



Aylesbury Town Chaplaincy Newsletter

Hello everyone

As we start the season of Lent we've been asking... Do you give something up for Lent? Or do you take something on? Maybe, pledging to spend more time in prayer or in listening to others or something else?

There are many Lent courses or daily reflections available each year – do you follow one? In my small group we use the Embrace the Middle East Lent material – this year the theme is 'Inspired by Hope'. In part of the introduction it says

"Hope ebbs and flows. It responds to the rising and falling of the tide of circumstance. Sometimes hope floods the shore of our experience; at others it retreats far into the distance – and for many of us, that is where it seems to rest now. However, Lent is a chance for us to remember that reality is not defined by our experience, that beyond the horizon, God is, and that our immediate hunger points to a greater need for the One in whom full satisfaction is ultimately found."

Whatever practice or tradition you practice during the season of Lent may you know God's hope and blessing at this time.

Thank you as ever, Catherine

Latest news

Our volunteers are still unable to be out as Chaplains & Street Angels, but hoping over the next few weeks we can at least begin to plan our return. We will watch as things open up again to make sure we can be out when we are needed. At the moment we are still able to offer a 'phone conversation with a Chaplain if someone wishes – please contact office@aylesburytownchaplaincy.co.uk with name and contact number if interested.

We are also using our twitter feed (@AylesburySA) to send encouragement and thanks to people in Aylesbury.

At our Trustees meeting in late January, we said a huge thank you & goodbye to Paul Hulcoop. Paul has been one of our trustees for the past 3 years and before that volunteered as a Street Angel for 6 years. David Finn (currently a volunteer Street Angel) was appointed as a new Trustee at the meeting.

From 1st May our part-time staff have taken a reduced salary to reflect the reduction in some aspects of their work during this time.

Other Updates

We've continued to be able to connect with our community partners via online means. Since our last update: Catherine attended a virtual meeting of Aylesbury Deanery Synod providing them with an update of our work.

Catherine attended a virtual meeting of the Aylesbury Community Board's Health & Wellbeing sub-group.

Mark attended a virtual gathering of Chaplains to Thames Valley Police.

Volunteer News

We are continuing to hold volunteer update meetings fortnightly where we have the opportunity to catch up and pray for one another.

One of our Street Angel volunteers, Mark, has stepped down. We thank him for his amazing service with us for the past 5 years.

Despite all the restrictions on our activity at the moment we would love to recruit new volunteers as Street Angels, Chaplains, HOTS members or Trustees. Just get in touch with the office or Mark or Catherine direct if you'd like to know more. Or we have volunteers from many churches so you may already know one – ask them what its really like!

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE CHAPLAINCY & JOIN IN...

All our work is done from and on behalf of the churches of Aylesbury. It is an expression of our wish to be church 'out there', joining in with what God is doing out in our town, and can only continue where churches and church members join in.

In prayer: Become a prayer partner – contact the office.

By volunteering: contact Mark or Catherine to find out more or see the website

By becoming a Friend: contact the office or see more details on our website

Follow us on Twitter: @AylesburySA



Financially: please get in touch via our office or the website or using the Golden Giving website <https://www.goldengiving.com/wall/aylesbury-town-chaplaincy>

Listen: Please let us know if you'd like us to speak at an event or meeting at your church.

How to contact us:

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Trustees: David Finn, Colin Hartley, Andrew Henderson, Doug Zimmerman



PRAYER UPDATE (FEBRUARY 2021)

Monthly focus for January

- Our focus would normally be for the Chaplaincy in Morrisons. As our Chaplain Melissa is not able to be there at present please keep all those who work in the store in your prayers. They have been working really hard throughout the last 12 months providing food, deliveries and pharmacy services. They are meeting many different people every day. Please pray blessings for these people.
- Each month we'll focus our prayers to individuals associated with the Chaplaincy; please pray this month for: Mark Knight (Lead Chaplain & Street Angels Co-ordinator) and for Catherine & Emma (two of our volunteer Street Angels)

Other recent prayer requests

- Give thanks that the vaccine programme is proceeding well
- Pray for wise decisions as leaders begin to work out next steps to come out of lockdown
- Pray for those who work in health and social care – the national 'conversation' seems to have moved from their workload, which has been even higher than 'normal' for 12 months now. Please pray that support is available at all levels.
- Pray for those who work for and volunteer with Aylesbury Vale & Milton Keynes Sexual Assault & Abuse Service, and Aylesbury Women's Aid as they save and support people and their families in their survival.
- Pray for those who are working so hard providing vaccines and volunteering to help this effort.
- For M supporting various family members through difficult situations at the moment
- For those working in our hospitals