

Chaplaincy & Spiritual Care Service

Information for the Hospital Trust, Churches, Faith Communities and Other Interested Parties

It is intended this should be shared widely within trust and faith Communities

December 2019 / January 2020



Martin Abrams, Lead Chaplain for the Southport and Ormskirk Hospital Trust writes

Everything we do within hospital chaplaincy gives a sense of privilege, be it the corridor conversations, entering people's lives at their most vulnerable times, and sharing their significant events, working with multi-faith partners or leading some of the bigger events we put on. Over the last year we have been involved in some significant events within the hospital.

Over 200 people gathered at the NHS Memorial Service at Cornerstone Methodist Church for the NHS Memorial Service, about 100 people gathered for the rededication of the Baby Garden at Ormskirk in September and at the beginning of March over 80 people gathered for the baby and child remembrance service. Each month at Southport Crematorium we lead a service for early pregnancy loss and invite parents to plant bulbs in the baby garden. With our rainbow midwives we held our first wave of light event in October. We continue to work closely with our Islamic and Jewish colleagues and have supported them in their significant faith events. At the beginning of this year, the Roman Catholic church appointed Maria Parker as Lay Chaplain and this has made a significant difference to the support of Roman Catholics within the hospital. Within these couple of pages there is some information about the chaplaincy and spiritual care service. If there are ways we can be of support to you please contact us.

The Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Service offers a **24/7 On Call Service** for urgent situations. This is staffed by the chaplains and bank chaplains. It is accessed by an on call number available on each ward or via the hospital switchboard.

Staff: Martin Abrams works half time as Chaplaincy Manager and half time as Freedom to Speak Up Guardian for the trust. Jan is full time Chaplain and Maria Parker is part time Roman Catholic Chaplain. We also have five zero hour chaplains who support the on call service. (Ken Summers, Jane Morgan, Clive Ashley, Neil Stubbens and Alan Johnson).

Vacancies: From time to time we are looking to recruit zero hours on call chaplains and chaplaincy and spiritual care volunteers. For more information please contact Martin or Jan

Mission Statement: The Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Service aims to offer spiritual, pastoral and where appropriate religious support to the whole hospital community.

We also have **Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Volunteers** who visit wards regularly. Our volunteers have pastoral experience and skills and offer friendship to patients and staff. We also have volunteers from **Gideons International** who visit regularly to replace Bibles, which for infection control reasons are film wrapped. Replacement Bibles and other Holy Books are available via the chaplaincy office.

Confidentiality and Information Governance (GDPR) Like all services within the hospital the Chaplaincy & Spiritual Care Service is compliant with the information governance policy of the hospital. In practice this means information cannot be shared about any individuals without their consent. Even the fact a person is in hospital is considered confidential information. Occasionally this can cause an issue when patients or faith communities assume things will be communicated automatically. Consent and good communication are key. If in doubt please talk to us in the office.

Each month around 100 **thoughts, hopes, intention and prayer cards** are left in the quiet and prayer rooms. The chaplains and volunteers look at all of these at their monthly gathering.





Chaplaincy & Spiritual Care Service

The Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Service gets **referrals** from many places, including ward staff, the hospital computer system, faith communities, palliative care team and patients themselves. We pride ourselves in being a responsive service. However there are times when it is assumed we know about people being in hospital, when we do not. This is especially true with Church members and it can cause frustration to all concerned. **We are delighted to support local Churches by visiting members in hospital**, but please do let us know. We prefer to know more than once rather than not at all.

Four times a year we run a **Faith and Spirituality Consultation Group**, which has members of hospital staff and local faith communities. The main aims of the faith consultation group are to be the focus for all issues relating to faith and spirituality within the Trust and to be a link between the trust and the local faith communities and offer insights on the role of chaplaincy and spiritual care within the trust. We are always looking to expand this group. For more information about this please contact Martin or Jan.

In October we had 110 new referrals and we made 330 follow up visits. They comprised:

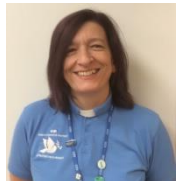
- Urgent Calls (in and out of hours) 23
- Direct from Faith Communities 10
- Friends and Family 5
- Direct from Wards / midway 24
- Chance Meeting 5
- Roman Catholic Referral 23
- Urgent Calls (Not Roman Catholic) 23
- Roman Catholic Urgent Calls 19

Roman Catholic Eucharistic Minister made 333 and we made 330 follow up visits.

Neonatal Natter is a new group, set up on the neonatal ward, which meets once a month giving an opportunity for past and present parents of neonatal ward children to be supported. The Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Service resources the group along with ward staff and Sally a BLISS volunteer.

In September Jan attended the College of Health Care Chaplains Conference and reflects on this and shares a Patient Story.

“Religious ministry is not the whole story, it’s what brought us into chaplaincy but doesn’t define us as chaplains.” Is a quote that will stay with me for a very long time. Said during his key note address at this year’s college of health care chaplains conference Rev Dr Steve Nolan was suggesting that in order for chaplains to remain relevant in a post religious world we should be moving away from the concept that chaplains are there only to meet religious needs.



True, I am ordained within the Methodist church to a ministry of word, sacrament and pastoral care as expressed within the organised, gathered church but I find my ministry has grown to encompass those outside of that gathered congregation to those outside of the church who would say that they aren’t religious but that they are spiritual. A phrase I hear a lot. The ministry I have within a healthcare setting may not be recognisable as anything that would happen within a religious setting but it does have a lot to do with finding God present in the moment and actually being the presence of God to people who aren’t religious but spiritual. This is what I think Steve was implying in his quote. Yes the religious establishment has trained, authorised and equipped me for ministry but it doesn’t confine my ministry.

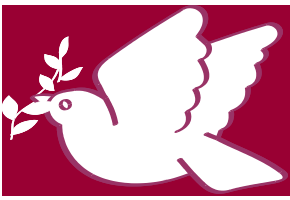
For instance one patient I was asked to see who had just had a terminal cancer diagnosis open with those exact words, I’m not religious but I am spiritual. That’s ok, I said, I’m here for you, we can talk about anything you like. So, what happens after we die? Honestly, I said, I don’t exactly know, never having actually done it. But I can tell you what I think it will be like. Having shared my thoughts and they theirs we had an open and in depth discussion on life and death and where God was in it all. They accepted one of the holding crosses that we give to all end of life patients and asked if I would pray. I did and the presence of God was almost tangible to both of us as we shared in prayer.

I’ve journeyed with this patient over the last two or three years now, the holding cross has gone everywhere with them, they show it to me every time we meet. They would still claim to not be religious but spiritual however on Easter Sunday I had the moving privilege of being prayed for by this patient, and yes the presence of God was just as tangible.

To contact the Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Service

Telephone 01704 70 4639, or e-mail martin.abrams@nhs.net or Jan.fraser@nhs.net

Maria Parker: m.parker11@nhs.net (07467 374 830)



Chaplaincy & Spiritual Care Service

Some Moments from 2019

Celebrating the Jewish New Year



Neonatal Natter



Opening our Rededicated Baby Garden



Our Adult and Baby Remembrance Services

