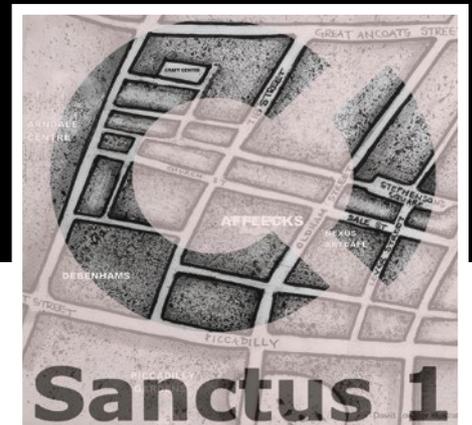


# mission matters



## Chaplaincy Everywhere



### Retail Chaplaincy By Sanctus1

#### Al Lowe tells the story of a chaplaincy project in the heart of Manchester.

Chaplaincy for Sanctus1 has grown out of a developing sense of the need to serve others beyond ourselves within their own context. Although we have looked at different social justice issues in the City Centre of Manchester, it was a presentation by Jonathan Green as part of the Chaplaincy Development Project that finally galvanised action.

A group of six Sanctus1 members agreed to sign up to a commitment of training and so we set a course on implementation. It seemed important to us to catch the wave of enthusiasm, and progress as quickly as possible. We used a condensed version of the *Chaplaincy Everywhere* course to give us direction and insight into chaplaincy, and then went and did it. An important part of the course is looking at context, and

discerning the nature of the chaplaincy we could offer. Being a city centre, this could have taken a number of routes. But by talking and walking the patch, we decided to focus on retail chaplaincy in the Northern Quarter.

We talked over practical issues about keeping safe, listening skills and how to do an approach and then went to see the general manager of Afflecks Palace (a trendy, often quirky, retail space just across the road from Nexus Art Cafe where we are based). Receiving a yes from Tony the general manager gave us the green light to begin.

The start was gentle. It was often just being a presence to the store holders, but as confidence grew, contact occurred and relationships developed. We are there to listen to the stories people want to share; sometimes about business, sometimes about family, sometimes about ducklings hatching and sometimes about God.

When a fire broke out on Oldham Street and a firefighter was tragically killed, the fact that we were already established meant we could respond to both the retail sector and the emergency services.

As we have engaged so well we all feel we are contributing something. Equally, we all feel we are receiving something as well. Sanctus1 members are becoming increasingly involved and so we have recently run a second round of training for new volunteers. We have now started to expand outside of Afflecks and are currently broadening our area of operation into the Northern Quarter of Manchester.

**Al Lowe**, presbyter,  
Sanctus1/Nexus Art Cafe.

Sanctus1 and Nexus Art Cafe are Fresh Expressions in City Centre, Manchester.

Editorial

“But these things remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

1 Corinthians 13:13 (NIV)

As Kevin Duffy and I travelled around the Methodist Connexion promoting *Chaplaincy Everywhere*, working with faithful Christians in local churches to develop chaplaincy for their communities, we were moved by the stories we heard. Stories of small groups of Christians giving a few hours on a regular basis to be present in a place to build relationships of trust and to offer faith, hope and love to everyone they meet. What happens as a result looks different in every place, but all of the stories are expressions of Christians getting caught up in God’s mission.

Chaplaincy is the Church beyond the walls; being guests in other people’s spaces. Someone once said that chaplaincy is being vulnerable for the vulnerable and that is certainly true. But more than that, it is about entering into other people’s worlds, getting on their level, as Jesus often did as he sat with the woman by the well, or walked the Damascus road, or let children sit alongside him. It is this simple act of being with others where they are that marks out chaplaincy as not only an effective and versatile expression of God’s mission, but as something that we can all do in our own way. *Chaplaincy Everywhere* is a vision for the local church which has the potential to transform communities, as people like you and me give a little time to being a faithful, intentional loving presence, sharing hope where hope is in short supply.

Mission that is hopeful, faithful and within the love of God is the kind of mission we believe in, work towards and that is found within the stories of this edition. We pray that as you explore the vibrant ministry of chaplaincy, you will receive a vision for what is possible in your own community.

Guest editor: **Jonathan Green**, Chaplaincy Development Project officer



## Kevin Duffy: a tribute

Whilst working on this issue of *Mission Matters*, we received the sad news that Chaplaincy Development Project Officer Kevin Duffy died in an accident whilst on a walking holiday in Slovenia. Kevin had been in the Connexional Team since 2011. He was passionate about encouraging people in mission through chaplaincy and helped develop the vision for *Chaplaincy Everywhere* in the Lancashire, Cumbria, and Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury Districts.

# V o x p o p s

## Voices from Sanctus1 chaplains

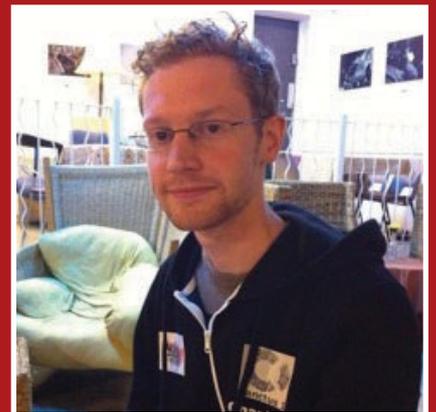
[www.sanctus1.co.uk](http://www.sanctus1.co.uk)

[www.nexusartcafe.com](http://www.nexusartcafe.com)

Twitter: @sanctus1mcr

@NexusArtCafe

### Why do you do Chaplaincy?



**Tim:** “Two reasons, I guess. On a personal level, it’s to do with my own faith and being useful and helpful to others; providing a listening ear and being a caring Christian – which is fundamentally important to what Jesus stood for. Within the wider Sanctus1/Nexus setting, it’s about being more part of the wider Northern Quarter community which has a unique culture and for the wider community to be aware of Sanctus1 and Nexus; that we are here and joined up with them.”

## What are you hoping to achieve?

**Ruth:** "I don't really have a goal apart from being available to listen to what someone has to say without an agenda, I'm not trying to convert someone or give them my opinion."

Ruth and Al leaving Nexus



Al, Roger, Tim and Marti

## What do you find challenging?

**Roger:** "Getting over the stereotype that Christians are there to promote the good news, rather than to share in the good news."

## How has being a chaplain impacted you?

**Tim:** "It's got me thinking, 'How can I do chaplaincy in other areas of my life?'"

**Roger:** "I find I'm doing chaplaincy in other areas of my life."

Tim and Roger



Marti, Roger and Al

## What do you find enjoyable about chaplaincy?

**Marti:** "Meeting people we might not otherwise have spoken to, and sharing stories. By sharing your story, you allow their story to emerge."

## What is the time commitment like?

**Sarah:** "I flex it to fit around all my other commitments, so it varies each month. It's the same for everyone; we each offer time as we are able and pair up accordingly for each session. Individual availability may fluctuate but between us we have good coverage. It certainly makes chaplaincy more achievable."

Sarah and Ruth in Nexus



**Pray**

for the chaplains from Nexus and Sanctus1; that the team will establish itself and support all those who work and live in the Northern Quarter.

# A step in the dark: serving the Methodist Church in Mexico



My wife and I are both Methodist ministers. After 15 years serving the Methodist Church in Jamaica and Ireland, my wife Sonia felt it was time to return home and serve the Methodist Church in Britain once more. I didn't feel the same, but knew that I couldn't be away from the family for too long. I offered to serve as a Methodist minister in a Spanish-speaking country for one year. I had started to learn Spanish seven years ago and wanted to use the year to help improve my language skills as well as satisfy the nagging feeling that I should be serving overseas.

The Methodist Church in Britain pointed me to the voluntary Anglican/Methodist Experience Exchange Programme (EEP) as an option to serve as a Methodist minister overseas for less than a three-year period. I was very impressed with the EEP training programme and, with Sonia's full blessing, committed myself to service through EEP.

I began to have some doubts that I had made the right decision when the only opportunity that came up was to teach English in a Methodist school in Mexico. It wasn't what I'd wanted, but there seemed no other option. At least the school was near to where a friend of mine, a Mexican Methodist minister, worked. He told me that I could work alongside him in his church when I wasn't at the school.

I landed in Mexico on Friday 3 August last year, to work in Pachuca, the State capital of Hidalgo. Methodism

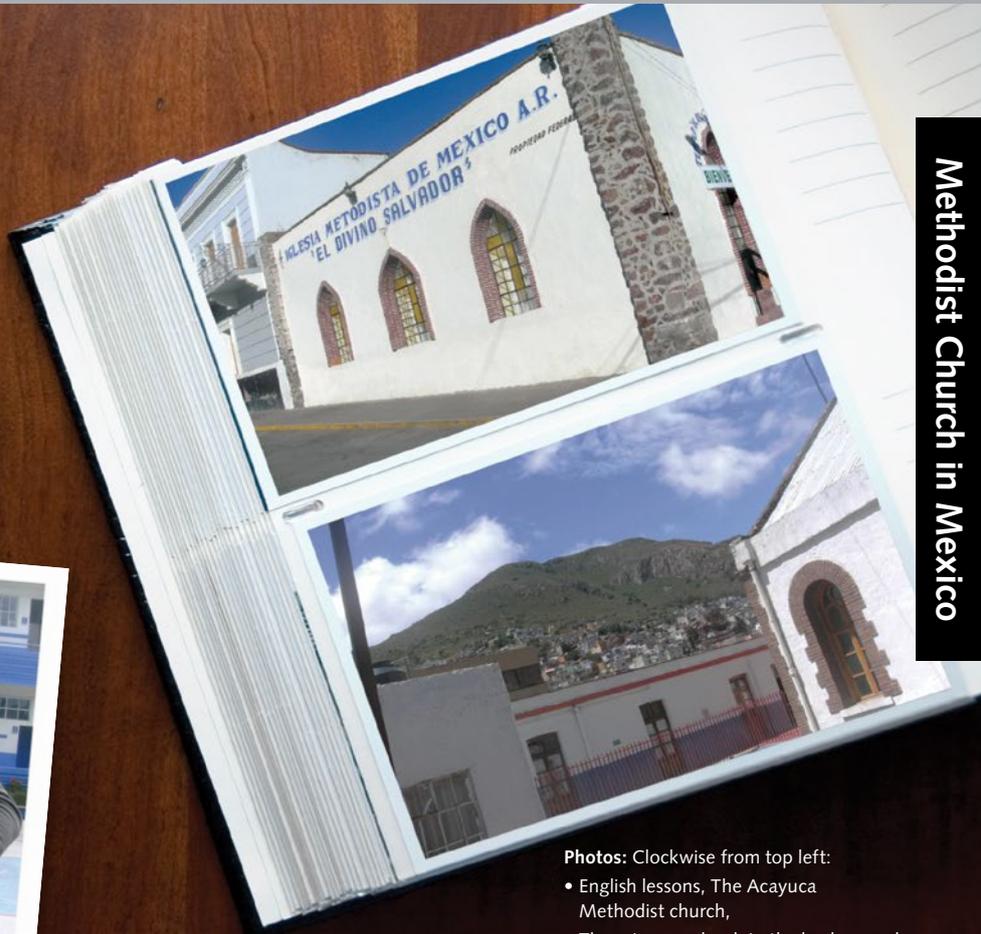
was brought to this part of Mexico in the nineteenth century by Cornish miners, who had come to dig for silver in the hills around Pachuca. They left behind Methodist churches and Cornish pasties. Pasties, with the addition of chilli (of course!), are the local dish.

I was told I would be teaching in the Methodist school six hours a day, five days a week, completely in English. At the weekends, I would accompany my friend in his church in the small town of Acayuca. I felt that I had betrayed the one thing I was gifted to do – be a Methodist minister – and that I wouldn't be working in Spanish enough to significantly improve my language skills. What had I sacrificed a year away from my family for? The day after landing, I was seriously questioning my decision. Then everything changed...

The very next day, I was invited to work in the chaplaincy of the school as they had just lost a chaplain. This meant leading devotions for students and staff, as well as being there when they needed to talk. This was much more up my street, and was all in done in Spanish.

By the Wednesday after my arrival, the bishop had moved the minister friend I was to work with at weekends to the capital to teach full-time in the seminary. He then invited me to look after the small Methodist congregation in Acayuca, which I was delighted to agree to. So, I worked each day in the church, living in the manse, and from Mondays to Thursdays I got a couple of buses to Pachuca, where I worked in the chaplaincy of the Methodist school.

The school, based on two sites in Pachuca, was originally founded by the English who settled there



Photos: Clockwise from top left:

- English lessons, The Acayuca Methodist church,
- The primary school. In the background are the hills where Methodists from Cornwall once mined silver,
- Pupils from the higher level English class,
- The primary school with church tower in the background,
- Members of the Acayuca congregation,
- Conrad with students from the Escuela 'Julianvillagrán' (senior school).



almost 200 years ago. The principal of 'Escuela Julianvillagrán' was keen that the Christian ethos of the school permeated all of its life, so I was asked to lead devotions in every classroom, from pre-school to 18-year-olds each week. This meant the lesson pausing for five minutes as we had a reading, a reflection and prayer. Devotions were also led for all staff: teaching, ground staff and administrators. I also had to be available to offer a listening ear and a word of counsel for student and staff alike. Other duties included running a Bible study/discussion group with one of the school psychologists, which was compulsory for all the non-Catholics.

I returned to Britain in July this year. I can only thank God that having accepted a place in Mexico that did not seem to match what I wanted, it turned out far better than I could

have expected. The church and school were fantastic, providing me all my meals, lending me furniture and being so generous in giving me other financial support so that my family could come out and see me. Having taken a leap of faith, I can only thank God for the privilege of having had a wonderful year in Mexico and for now providing an appointment in Britain from that is reasonably close to Sonia.

**Conrad Hicks, Methodist minister**



Photos: courtesy of Conrad Hicks and @ Photos.com

## A vision to see *Chaplaincy Everywhere*

Chaplaincy is something that every church community can do as an expression of their local mission. One of the best things about the vision of *Chaplaincy Everywhere* is that it is incredibly easy to achieve and costs very little money.

We encourage churches to think small: teams of two or three people giving a few hours on a regular basis to be present in a space. The stories in this edition of *Mission Matters* demonstrate how effective 'a little and often' can be!

### Sent by your church

A chaplain is an official representative, sent by the local church and received by an organisation – be that a school or a factory, a retail space or a casino. There is something powerful about being in another organisation's space, on their terms, inhabiting their world as Christ's representative. Chaplains being sent by the local church means that chaplaincy can be supported locally.

### For your community

Chaplaincy is versatile. It fits in many spaces like markets, schools, factories, throughout agriculture, in care homes, retail centres, civic offices, town centres, transport hubs, FE colleges, Magistrates and Crown Courts, Higher Education institutions, leisure centres and many other places. One of the brilliant consequences of this versatility is that different people suit different situations.

### Something you can do

Someone who has spent time working in the retail sector might be able to empathise more as a retail chaplain. Someone who has spent their lives in the police force will have experienced the stresses and strains of that unique situation and might decide to become a police chaplain. Other people might have the skills needed to be a prison chaplain, or within the health service; others will be most effective in a school



*Remind me again, why did we want chaplains everywhere?*

environment. Chaplaincy is effective because it can match people to place in a way that few other expressions of mission can.

### Chaplaincy together

The Chaplaincy Development Project is an initiative of the Methodist Church. However, all of the local chaplaincy projects have been ecumenical in nature. Chaplaincy is something that churches can do together.

### Chaplaincy where you are

Where is your church community based? What happens close by? Do you see ASDA only as a place to buy milk and bread, or do you recognise that it is also a large local employer with hundreds of staff – who might be served by the presence of a regular chaplaincy team who will listen and be available with them in the midst of their working day?

## The reason for *Chaplaincy Everywhere* is because life happens everywhere!

You see, life happens. Life doesn't stop when you go shopping, or step into a leisure centre or go to watch a sporting event. Life goes on and the unexpected can happen anywhere. News that changes everything can come at any time! Take the cleaner who finds someone unconscious whilst working. Who will sit with them after the event? Who will listen to the factory worker who has had a difficult weekend and is struggling on a Monday morning? When a school community has to come to terms with the death of a pupil, who will be there in the playground in

solidarity, as a caring presence? Who will help the teachers to process their loss? What about the families who are connected to that community? Chaplains create the space to listen without an agenda; to be a supportive presence and to offer pastoral care.

The local Church is well placed to be present beyond its walls in places like these, and you might be someone who has an hour or two to give to do it. *Chaplaincy Everywhere* is something that you can support in prayer, give financially to, and something that you can be involved in making a reality.

Mission begins and ends in the love of God. Mission is that activity of faith

which is motivated by God's love. Mission is the tangible outworking of Christian hope; that God is making all things new and inviting us to help bring this glorious vision about.



**Prayerfully consider ...**

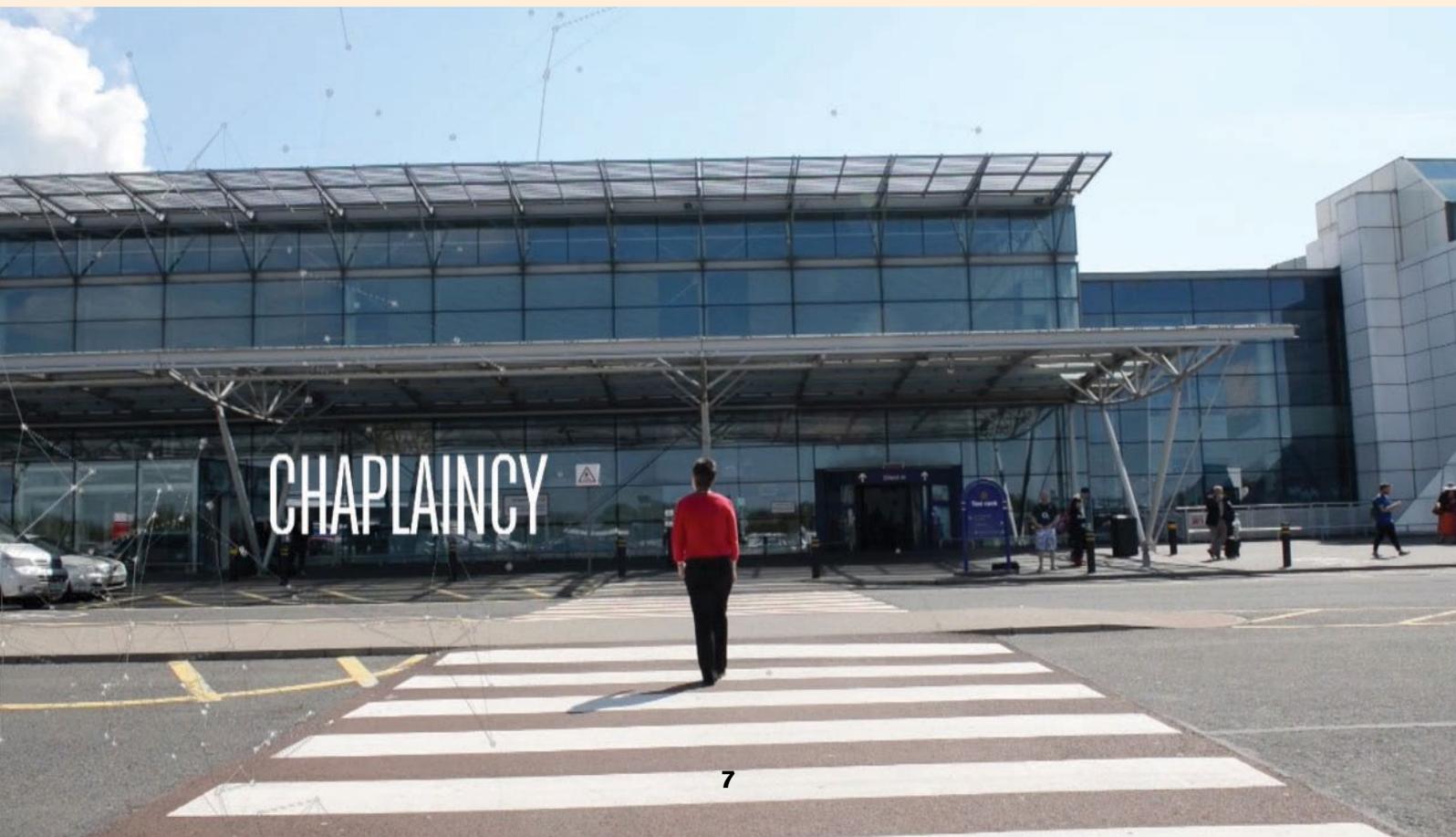
... how your own church community might explore the vision to see *chaplaincy everywhere*.

## The *Chaplaincy Everywhere* film

The *Chaplaincy Everywhere* film explores the ministry of chaplaincy and what it looks like in everyday situations. The film is five minutes long and can be used to envision a congregation or small

group, giving them an insight into the work that chaplains do in all kinds of places. The film is available to download from [www.opensourcechaplaincy.org.uk/film](http://www.opensourcechaplaincy.org.uk/film)

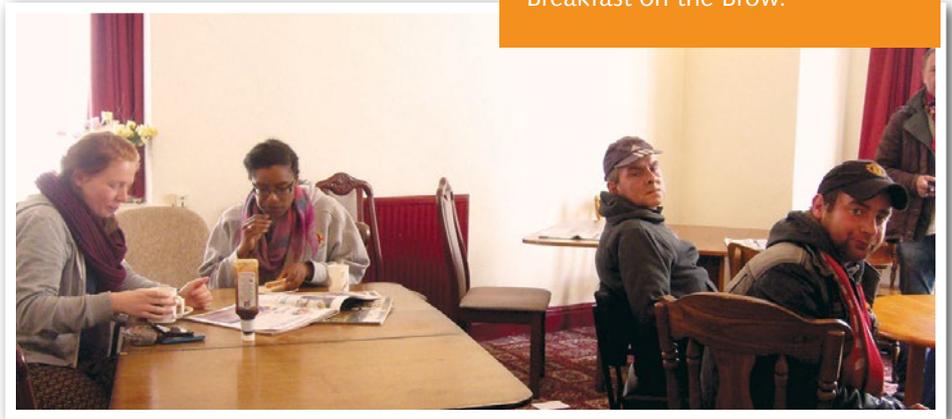
"Absolutely brilliant! I've just sent it to my management team with a note basically saying 'this is what I'm talking about!'" (Stewart Grenyer, chaplain)



# A safe place where conversations happen

*Breakfast on the Brow* is a community-based project that has been running since February 2013, serving breakfast to students every Saturday during term time and providing a place for young people to meet friends, read newspapers or chat to a friendly volunteer. Tea, coffee, juice, bacon sandwiches and egg baps are offered free of charge, although donations are accepted to help cover costs and supplement funding.

The project is based at Brow House on Mabfield Road in Manchester; a community house owned by the local Residents Association. It is in the heart of an area of privately owned student accommodation and opposite the university's largest halls of residence, Owen's Park – making it the ideal location for an initiative such as this.



The aim is to create an atmosphere of community where faith based conversations can happen, as well as reaching out to a generation that is 'missing' from church. We have seen this happen!

Michelle Brocklehurst – Honorary university chaplain

## Pray



for many students at Owens Park to find breakfast, friends, conversation and community at Breakfast on the Brow.

Above: Mmmm, the smell of bacon butties wafting through Manchester! This is the story of *Breakfast on the Brow*, a project which was aided by the Chaplaincy Development Project and also features in the *Chaplaincy Everywhere* exhibition. Follow them on Twitter: @BOTB2013

# The Chaplaincy Everywhere Exhibition

As you can tell, we love to hear and tell the stories of chaplaincy! In fact, we believe in the power of stories so much that we launched the *Chaplaincy Everywhere* Exhibition: a collection of short stories and images. You can download a booklet from [www.opensourcechaplaincy.org.uk](http://www.opensourcechaplaincy.org.uk) and print some copies to give to people in your own congregation. Hopefully the stories will inspire you to support and get involved in chaplaincy.

We are always on the lookout for stories. If you have one, send 150 words and an image to [jon.green@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:jon.green@methodistchurch.org.uk)



*The Chaplaincy Everywhere* exhibition at the Churches Together in England National Conference.

*The exhibition launch event at the 2012 Methodist Conference.*



# The Chaplaincy Everywhere course

As Kevin and I began our work to encourage and enable chaplaincy, we realised that there was a need for training that related to local church members. The *Chaplaincy Everywhere* course was written for local churches who want to explore chaplaincy as a way of engaging with their communities. The course is seven sessions long and leads a group from interested in chaplaincy to preparing to do it.

## Chaplaincy and Chinese in Buxton, Andrew Parker (superintendent minister, Buxton)

In Buxton, an ecumenical group of 15 – 20 people met on Sunday evenings through Lent in a room at the local Chinese restaurant to do the *Chaplaincy Everywhere* course. From that has developed a vision for town centre chaplaincy that will engage with the shop workers and tourists.



## Pray

Around 150 people participated in the *Chaplaincy Everywhere* course in the Manchester and Stockport District in 2013. Buxton was one such place and we can vouch that chaplaincy and Chinese food are a great combination! Pray that all who have participated in the course throughout the country will find a way to develop a local chaplaincy ministry that will flourish and last for many years.

**CHAPLAINCY EVERYWHERE**

A SMALL GROUP RESOURCE FOR NURTURING ENGAGEMENT IN GOD'S MISSION THROUGH CHAPLAINCY

The Methodist Church

**CHAPLAINCY EVERYWHERE SESSION ONE**

CAUGHT UP IN THE MISSION OF GOD

To be the missional people of God means that we are caught up in God's mission of renewal and recreation. God's mission is the context for everything that follows as we consider the ministry of chaplaincy in the twenty-first century. Session one explores God's mission and our part in it as recipients and collaborators.

The Methodist Church

**CHAPLAINCY EVERYWHERE SESSION TWO**

AS CHRIST IN THE WORLD

The coming of the eternal Son to earth in the person of Jesus Christ changes everything. This session focuses on his life, death and resurrection and how the significant themes of incarnation, sacrifice and atonement to the risen Christ shape our understanding and expression of chaplaincy.

The Methodist Church

**CHAPLAINCY EVERYWHERE SESSION THREE**

THE SPIRIT OF CHAPLAINCY

The ascension of Jesus Christ and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost gives birth to the Church as both a recipient and collaborator in God's mission. This session explores some of the chaplaincy themes we observe as the early Church, filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, continues the ministry of Jesus in the world.

The Methodist Church

**CHAPLAINCY EVERYWHERE SESSION FOUR**

THE CLOAK OF CHAPLAINCY

Martin of Tours saw a scantly clad beggar in need of shelter and so he cut his own cloak in half and shared it with the man. Martin became known as the first chaplain. This session explores the sacrificial, caring and compassionate aspects of chaplaincy in the world. It will draw together some of the foundational values of chaplaincy as we consider how chaplains are called to be in places away from our church buildings.

The Methodist Church

**CHAPLAINCY EVERYWHERE SESSION FIVE**

WHAT DO CHAPLAINS DO? BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

This session draws together many of the themes from the previous four sessions in order to provide a rich description of chaplaincy. We will hear four chaplaincy stories which are based upon real life examples and draw out some practical tips. We will also consider the extra dimension that chaplains often bring to a place or situation.

The Methodist Church

**CHAPLAINCY EVERYWHERE SESSION SIX**

CHAPLAINCY IN TODAY'S WORLD; A LOOK AT OUR CONTEXT

The world around us is forever changing; chaplaincy is a highly responsive ministry! This session will help you take a fresh look at your local community as you ask the questions: where might God be calling us to engage? This is a mapping exercise that might lead you to some unexpected conclusions.

The Methodist Church

**CHAPLAINCY EVERYWHERE SESSION SEVEN**

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE? JOB DESCRIPTIONS AND OTHER ESSENTIALS

A professional approach and thorough planning are essential steps on the journey towards forming a chaplaincy team. This session leads you through the process of creating a framework that will support, enable and establish a new chaplaincy ministry that can last.

The Methodist Church

Download the course for free at [www.methodist.org.uk/chaplaincyeverywhere](http://www.methodist.org.uk/chaplaincyeverywhere)



## Catching up with Newbury Town Chaplains

**The Chaplaincy Development Project helped to develop Newbury Town Chaplains two years ago. We caught up with a few of the chaplains and asked them for their thoughts on their experience so far...**

### **Welcomed and accepted**

As time has gone on and now we are almost two years into this ministry, the role of Town Chaplain continues to be an absolute privilege. We are welcomed and accepted in the vast majority of businesses that we call on. A good number also tend to confide in us with matters that are on their mind.

A number of incidents come to mind, including one young man who told us from day one that he was an atheist and didn't believe in God. We had not even spoken to him about any such matters and had only told him that we were from CTNA (Christians Together in the Newbury Area) and that the project had

been a Methodist initiative. However, over the weeks this young man wanted to talk more and more and even asked us to go back when he saw us move past as he had a customer. He became a real friend and willingly accepted a *Why Jesus?* book. He has since moved onto another job but wanted to tell us all about his new role in a care home.

A few weeks ago another gentleman who often works alone in a big shop felt he could pour out his heart to us. He told us that he was rather unhappy at work. They had reduced his hours to 30 per week so that he and a female colleague could cover the opening hours between them. He had been there a number of years and

felt most hard done by. His partner was out of work and they were really feeling the pinch. At the end of our Thursday morning chaplaincy rounds, we return to St Nics church to pray and on this occasion he was top of our list.

I returned a couple of weeks later. His partner had started a new job and for now he had decided to stay where he was. He seemed rather apologetic that he had burdened us with his problems but we reassured him that being available to listen was what we are all about. This particular business has told us we are part of the team in the shopping centre, and offered us staff discounts on anything we want to buy. A true acceptance of our role!



## It takes time

Being chaplain to a recently opened shopping area has taken time to develop relationships with those who work there. However, as people have got used to our visits, they have become less guarded.

The more memorable moments have been:

- When a lady in one of the larger shops wanted to tell me about her widowed mother who is elderly and lives alone miles away and the responsibility and helplessness she felt. I could share and empathise from personal experience.
- The sharing of the problems encountered by staff working in established part-time teams who had their shift patterns changed and randomised. It makes me aware of the extra pressures that staff are put under, which further erodes their family and personal life.
- The student tattooist working in a beauty product environment was really interesting to listen to. She shared about her passion for the job she hoped to have after she was fully trained.

Shortage of money is something many in the retail sector share, particularly in the 'high end' market, where one imagines salaries are commensurate with the products they sell – or perhaps not!

Ethics is a subject which gives us an opportunity to relate to those who sell goods on behalf of large companies, particularly with recent press discussions about sourcing of the High Street clothing industry. Ethical chocolate has also featured in some conversations - testing of samples helps us on our rounds!

## Thoughts from a newer member of the chaplaincy team

It is great to see the smiles of recognition as we go into the shops and to hear the appreciation of the young men and women, when they hear we want to talk to them (and not their customers).

I have been surprised at how much pressure shop assistants are under to reach targets, be they daily, weekly or monthly ones.

I am trying to learn their names, though this can be difficult when days off change and when we go on the same day each week.

Being a person of 'a certain age', I have been surprised by the lovely young people we are meeting, and have been encouraged by their openness – like the young man who was up all night playing a new game on his tablet - then complained he felt a bit tired!

We have lots of laughter on our visits. Chocolate and ice cream often come into the conversations – along with a discussion of how far you have to walk to work off the calories of an ice cream!

## Shock and sadness

We called in to see a couple who run their own business one week and they shared their great shock as they had just heard that a great friend and helper for their business had died suddenly. He was quite young and they had only seen him a few days before when he had seemed fine. We listened sympathetically and hope they felt comforted. Afterwards I felt prompted to take them a sympathy card. When I passed by a few days later the shop was empty so I went in and handed them the card, they were very pleased and grateful.

A lady who used to work in one shopping centre shop had moved to a more upmarket one at the other end of town. She missed the old shop and was overjoyed to go back.

A lady told us about wanting to move house but she wasn't sure. She shared the pros and cons and decided if she could change her car she would move. When we saw her again she had moved, decorated throughout and was very happy with her new home.

## Editor's thoughts

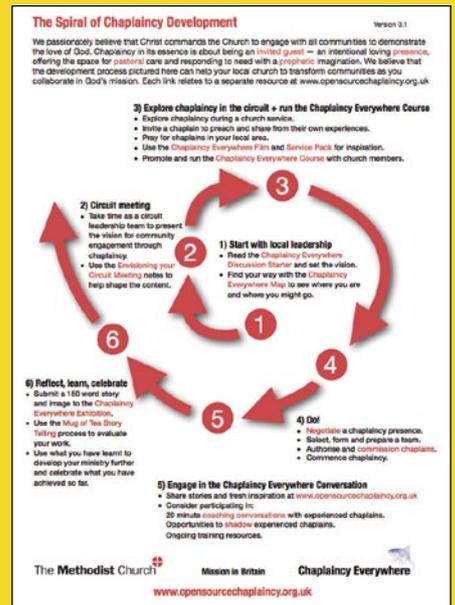
Having been part of helping to launch the town chaplaincy in Newbury, I am so thrilled that the chaplains continue to make their rounds every week and support the shop staff. It strikes me how little conversations about chocolate and computer games, work shifts, money and the joy of new homes, these everyday things, can create a trust. When they need a listening, caring ear to share joy or sadness with, or ask a question about life, the chaplain can respond. All of these reflections remind me how natural chaplaincy can be.

# How to develop chaplaincy

Mission Matters encourages its readers to pray for mission, give to mission and support God's mission. We hope that what you have read in this edition has inspired you to develop chaplaincy as a means of supporting God's mission locally. Supporting God's mission through collaborating in that mission is something we can all do and choosing to develop local expressions of chaplaincy is something every church can give some thought to.

One of the key resources that we launched at the 2013 Methodist Conference was the Spiral of Chaplaincy Development. It is a summary of the stages that we have found to be essential in the formation of local chaplaincy teams and is accompanied by numerous resources that will facilitate a conversation about what chaplaincy might look like in your own community. In other words, you don't need to wait for the Chaplaincy Development Project to get to your district, you can begin yourself by using the resources to kickstart chaplaincy as an expression of mission where you are.

Download *the Spiral of Chaplaincy Development* for your own church at [www.opensourcechaplaincy.org.uk/spiral](http://www.opensourcechaplaincy.org.uk/spiral)



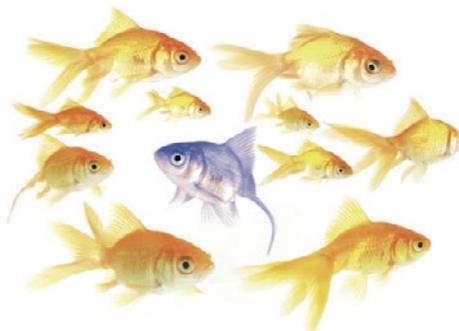
# The Chaplaincy Development Project

The Chaplaincy Development Project is funded by Mission in Britain. It is your generous giving that enables many of these stories to be told. We ask that you will continue to pray for the work, that it might grow and spread as the Spirit leads us.

The project started in April 2011, our task to see how chaplaincy might be developed as part of the mission of a local church or circuit in collaboration with other churches in an area. We started with a list of chaplains to visit and a small number of churches who had signed up to be part of the pilot.

Through regular visits to learn from experienced chaplains and time spent on the ground with local churches, we learnt many lessons and gained invaluable experience which we have tried to share through the resources we have developed.

Two and a half years later and we have so far worked in the Southampton, Lancashire, Manchester and Stockport, Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist Districts and have begun work



in the Sheffield and Cumbria districts for the 2013/2014 connexional year.

The blue fish swims among the goldfish – distinctive, creating spaces, sometimes swimming in the opposite direction. How is this blue fish like a chaplain? Are you a blue fish?

## Pray



for the work of the Chaplaincy Development Project; that Jonathan might be effective in all the work he does with local churches across the country, and that the vision for *Chaplaincy Everywhere* might spread far and wide.

## Coming soon

Here are two resources to look forward to in Autumn 2014.

### Essential Skills Course

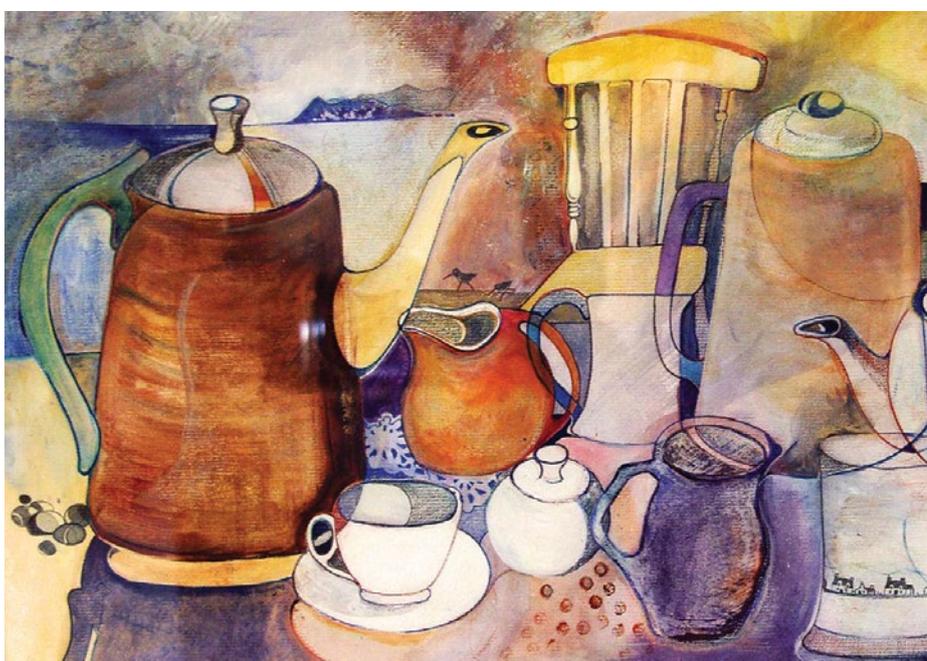
The follow up to the *Chaplaincy Everywhere* course will explore the essential skills a chaplain needs in five sessions. Each session will offer a mix of practical guidance, insights from experienced chaplains and biblical and theological reflection. The course offers an opportunity for learning and growth to both those new to chaplaincy and those who already have some experience.

### Flatpack Chaplaincy

*Flatpack Chaplaincy* will consolidate all of the processes that a local church needs in order to plan, assemble and install a chaplaincy team. Chaplains not included: some assembly required.

## Time for a tea break

The Chaplaincy Development Project has had an impact beyond the project districts. The Passing Place Chaplaincy has been encouraged through resources and conversations over many months. Based in the Outer Hebrides, the following story is part of the *Chaplaincy Everywhere* exhibition and part of the project story.



### The Passing Place

by Peter Harlington (chaplain, the Passing Place)

The Blue Pig is an art venue on the west coast of Lewis, a quiet garden with accommodation and home baking. It is also an abode for being with oneself and one another, celebrating our creative responses to a world with beauty and interest.

We share whatever possibilities are available, whether in crisis or joy; through this process our senses are healed and restored. When we are uncertain or frightened or lacking in connection it can help to communicate and embrace

life through our creativity. We may then learn to understand our spirituality and endeavour to live in harmony with it.

We listen and reflect, not just with one another but with the very God of our creation, whatever tradition we may come from. Perhaps we as friends may then glimpse the reality of earth as it is in heaven.

Original artwork by Jane Harlington ([www.janeharlington.co.uk](http://www.janeharlington.co.uk))

## Mugs of tea

Evaluating chaplaincy is one of the most difficult things one can do. How do you assess the value of conversations, waving, passing hellos? How do you measure the effectiveness of pastoral care, when the outcome may be months, even years down the road, conclusions you may never see or hear of?

Well, we have been working hard to answer that question. In order to do so, the project teamed up with Bristol University to develop 'Mug of Tea Stories'. These are the stories we might tell over a brew; the stories of our lives and the meaning of the ministries we are involved in. Once captured, a small group studies the stories and reflects upon the question: what is the most significant change? The learning is then drawn together and the conclusions fed back into our practice as chaplains.

We have piloted Mug of Tea Stories with two chaplaincy teams and the results have been wonderful. The process works for chaplaincy, but equally for other ministries too. Find out more at [www.opensourcechaplaincy.org.uk/stories/mot/](http://www.opensourcechaplaincy.org.uk/stories/mot/)

“Chaplaincy is the ultimate responsive ministry!”

“If you want to know what a discipleship movement shaped for mission looks like, look no further than the ministry of chaplaincy.”

“Chaplaincy can be the fence at the top of the cliff.”

# The Ghanaian Methodist Fellowship

The Ghanaian Methodist Fellowship meets twice a month for afternoon worship; on the second and fourth Sundays at Westminster Central Hall and St Marks Methodist Church in north London respectively. These worship events offer members the opportunity to sing, pray and dance as they would in Ghana. The fellowship is a lifeline for many Ghanaians both in times of sadness and whenever there is an event to celebrate.



The Ghanaian Methodist Fellowship



There are many groups within the fellowship, such as the Susanna Wesley Mission Auxiliary (SUWMA), the choir, the Christ Little Band (CLB), Men's and Women's fellowship and youth ministry. Many of the groups visit local churches for fellowship and evangelism.

This year, the CLB the SUWMA celebrated their sixth and tenth anniversaries respectively. The SUWMA, which takes inspiration from Susanna Wesley (the Wesley brothers' mother), made cash donations to Children's Cancer Hospice at Tower Hamlets in London, and 'the Broom', a charity for street children in Ghana.

The Ghanaian Methodist Fellowship celebrated its eleventh anniversary on Sunday 8 September, and continues in its effort to help integrate Ghanaians into British local churches. When new members join, we find out where they live and point to them their local Methodist church and encourage them to attend. As part of the anniversary celebration, the fellowship had a brass band procession through London Victoria to Westminster on Saturday 7 September.

The fellowship has taken the integration theme beyond London. The London-Ghana youth trip initiated by the current Chaplain, the Revd William Davis is in its fourth year. Interested youth of all nationalities are selected each year from churches across London for the two-week visit. The idea is to experience church in a different context and Ghanaian culture in general.

Due to the success of the youth trip, the clergy have also followed suit. For the past two years there has been a ministerial delegation from London to Ghana. Their Ghanaian counterparts have also been to London once.

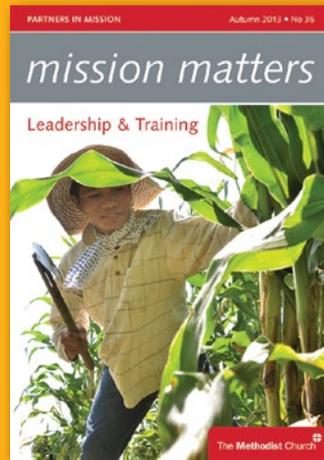
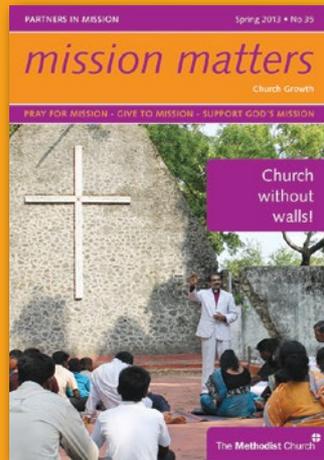
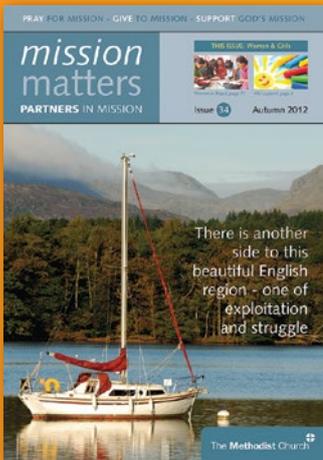
The fellowship had a strong presence at this year's Methodist Britain Conference held in Westminster Central Hall, London, in July.

**Website:** [www.gmfuk.wordpress.com](http://www.gmfuk.wordpress.com)

*Image Left:* The Revd William Davis with some ministers on a trip to Ghana. *Right:* Some members of GMF at this year's Methodist Conference in London.

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## Can I change my dream?

by Sarah Lowe (a retail chaplain)

A lady was running her own shop,  
it was what she'd always wanted to do...  
...but the reality was not how she had imagined it.

She found that there were other things going on in her life  
that she wanted to be part of,  
but that she was tied to the shop six days a week.

Her partner said to her,  
"But you're living your dream!"  
She looked at me and said,  
"Can you change your dream?"

We are in pursuit of happiness.  
We aspire to things and think,  
"I'll feel fulfilled and happy if only I do X."  
We do X and yet are only happy for a short time.

Can you change your dreams?  
Yes, you can change your dreams,  
but true happiness, true fulfilment,  
will only ever be found with God.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

## Chaplaincy prayer

God of love and all life,  
we have glimpsed something of your glory.  
Your glory in creation,  
your glory in Jesus.  
Your glory in re-creation,  
your glory in us.  
We thank you for  
your unconditional love for us.  
For the abundant life that you offer.

You satisfy  
our deepest longings for living water.  
You equip us for service;  
to love as you love,  
beyond our comfort zones.  
In those places, you are with us.  
We thank you for your faithfulness  
and an invitation to be with you.  
We praise and worship you,  
the one who delights in us.  
Amen.

## Open Source Chaplaincy

You can join us in the ongoing conversation about chaplaincy development at the project website, found at [www.opensourcechaplaincy.org.uk](http://www.opensourcechaplaincy.org.uk)

