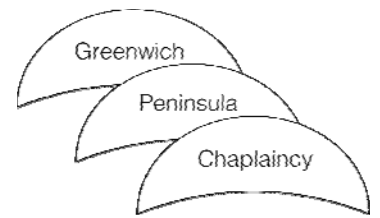


The Greenwich Peninsula Chaplaincy



Newsletter July 2006 www.greenwich-peninsula-chaplaincy.org.uk

Rapid progress: - the arena

Construction of the arena inside the O2 (which is what we must now call the Millennium Dome) and of the entertainment district around it is going very fast. The contractor is Sir Robert McAlpine.

Planning for the first new housing is also progressing, and the first areas to be built by Meridian Delta Ltd. will be just to the north of the Greenwich Millennium Village and at the north-west tip of the Peninsula.

- the chaplaincy team



From left: Captain Eileen Halliday, the Rev'd Michael Dent, Mr. Harbhajan Singh, the Rev'd Malcolm Torry, Sheikh Ali Barakat, the Rev'd Nancy Odunewu, & the Rev'd Derek Clacey. The Rev'd Martyn Coe was absent.

Every day Monday to Friday there is a chaplain on the McAlpine site for a couple of hours at some point during the day. Occasional visits are also made to the site between the O2 and North Greenwich Station where McNicholas are creating a new square.

Currently we are a team of eight chaplains working on the construction site:

Sheikh Ali Barakat, the Rev'd Derek Clacey, the Rev'd Martyn Coe, the Rev'd Michael Dent, Captain Eileen Halliday, the Rev'd Nancy Odunewu, Mr. Harbhajan Singh, and the Rev'd Malcolm Torry.

We shall soon need to recruit further chaplains so that we're ready for the opening of the O2. Being chaplains to a twenty-four hours a day entertainment district with arena, cinemas, clubs, restaurants, theatre, and exhibition space, and possibly a casino, will be a different kind of task. We shall need a wide variety of expertise drawn from the faith communities of the borough and possibly beyond.

Further details of the recruitment process appear on page 2:

Steering Group meetings

The chaplaincy is managed by the Greenwich Peninsula Chaplaincy Steering Group which is a registered charity. The trustees are:

Mr. Saeed Ahmad, the Rev'd Elaine Cranmer (treasurer), Rabbi Tony Hammond, the Rev'd Jeffrey Heskins, the Rev'd Harry Lanham, the Rev'd Mike Leader (Chair), Ms Samantha Leader (no relation), Ms Kuheli Mookerjee, Cllr Jagir Sekhon, and the Rev'd Jim Teeling.



From left: Mr. Saeed Ahmad, the Rev'd Harry Lanham, Ms Samantha Leader, the Rev'd Elaine Cranmer, the Rev'd Mike Leader, Rabbi Tony Hammond, Fr. Jim Teeling, Ms Kuheli Mookerjee, & the Rev'd Jeffrey Heskins.

The trustees are responsible for the work of the chaplaincy and they meet about once a quarter to review progress and plan for the future. They often receive visitors. The meeting last November welcomed the new Bishop of Woolwich, the Rt. Rev'd Christopher Chessun; and at the meeting in February of this year Adrian Tallett, Director of the Forum @ Greenwich, gave a presentation on the Forum's work. (When the chaplaincy becomes responsible for activity in the Greenwich Pavilion one of those activities will be community development. We shall be seeking partners for this work, and the Forum will be one of those partners.)

The meeting in May of this year was held at the offices of Anschutz Entertainment Group (the company which will be managing the O2 once it's open) and the meeting included a discussion with representatives of AEG and Kerzner (the company which will be managing the casino if it's built).

Consultation

In October 2003 we held a conference to listen to a wide variety of people's views on how we should go about providing for the spiritual and other needs of the new community. On September 27th 2004 the four presidents of Churches Together in England visited the peninsula and we took the opportunity to invite thirty people from the borough's faith communities and Borough Council to meet them. And on Wednesday 21st September last year we held a further conference during which participants were invited to join groups on particular topics so that we could hear everyone's views and be better able to plan our work during the coming year.

Prayer space

In a couple of years' time, when the first homes are built, the Greenwich Pavilion will be relocated and the chaplaincy will be responsible for managing it.

The Greenwich Pavilion is the glass and green steel building at the end of the peninsula, to the north of the O2. During 2000 it was a café and 3D cinema, but since then it's been unused and fenced off. It will be moved to the eastern side of the peninsula, on the riverfront, and will then be refurbished so that the faith communities can use it for worship, prayer, study and dialogue. It will also be used for community development.

In the meantime, if the relocation of the Pavilion is delayed, a temporary space will be made available for meetings, worship and prayer. When this happens we shall be seeking volunteers to help us to manage the space. Again, recruits will be sought amongst the borough's faith communities.

Recruitment of chaplains

When the O2 opens next Summer we shall need a team of volunteer chaplains to serve the spiritual and other needs of staff and visitors.

This stage of the chaplaincy project will look rather more like the chaplaincy in the Millennium Dome during the year 2000 than

the chaplaincy we are currently running on the construction site. During that year a team of about twenty volunteers worked in shifts to ensure that there were always two chaplains present to staff the Prayer Space and be out and about meeting staff and visitors. The dome was open from morning until late evening: the O2 will be open for twenty four hours a day, and precisely what the chaplaincy rota will look like is something which the trustees and chaplains will soon need to consider.

Advertisements will be distributed through our mailing list and through Greenwich's Multi-Faith Forum. Selection will be for training, and once a candidate has successfully completed the training, and a Criminal Records Bureau enhanced certificate has been obtained, there will be a probationary period. After this, appointment as a permanent volunteer chaplain will be offered. Continuing supervision and regular chaplains' meetings will be organised, as they are now.

We shall again be seeking people who exercise pastoral gifts in their faith communities, and we shall be hoping for new recruits from a variety of faiths to work as volunteer chaplains in the O2.

If you might be interesting in receiving information on the next round of recruitment for volunteer chaplains then please let us know; and if you know someone whom you believe would be good at this task, then please ask them to get in touch with us.

The Council of Reference

The Greenwich Peninsula Chaplaincy Steering Group is a body of trustees who are responsible for the work of the chaplaincy.

An important part of our structure is the Council of Reference. Its role is to keep good communication flowing between the faith communities and the chaplaincy. This is so that the faith communities know about the chaplains' work and can comment on current activity and future plans, and so that the trustees can hear the views of the faith communities.

To the Council of Reference meetings are invited leaders of the faith communities represented in the borough. The co-chairs are the Ven. Christine Hardman (Church of

England, Archdeacon of Lewisham) and Mgr. Richard Moth (Vicar General of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark).

The Council of Reference meets about twice a year, and last February it held a joint meeting with the Steering Group and the chaplains.

A possible casino

The Government is planning to permit one supercasino, and a proposed casino in the O2 on the Greenwich Peninsula has reached the shortlist. A decision will be made in December.

Last year the trustees (with help from the Council of Reference) agreed a paper on the proposed casino. After discussing the paper with Anschutz Entertainment Group (responsible for the arena and entertainment district in the O2) and Kerzner (the company which will run the casino if it opens), the paper was published.

The paper outlines some of the reasons for the proprietors of the O2 wishing to locate a casino on the Peninsula; lists some of the criticisms which the Faiths' sacred writings make of gambling; and discusses some of the arguments being put forward to support the location of a casino in Greenwich. It concludes:

The faith communities' task is to speak for the vulnerable: for people tempted to gamble, and for their families – for by doing this we love our neighbour. And here speaking for the vulnerable means pressing Kerzner to provide spaces in their casino where there is no gambling, where there are comfortable seats, and where there is someone to listen; it means ourselves providing care for those people who are having difficulties with a gambling obsession; it means services for families suffering from problem gambling – and all of this requires a positive relationship with Kerzner, Anschutz Entertainment Group, and the London Borough of Greenwich. Such a positive, communicative relationship is what we intend.

And in such a context it is also our task to continue to speak the wisdom contained in our Scriptures and the wisdom which has evolved in our respective traditions.

We believe that these two tasks are compatible with each other.

If you would like to receive a copy of the paper then please let us know.

Thanks

We are grateful to:

Trustees, members of the Council of Reference and chaplains for the large amounts of time which they are contributing to this project;

Meridian Delta Ltd., English Partnerships, Anschutz Entertainment Group, Greenwich Borough Council, Greenwich Multi Faith Forum, the borough's Borough Deans, Meridian Delta Ltd., Sir Robert McAlpine and McNicholas for all the help they have given;

Meridian Delta Ltd., Blackheath Bluecoat School and Anschutz Entertainment Group for hosting trustees' meetings, and McAlpine for hosting chaplains' meetings.

The Community Development Foundation and local faith communities for funding the chaplaincy

Quoting from this newsletter

We are happy for people to quote from this newsletter provided the quotation is accompanied by a note to say that the material was first published in the newsletter of the Greenwich Peninsula Chaplaincy Steering Group.

Information

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Meet the chaplains.....



Sheikh Ali Hassan Barakat

Ali is an Imam and Chaplain for the Oxleas NHS Trust. With a wealth of experience gained from nine years as both an Imam and as a hospital chaplain. Ali has worked in the field of

community development and advancing social cohesion.



Rev'd Derek Clacey

Derek was appointed Team Vicar in the Church of England Team Ministry of East Greenwich in 2004. Born in Dartford he trained as a quantity surveyor and served for 11 years in the building industry before

training for Ministry. This took Derek away from the area for about 30 years before he returned to East Greenwich.



Rev'd Martyn Coe

Martyn Coe is a Christian Minister working in Greenwich within the United Reformed and Methodist Churches. Initially a trustee of the chaplaincy, in 2005 Martyn was appointed by his

regional church to work in East Greenwich and the Peninsula until 2010. Martyn has since become one of the Chaplains standing down as a trustee.



Rev'd Michael Dent

Michael is an experienced Industrial Chaplain with a range of skills gained from work places as diverse The Globe Theatre, Excel Distribution and the Ministry of Defence. He is also a part

time advisor for Mission in London's Economy.



Captain Eileen Halliday

Eileen is responsible for leading a small church which includes community outreach. She has experience of Chaplaincy from previously working in a men's hostel.

Eileen is also currently involved with an Alpha course for staff at Belmarsh prison.



Rev'd Nancy Odunewu

Nancy is a Diversity Officer working for the Methodist Church, providing consultancy for Clergy.

Nancy also works with various denominations and Christian organisations and is a member of the Joint Council

for Anglo Caribbean Churches.



Mr Harbhajan Singh

Harbhajan co-founded the Anglo-Asian-African-Caribbean Friendship & Cultural Association in May 1977. Three years ago he co-founded the Bexley Multi-Faith Forum and is Vice Chair.

Harbhajan is a retired teacher and an experienced prison Chaplain as well as being the Public Relations Officer for the Council of Gurdwaras.



Rev'd Malcolm Torry

Malcolm Torry has been a parish priest and industrial chaplain for more than twenty-five years, the last ten years in the Parish of East Greenwich. As well as being Site Chaplain on the peninsula, he is chaplain to

the Tate and Lyle refinery. He has been Site Chaplain since 2003, and is responsible to the Greenwich Peninsula Chaplaincy Steering Group for the work of the chaplains.