



CHAPLAINCY REPORT

2024



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WELCOME

This report gives some helpful and encouraging insights into some of the mission and ministry of chaplaincy across different areas and organisations in the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham. I hope you will get a sense of the difference that chaplains make, hold them in your prayers, and encourage more opportunities for chaplaincy in parishes, communities and organisations. Currently there are 60-65 Anglican Chaplains ministering in our diocese. A mixture of ordained and lay; some full-time, others offering an occasional few hours a month; a few are paid but most volunteers. Some are working in sector ministry, such as Healthcare, Prisons, Education and the Armed forces; some are working in a more parish or community-based context, such as workplaces, town centres, police stations and Air Cadets; some for specific groups or periods of time, such as Chaplaincy to the Deaf Community, rural context, Civic Chaplaincy, Royal British Legion and Mother's Union.

Christian Chaplaincy is deeply missional, motivated by compassion, there for the 95% who do not have regular (monthly) contact with church, meeting those people where they are and offering an unconditional welcome, spiritual care and accompaniment.

Christian Chaplaincy is rooted in prayer, and confidently seeks to be with people as Jesus was with people. These are often people on the edge of their communities and on the edge of faith.

Christian Chaplaincy courageously enables encounters with people. usually outside of a church building, as followers of Jesus, often going as visitors rather than welcoming as hosts. Prayerfully joining in the transforming mission of God.



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PRISON

There are four prisons in the diocese each of which with a full time Anglican Chaplain as part of the broader chaplaincy team. We have both ordained and licensed lay chaplains often supported by ordained and lay volunteers.

Some interesting statistics from one of the prisons we supported in 2024:

- Approximately **6 Epiphany Cell / Home Blessings**
- **9 Baptisms**
- 1 Memorial Service
- 1 Funeral (including bereavement support to the deceased prisoner's family)
- 1 Burial of Ashes
- Approximately 6 Confessions heard
- **Weekly Holy Eucharist every Sunday** (excluding the first Sunday of the month) attended by roughly **25 men** per week
- **10 Study Groups** attended by an average of 7 men (Lent and Advent group topics have included, 'Who is Jesus', 'How to be a better Christian', and the book of Revelation).



I felt a part of something bigger than just my family, it made me feel more connected to my late grandparents who were high in the church community. Also it made me feel forgiven!

Prisoner 'C' on his baptism

Thank you for your compassion, wisdom, time and teaching over the past 10 months. I am extremely grateful for the study Bible, book on Romans and other Scripture which you have kindly given me. I will make it my life's work to serve the Lord using the teachings and encouragement you have given me.

Prisoner 'D' on his transfer to a Cat. D prison



HEALTHCARE

Chaplains can be found in a range of healthcare contexts: NHS Trusts, Hospices and GP surgeries.

There are four NHS Trusts in our diocese:

- **Nottingham University Hospitals (NUH) Trust** in the QMC and City hospitals is one of the largest NHS Trusts in the country, a regional resource, with over **2000 beds** and circa **20,000 members of staff**. A large multi-faith Spiritual and Pastoral Care team includes **four Anglican Chaplains**.
- **Sherwood Forest NHS Trust** at Kingsmill and Newark serves mid and west Nottinghamshire. The team includes **one Anglican Chaplain**.
- **Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust** specialises in mental health work and has units as far north as Rotherham and south as Leicester. The Chaplaincy team is multi-faith working in diverse settings such as Rampton Hospital and two hospices. Currently there is **one part-time** and **one volunteer** ordained Anglican Chaplain on the team.
- **Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Trust** covers north Nottinghamshire as well as parts of South Yorkshire. There is currently a vacancy in the team and until recently there was an ordained Anglican Chaplain on the team.

Below is an example of what one part-time chaplain with managerial responsibilities covered in 2024:



Nottingham University Hospitals Chaplaincy Overview

At NUH, within the multi-faith and ecumenical chaplaincy team there are currently five chaplains who are licensed Anglican clergy: two full-time substantive, two part-time substantive (4 days a week) and one bank.

As with any chaplaincy, the number of 'encounters' does not reflect quality / significance or length of time spent with any person(s). An 'encounter' may be anything from 5 minutes, to over an hour, or occasionally several hours. For each chaplain, the number of 'encounters' averages out to between 8-10 per day worked.

Approximate annual total encounters for substantive Anglican Chaplains : 6,544 – 8,180

These 'encounters' include:

- **General pastoral and spiritual conversations**, which may include prayer or other liturgical ministry – these may be with Christians (any denomination), people of 'no faith' or 'non-churchgoers' or those of other faiths.
- **Pastoral supportive ministry** around challenging situations: bereavement, sudden illness/death, withdrawal of life support, traumatic injury including RTC or attack, mental illness, suicide, addiction, homelessness, abuse, child/baby death.
- **Staff support** (e.g. personal spiritual, other emotional support, or work related issues).
- **Staff training** around communication skills, end-of-life care, spiritual and religious needs around hospital care. 1-2 'sessions' per month, per chaplain.

Average annual total: 72

Specific ministry includes:

BAPTISMS -

- Baby/child: 1-2 per month, per chaplain. **Average annual total: 72**
- Adult: 1-2 per year, per chaplain. **Average annual total: 6**
- Other liturgy of naming and blessing for babies / neonates / children who are miscarried / stillborn / dying / dead: 1 a week, per chaplain. **Average annual total: 208**

FUNERALS -

- Baby/child – individual: 1 or 2 per month, per chaplain. **72 services/year**
- Baby – communal service for early miscarriages: 2 per month total. **24 services/year**
- Adult – 1 or 2 per year, per chaplain. **12 services/year**

OTHER SERVICES / MINISTRY -

- Memorial services for staff who have died while still hospital employees: 1 or 2 per chaplain, per year. **12 services/year**
- Facilitating emergency marriage in hospital, sometimes with service of blessing to follow: 2 or 3 per year, per chaplain. **10 services/year**
- Bedside communion: total approx. 6 per hospital, per week. **624/year**
- Sacramental ministry at end-of-life (prayers, anointing etc): 1-2 per day, per chaplain. **4,908/year**

Hospice

Hospice care is a vital part of the health and social care service and chaplains aid the work of hospice care. As people come to the end of their lives, spiritual questions or concerns often arise. Chaplains enable patients to reflect on these questions and find peace. Hospice patients and their families experience a range of emotions such as fear, grief, anger, and deep sorrow. The chaplain is there to help navigate this experience through a spiritual lens as people come to terms with death and dying.

Hospice chaplains are also well placed to provide advice on funeral arrangements and planning. Hospice chaplaincy also has a key role in caring for staff: a chaplain is able to walk alongside staff and support them as they grapple with the spiritual and pastoral challenges of working in hospice care.

An example of the activity of one part-time hospice chaplain, in 2024 that included over 200 individual patient contacts, supporting over 70 staff members, running bereavement groups, and supported over 170 families/carers. The chaplain also led or supported funerals, memorial services, wedding vows, and communion services.

HIGHER EDUCATION

In the diocese we have two large and important universities based primarily in and around Nottingham. These universities include in the region of **70,000 students** in total and **a thousand members of staff**.

The universities also have a presence in rural areas of the county, including a Nottingham Trent campus in Mansfield, adjacent to West Notts College.

We have ordained Anglican Chaplains serving at both universities. It is difficult to quantify the impact HE chaplains make. They engage each year with thousands of students through events, and many hundreds seek individual support. Many staff too make use of the opportunity to seek support for personal and faith matters they would rather not talk about to anyone else, including to those in their own churches. The story, however, is told by more than just numbers. Two storylines in particular stand out in the last year:

Pastoral Support:

Our HE Chaplain often offer support to those who have lost someone very close to them. Surprisingly, many students experience bereavement during their studies, and especially for those who are far from home, the grief can be destabilising to the point of potentially derailing their academic success. Recently, after her graduation ceremony, one such student came to find Revd. Grant Walton (Coordinating Chaplain at the University of Nottingham) to thank him for the many conversations they shared around her pain and the new reality of life without her loved one.

“I don’t know what I would have done without the knowledge that you were just there when I needed someone to listen.”

Faith Journey:

HE Chaplains also offer support to those students who want to explore their faith. Often this is because the path they have followed prior to university is no longer satisfying, either spiritually or intellectually. This has been an opportunity to help some embark upon a journey towards faith for the first time; for others, it has been an opportunity to deepen and expand their vision of Christian belief and how faith works out in their own lives.

Grant shares: ***“I particularly enjoy these encounters, and it is rewarding to have watched the formation of a small, loosely-knit community of students who are all grappling with the implications of the gospel for the world.”***

Further Education Colleges

There are four substantial Further Education Colleges in the diocese.

- Nottingham College
- North Notts College in Worksop
- West Notts College in Mansfield
- Lincoln and Newark College - Newark Campus

Currently there is some chaplaincy ministry happening in Newark and at Basford Campus of Nottingham College. This is provided by the local parish churches in both cases building relationships in the local community. This is an area with huge future potential.



RURAL COMMUNITY

Large areas of the diocese are rural, and we have a retired priest volunteering as the **Farming Community Network (FCN) chaplain** supporting those who work within the organisation and occasionally helping with the case load if a chaplain can help.

FCN is providing vital wellbeing support to those working in the farming community who at times can experience isolation. It involves going into Melton Market to support both Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire farmers and the nurses that come from Lincolnshire. That's where the chaplain comes face to face with the farmers, young and old.

Examples of chaplaincy support include supporting a lady coping with a farm and issues of inheritance and ill health; supporting someone with issues over a partnership and the effect on one partner's mental health. More recently a young tenant farmer was struggling financially and their youngest child had recently been diagnosed with leukemia.





EMERGENCY SERVICES

Chaplaincy support is offered in quite different ways to the Emergency Services in the diocese.

East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS)

EMAS has employed a part-time chaplain to support staff across the region. This post is currently in vacancy, but as a diocese we are liaising with EMAS about future provision particularly the EMAS Trust headquarters in Bilborough.

Nottinghamshire Police

The lead chaplain is an ordained Anglican who supports this chaplaincy as part of the workplace chaplain full-time post. During 2024, three new chaplains joined the diverse volunteer team of eleven. Five of the team are Anglicans, (4 lay chaplains), five are from other Christian traditions and there is one Imam. The lead chaplain visits Sherwood Lodge (JHQ) and others as required. Each of the other chaplains visit a couple of stations each.

The lead chaplain offers a range of ministry including an online Christmas message; a Remembrance Service at Sherwood Lodge (together with the Fire and Rescue chaplain); wellbeing days with teams at different stations (commissioned by the Deputy Chief Constable) and leading monthly chaplaincy team meetings. In addition, the lead chaplain has conducted five memorial services for officers who have died in service through sickness or other causes at Sherwood Lodge Memorial Garden.

Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service

We are fortunate to have an experienced Anglican priest as a volunteer chaplain. Here are some examples of his ministry in 2024:

*"A key part of my role is to regularly visit all of the 24 fire stations around the county, weekly visits to the Joint HQ, and all the support personnel. Each station has 4 crews. **In 2024 I visited every station in the County**, some multiple times to visit different crews. These visits include the on call crews who cover from 5pm-8pm. I also visited the Joint Control in Derby and regularly visit different departments in JHQ.*

Sadly, one Fire Officer died and I was asked by his colleagues if I would visit his partner, which I did. Subsequently she asked if I could take the funeral and it was a privilege to take the service which was supported by the fire service.

I have also provided personal support to four crews after they dealt with a critical incident.

*I had two 'ride-ons': one with Newark White crew, and one with Arnold Blue. **A "ride on" is a full days shift with a crew, going out with them to all calls** which included a road traffic accident where the driver was lying trapped under the vehicle, car fire outside a car showroom, releasing a deer stuck in fencing, training on the river, four safe and well visits and a visit to a primary school.*

I attended three end of training events at the Training School and was able to introduce myself to new trainees and explain my role.

I helped lead the joint Remembrance service (Police and Fire) and helped to organise the Joint Emergency Services Carol Service in Southwell Minster.

***I have regular two hour sit ins at the JHQ and various stations, so staff are able to meet me for pastoral support.** This was trialled for six months in 2024. As a result of its success, I will now be doing regular monthly sit ins, in a private meeting room, alternately at JHQ and Highfields Fire Station. This enables me to give pastoral support to non operational as well as operational staff.*

SPORT

Currently Sports Chaplaincy is focussed on **Notts County Football Club** with two volunteer ordained Anglican chaplains (one a curate regularly visiting the Academy) offering ministry.

As a diocese we seek to work closely with Sports Chaplaincy UK to encourage vocations to various types of chaplaincy in sport - football, cricket, rugby, running clubs and leisure centres. In the past there have been chaplains at other football and rugby clubs in the diocese and hopefully new opportunities will emerge soon, especially in finding a chaplain for Notts County Women's Football Team.

The role of the Notts County FC chaplain is very much about offering pastoral and spiritual support to everyone at the club; to people of all faiths and people of no faith, offering friendship, support and encouragement to players and their families, staff at the club, former players, directors and supporters alike.

"Thank you for being so supportive of my family. We felt loved and valued right from the very start. We will miss you Rev. Keep fighting the good fight." - A player moving on from the club

Numbers of contacts on an average Friday:

- 34 football staff coaching / playing (~8-9 conversations)
- 25 stadium full-time staff (~4-5 in depth conversations)
- 10 academy staff (~3-4 conversations)
- 5 Football Foundation Staff (rest at the Portland Leisure Centre)

Pastoral Support

Our Notts County chaplain is involved in supporting playing staff experiencing mental health difficulties, both inside and outside the club, which currently includes one player signed off for a month. He also supports another player struggling due to long term injury and fear about being released from contract **(88% of players under the age of 24 who were released in 2020 suffered from anxiety and/or depression).**

Other examples of the people currently supported at Notts County:

- A member of staff adjusting to adopt a baby
- A supporter with Parkinson's Disease
- Several members of staff going through bereavements
- A member of staff and family when made redundant just before the birth of their first child
- A Muslim player, which led to a community Iftar during Ramadan at the football club
- Three Christian players both pastorally and with prayer time. One shared, ***"It's been such a blessing getting to share the Lane with you over the past 18 months. Seeds have been sown and watered and we will trust in God to bring the increase."***
- Notts County Memory Clinic, a project which encourages former players to meet at Meadow Lane once a month. Work with former players and their families impacted by early onset dementia and neurological diseases caused by heading of a football. *(Former footballers are three and a half times more likely to die of dementia than people of the same age range in the general population).*

Services for Notts County which our chaplain has been involved in in 2024:

- One baptism: *"Thank you so much for organising and delivering such a beautiful service.. I don't think we could possibly put into words how much we appreciate your friendship and kindness."*
- One wedding
- 3 funerals
- 2 burial of ashes
- A carol service attended by over 100 people

WORKPLACE

Nottingham Workplace Chaplaincy was established originally as a missional project at St Peter's Church in Nottingham City Centre to connect with people in workplaces in and around the city. Currently there is a full-time (partially funded by donations) ordained Anglican chaplain leading a team of four volunteer chaplains. Key relationships currently include:

- John Lewis
- Marks & Spencer
- Capital One
- Specsavers
- Nottingham City Transport
- Browne Jacobson
- Harco
- Freeths
- Rothera Bray
- YMCA
- Lord Mayor
- Notts County Council



One of the team is in touch with and visits a number of smaller businesses in the Lace Market and there are many more informal relationships with other businesses in the city.

As Chaplain to the Lord Mayor, the Workplace chaplain has led pre-supper Grace at the Goose Fair dinner; led prayers at Remembrance Sunday on the Embankment; hosted a Civic Carol Service at the Council House and provides ongoing pastoral support for the Mayor.

Pastoral Support:

- Monthly online **Grief Cafe** for Notts County Council (sessions have between 4-8 people).
- Regular weekly visits to businesses, always a conversation with someone
- **One to one meetings** with individuals (30)
- Monthly chaplains meetings

A flavour of 2024:

- Couples visits discussing relationships (e.g. Bus Driver and wife)
- Preaching / teaching (e.g. Faith in the Workplace at St Paul's Daybrook, and at Southwell Minster)
- Visiting staff at a Law Firm to offer support after death of a colleague
- Coaching / support for Mental Health First Aiders at Harsco
- Harvest Festival at Experian (a fair of different speaker and stalls)
- Bereavement services forum (online) with Notts County Council
- Speaking to an afternoon group at Christ Church Chilwell on Workplace Chaplaincy
- Home visit to bus driver and wife following pedestrian death following a road accident
- Accompanied the Archbishop of York on his visit to Nottingham City Transport (*see photo below*)
- Hosted the Lace Market Carol Service.



COMMUNITY & PARISH

A number of churches are engaged with their local community offering a chaplaincy approach to the local context. There is **a team in Sneinton offering chaplaincy to the local GP surgery**, two parishes in north Nottinghamshire are exploring **Town Centre chaplaincy** and **chaplaincy to Nottingham Deaf Society**.

St Martin's Sherwood Chaplaincy Team

The Sherwood Chaplaincy team is multi-faceted in approach. They are a team of 10 seeking to serve the community in the following ways:

- Monthly morning prayer services at a local care home
- Weekly chaplains on hand to chat and pray with visitors to our 'Nourish Cafe' (part of their Nourish project).
- Two of the chaplaincy team run regular 'nurture courses' for Nourish Cafe regulars. As a result of this, we have seen two women find faith in Jesus and were baptised in November.
- Monthly visits to the shops and businesses on the Mansfield Road.

St Mary the Virgin & All Souls, Bulwell

- The vicar has been appointed as Honorary Chaplain to Highbury Hospital, Bulwell. As part of his parish duties, he helps support the Spiritual and Pastoral Care Team at Highbury Hospital, Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, by visiting patients and staff on wards Rowan 1 and 2 each week.
- The Vicar, St Mary's Pastoral Visitor, and members of St Mary's congregation celebrate a service of Holy Communion for the whole hospital on the first Sunday of each month.

Nottingham Deaf Community Chaplaincy

Revd. Wendy Murphy has been voluntary Anglican Chaplain for the Deaf Community in Nottingham since before Covid. On average she attends Nottingham Deaf Society on a Wednesday lunchtime at the 50+ club 3 times a month.

