



Chaplaincy Prayer Letter

September 2024

*When I say I will pray for you it isn't because I am forcing my religion on you.
It's because I believe in God and the power of prayer, and because I care.*

Thank you for your support of Chaplains as we seek to make Christ known and relevant in the lives of people in Basingstoke. We cannot continue to do this without your prayer support – Chaplains can care because you care.

The Courts have been busy during the whole of the summer and Chaplains have had valuable conversations with staff and others attending hearings. We hear about the circumstances of crimes, their impact and the desire to change, recover or renew. We have been able to encourage people to go to their local church or signpost them to further help. We have told them that God still loves them and cares about them, and we pray with or for some of them. **This is a fruitful ministry but to provide a full service we need 3 more Chaplains.** If you would like to see whether it is something God might be calling you to do, please come along and see what we do. Or suggest it to a friend!

The police have been under pressure too, with the threat of rioting on one occasion and generally ensuring we have a safe place in which to live. Drugs and everything concerned with their distribution are also being actively policed. Pressures of work, with extended hours of work and dealing with unpleasant situations, takes a toll on the lives of police officers. We are glad to have a Chaplain and Support Dog to engage with them in Christ's name.

We continue to make Jesus known as part of the community. We are helping to expand a bereavement group in the Discovery Centre. Visits to church groups have been encouraging as we are supported and hear of other ways churches and individuals reach out to others. We see God's mission succeeding as we work together!

Thank you for your interest and prayers.

May the Lord bless you.

John

John Hayward

Chair of Trustees

Please thank God for the opportunities we have had:

- to share the gospel with people
- to speak of forgiveness
- to help people overcome their fears and hear that God loves them
- Please thank God that we are seen as Christians providing a useful service in the town

Please Pray for:

- good community spirit in Basingstoke
- people working under pressure – shop and security staff in particular
- people in crisis – needing to be helped and told of God's love
- Chaplains as they engage with people, to be sensitive and have the right words
- Christians to consider being Chaplains in the Law Courts, (and elsewhere)
- strengthening links between churches and Christian groups across the town

