

Winchester City Centre Chaplaincy

Annual Report 2014-15

The City Centre Chaplains visit staff who work in the city at the workplace, in shops, offices and other organisations. On behalf of Winchester churches, we build friendships, listen, and support people. Chaplaincy is free of charge to receiving organisations, and confidential. We serve people of any background or faith.



A growing ministry:

In 2014 the team, led by Howard Rowe, has grown to 9 members (6 retail chaplains, 2 mums' chaplains, a courts' chaplain, and chaplaincy in Winchester City Council and the police station). As a result, our ministry grows in scope and effectiveness, and we have had many significant conversations with staff in the organisations we serve. Our mums' chaplains serve at Mum and Baby groups, and have built good relationships as chaplains with mums and health professionals.

Listening to the city:

Workplace Chaplaincy is a pioneering ministry and an example of the church at its best, supporting the city and its people where they need it. We work closely with churches and other agencies, including Street Pastors and the BID. We are working to build the involvement of as many local churches as possible in chaplaincy.

Some facts and figures:

We have visiting arrangements with the majority of the 800+ organisations operating in the city, including the City Council, the Law Courts, Police Station, Debenhams, M&S, The Brooks and a host of smaller businesses. Records and estimates for 2014 show that:

- The Chaplains have visited around 3000 people at the workplace during the year, most of them on multiple occasions, because chaplaincy is about long-term relationships.
- Of those visited, more than 600 people chose to engage in 'significant conversations' on a confidential basis. The most common topics of conversation were:
 - Work, employment and business situations
 - Relationships both inside and outside the workplace
 - Personal/family health and wellbeing
 - Future plans, uncertainties, life choices, faith
 - Money matters
- More than 200 people requested 1:1 support or asked that the Chaplain pray for them.

The Chaplaincy Team:



Howard Rowe



Jane Lunn-Rockcliffe



Sue Dighe



Cliff Turner



Peter Smith



Delcie Dalby



Jemima Lewis



Liz Russell



Hazel Foster

Real stories:

These stories are about real people and situations, but names and identities have been changed.

Stan, an office professional, troubled about the effects of his contract not being renewed, talked to a chaplain. His felt his personal worth was at risk, and his family vulnerable. Unloading his concerns over a cup of tea helped him put them in perspective, and identify qualities he had forgotten. Stan has some job-apps in place, and emails the chaplain for continued support.



Janice, a fashion assistant, faced health issues and an operation. Janice's male chaplain listened over coffee one lunchtime, and put Janice in touch with a female chaplain for further support. Janice is recovering, and has returned to work. She is thankful for the support she has received.

Caleb, manager of a high-street shop, confided that HQ had imposed unachievable sales targets, and that his staff were demoralised. Caleb asked if it was OK to pray for business success, and, together with his chaplain, they did so. Caleb's outlook changed and he tried some new marketing ideas. To his surprise, his shop achieved the end of year targets, and his staff are sharing in that success.

Sandie suffered stress after an experience of workplace bullying, and was signed off sick. She contacted her chaplain, and talked through the situation with a view to quitting her job. The chaplain listened to Sandie on several occasions over tea in a local café, to support her in trying to return to work and deal with relationships there. Sandie is back at work now and is positive about the future.

Dani, a worker in the finance sector, talked to her chaplain when facing breakup of a relationship and her home. She felt betrayed and near despair. Her chaplain listened and offered friendship and solidarity. The friendship continues and Dani is developing new outlooks on her life.

Moss, a retail supervisor, was struggling to cope with the long-term illness of a close family member, and needed to talk about priorities, and the unknown future ahead.

Moss's chaplain has supported him regularly through the year and continues to do so.



Derek, an office team leader, felt undervalued and was considering a major change of career. Over a period of months, the chaplain met Derek, listened, encouraged and prayed with him. Derek has now applied for a University place to pursue a new vocation.

Is your church part of this ministry?

Please pray for the work of the City Centre Chaplains, the city and the organisations we serve. If you would like people in your church or organisation to hear more about our work in the city, or are interested in volunteering, contact Howard Rowe, City Centre Chaplain at chaplain@winccc.org.uk