The ROYAL MARSDEN
NHS Foundation Trust

# Chaplaincy

## Pastoral, Spiritual and Religious Care

### Information for patients, visitors and staff

NHS

## What do chaplains offer?

- Spiritual care – a safe space to process what is happening to you, a listening ear and a warm acceptance
- Religious care through reflection, prayer, reading of scriptures and sharing the sacraments
- Events to reflect, inspire, and celebrate including special occasions such as our annual Christmas Carols, A Time to Remember and Celebrate a Life services
- Supportive materials from various religious traditions
- Help to enable people to practise their faith in the hospital setting
- Help with facilitating special life events such as weddings and civil partnerships
- Support for those who are facing difficult or life-changing treatments, death, and bereavement.



## Do I have to be religious to access chaplaincy services?

Not at all. We all find strength in different ways. Chaplains are here to help you reconnect with your source of strength. Members of our team come from very different backgrounds and belief systems, but we all chose to be chaplains because we respect the complexity of human spirituality and want to treat people with compassion and understanding.

## I don't consider myself a spiritual person, why would I need a chaplain?

Everyone has a sense of self and a set of values which guide our decision-making, especially when life takes a difficult turn. When faced with life-changing health issues, mortality, or bereavement, we tend to think deeper about what is important to us and what is not. Reflecting on these things is a basic spiritual need of any human being. It may be helpful to talk to someone who will listen and help you process what is happening to you.

## I am not dying, why would I need a chaplain?

Chaplains are often asked to be with people who are approaching end of life as there may be a need for anointing, a blessing or a prayer. We are there to offer an opportunity for difficult but necessary conversations and support anyone going through distressing times, but that is not all we do. Chaplains also help to celebrate recovery, give thanks for life and for the kindness of people who have made a difference. We can support you when thinking things through and reflecting on life changing circumstances. We won't give you answers but we will be there for you as you discover them.

## Are you only here for inpatients?

We are here for anyone who comes through the doors of our hospitals. Patients, their loved ones and staff are all welcome to contact us. Let us know and we will find a way to meet with you

or speak to you on the phone, whichever you prefer (see contact details on page 5). If you are an outpatient, you can email us to tell us when your next appointment is, and we can find you during your treatment. If you are a staff member, you're welcome to have a coffee with a chaplain. Family and friends of patients are welcome to contact us – we are here for you.

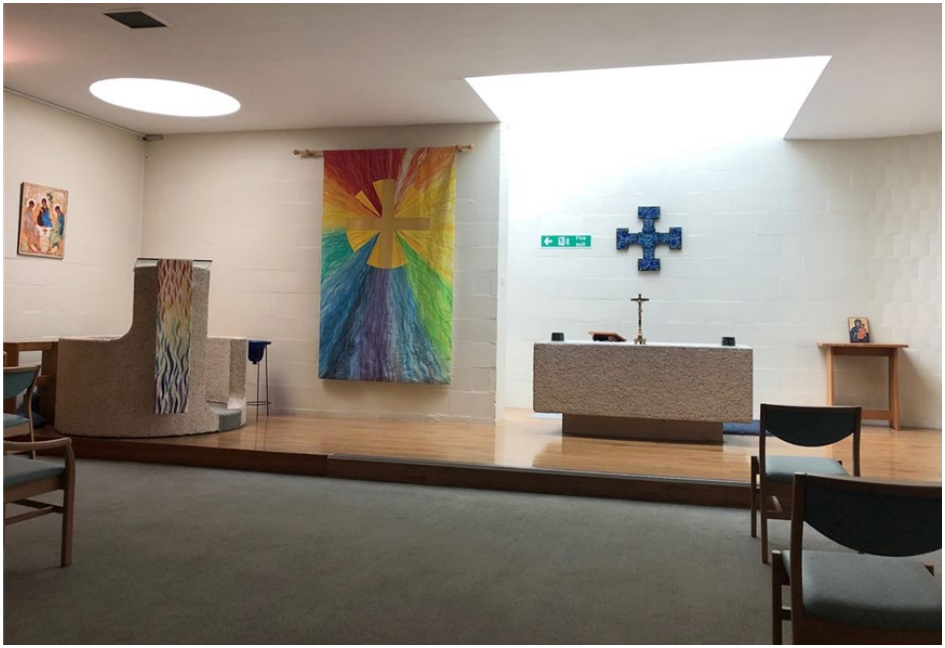
## What are chapels and prayer rooms for?

They are sanctuaries in the busyness of the hospital where you can take refuge from difficult thoughts, fears and stress. They are open 24/7 to anyone who would like to spend a few moments of reflection, meditation or prayer. Our chapels are also a home for music and beauty. We hold concerts and display images and words that help us draw strength and take comfort.

The **Sutton** Chapel and Prayer Room are located on the third floor in the West Wing. Weekly services in Sutton:

Christian Prayer Thursday 1pm – 1.30pm

CofE Eucharist every first Thursday of the month.



The Chapel of All Saints in **Chelsea** is to the left of the main reception. Weekly services in Chelsea:

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|---|---|---|
| CofE Eucharist | Tuesday | 1pm – 1.30pm |
| Roman Catholic Mass | Thursday | 2pm – 2.30pm |
| Buddhist Meditation | Wednesday | 4.15pm–4.45pm |



The Prayer Room in **Chelsea** is on the ground floor in the Wallace Wing, near pharmacy.

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**Celtic Benediction**

Deep peace of the running wave to you.

Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

Deep peace of the shining stars to you.

Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.

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## Contact details

Chaplains are usually around 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday. You are welcome to call us and leave a message:

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|---|---|
| **Chelsea** | 020 7808 2818 |
| **Sutton** | 020 8661 3646 |

In case of an emergency out of hours, please contact the Switchboard on 020 8642 6011 and they will attempt to find a local faith/belief leader. Please note this may not always be possible.

You can also email us at chaplaincy@rmh.nhs.uk

We would like to hear from you.



## References

This booklet is evidence based wherever the appropriate evidence is available.

Details of the references used in writing this booklet are available on request from:

The Royal Marsden Help Centre
Telephone: Chelsea 020 7811 8438 / 020 7808 2083
Sutton 020 8661 3759 / 3951
Email: patientcentre@rmh.nhs.uk

No conflicts of interest were declared in the production of this booklet.

Should you require information in an alternative format, please contact The Royal Marsden Help Centre.

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