town. Other Chaplains, too, have family concerns that are restricting or stopping them serve at present. **So we are keen to welcome anyone who feels they may be called to this ministry, to go round with a Chaplain to see first-hand what we do.** If you would like to learn more about how Chaplaincy works, and what different roles there are we would love to hear from you. Or you could suggest it to someone who gets on well with people and may be suitable.

Can we be invited to your church? We are ready to visit any church to explain what we do; as we get to know you we can confidently refer people to your church, knowing they will receive a good welcome.

As we all seek to witness to God's grace and love may we support one another in all the ways we can.

**John**

John Hayward

Chair of Trustees

### **Please pray:**

- For grace and wisdom as Chaplains meet with people in different circumstances
- For the Chaplains in the Courts meeting accused, witnesses and staff

- For our training on awareness of domestic abuse on 30 September (churches are welcome to send someone to learn with us - contact [admin@basingstoketownchaplaincy.org.uk](mailto:admin@basingstoketownchaplaincy.org.uk))
- For the welfare of the community in Basingstoke and those working in the town centre
- For more Chaplains to share the Good News and engage with people
- For the collaborative plans to mark the Christian meaning of Christmas in the town centre

### Molly the Wellbeing Dog





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