

Winchester City Centre Chaplaincy (WCCC):

A Listening Ear in the City



Our Chaplains act as a 'listening ear', on a pastoral basis, in a wide range of settings - in shops and offices, in the Law Courts, at Winchester City Council and other premises in the city. We befriend and build up relationships over time. We support people of all faiths and of none. Our chaplains find the role very rewarding. Indeed we have many wonderful encounters and our conversations are always interesting. People are grateful for the opportunity to talk about some of the difficulties that they are experiencing. Although our chaplains are all Christians and active members of the supporting churches, we do not counsel or preach. We are not specialists but are motivated by a wish to support others.

Pre-Covid, in 2019, our chaplains made over 1800 visits and had over 2600 conversations - many of which were significant ones. Since then our visits have been curtailed because of lockdown restrictions, although we have been able to support some of our city workers in person, in accordance with the guidelines, and also by phone. We provide appropriate training and support.

There are other ways in which you can help too: for example, we would like to develop a support prayer group; occasionally we need IT support; periodically we need volunteers for the Management Group.

We operate under the auspices of Churches Together in Winchester. Our team of chaplains is headed by Lead Chaplain, Canon Nick Fennimore, (Winchester Cathedral) who has developed chaplaincy groups in the NHS and at the Cathedral. The Management Group, jointly led by Michael Joseph (St Paul's) and Veronica Last (St Peter's), deals with all administrative matters, finance and training.

If you feel that this ministry might be for you, please contact Veronica initially by email for an exploratory chat. Your offers of help would be most welcome.

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