



Chaplaincy Prayer Letter

January 2024

A Happy New Year to you!

May you know God's blessing and guidance as you go through the next twelve months, supported in the challenges of life and being a blessing to others.

The Chaplaincy heads into 2024 encouraged by the responses we received at Christmas from people working in the town centre. People value the opportunities to talk to someone in confidence outside their circle of friends and family, and to feel that people appreciate their work in the town.

Chaplains support and encourage those working in the town and are available to meet those who have business here. In particular, the Chaplains at the Magistrates' Court are valuable supports for those working there as well as for people called there as witnesses or accused. For some it is a traumatic experience and can be a time of challenge to consider their life's path. God comes to be alongside a person whatever their circumstances and Chaplains help people start to think through the issues in their lives. Policing is also a

stressful occupation and our Chaplain Peter and his care dog work there with the Police Chaplaincy service.

Kathie has joined us and will be based at the Discovery Centre where the staff have facilitated meetings of an increasing number of activities and interest groups.

This year we want to continue to look at the effectiveness of our ministry, especially as the number of Chaplains is low, and to see where we can develop our ministry and draw others into it. We also want to strengthen our links with churches in the area because they are the ones who will further the initial links we make with people wanting to find out more of the Christian faith and, hopefully, want to live as followers of Jesus Christ. They need a welcoming church and we need to be able to point them to the right church for them.

John

John Hayward

Chair of Trustees

