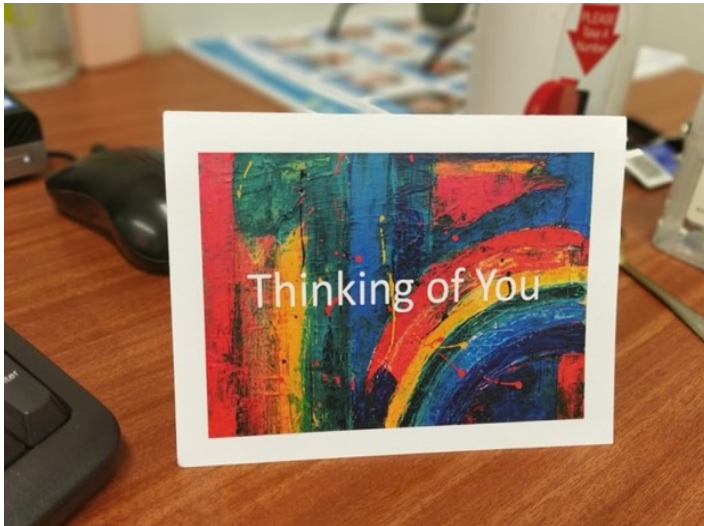


# Spiritual Care Bulletin



## THINKING OF YOU

Louie Savva, Chaplain, writes:

“As part of staying in touch with LPT community hospitals, we have sent out a card which details that chaplaincy is still open for business and telling staff how to make referrals to the service. All inpatient wards across LPT should have received a card, as our way of showing that we are still thinking of you all during this difficult time.”

You can find out more about Chaplaincy on Twitter: See [twitter.com/Leic\\_Chaplaincy](https://twitter.com/Leic_Chaplaincy)



## DIWALI – 15th NOVEMBER 2020

*Lalit Dave, Hindu Chaplain explains the background to this popular festival.*

“Diwali, also known as Deepavali, literally means ‘row of lamps’. It is now recognized as the festival of lights. It is the most popular Hindu festival and it is unique because it has combined religious, historical and seasonal significance. It falls on the night of the new moon in the month of Kartika.

“The festival signifies the victory of divine forces over those of evil. It is a joyous celebration of the homecoming of Rama to his birthplace, Ayodhya, after spending fourteen years in exile. The people lit thousands of clay lamps, known as ‘deepa’, to welcome Rama, Sita and Lakshman.

“In the UK, Hindus decorate homes and public buildings with brightly coloured lights. The houses are thoroughly cleaned and new clothes are worn. Gifts and greetings cards are exchanged. In many cities, firework displays are usually held and sweets distributed among the public. But this is year may be different because of Covid-19.”



## Chaplaincy - here for you...

Phone: LRI: 0116 258 5487 | LGH: 0116 258 4243 | GH: 0116 258 3413 | LPT: 01509 564218

Email: UHL: [chaplaincy@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:chaplaincy@uhl-tr.nhs.uk) | LPT: [chaplaincy@leicspart.nhs.uk](mailto:chaplaincy@leicspart.nhs.uk)

Twitter: [@Leic\\_Chaplaincy](https://twitter.com/Leic_Chaplaincy)





## LOVE AND LOSS

We need to talk about Loss... And Love.... During these times everyone has been affected by loss in some way. People have experienced many different sorts of loss: death and bereavement at work and at home; job losses and uncertainty; collective gatherings and seeing family; grieving the loss of normal living with constantly changing situations.

We've also thought a lot about hope - finding and nurturing the resources we need to cope and keep going.

Many societies express loss in some way. For many Pagans Samhain is a significant festival as we enter the darkest part of the year - marking the end of the cycle of birth and death. In Christian tradition, All Souls Day on 2nd November is a time of remembering those we have lost and looking forward.

We're going through a lot together, accompanying each other through our own 'love and loss' and discovering new ways to experience love through the natural world, the arts and all kinds of creativity.

**If you would like to share your experiences of LOVE & LOSS and what you have found helpful from the perspective of your tradition, Chaplaincy will be hosting various events and drop-ins starting from 2nd November. Look out for our events in the next few weeks – we would love to hear from you.**

**Follow us on Twitter @Leic\_Chaplaincy**

**'May Love be what you remember.' (Darcie Sims)**

## HOSPITAL WEDDINGS AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Since the onset of Covid-19, many weddings and civil partnerships have been delayed. The chaplains' role is to support making arrangements for emergency weddings and civil partnerships in hospital. In normal times these are conducted by Leicester City Council's Registrar service. However, at present it may only be possible to hold an urgent civil partnership ceremony in hospital, but this is not guaranteed. Under separate arrangements, there may also be provision for some types of religious weddings in very limited circumstances.

More days than usual need to be allowed to make arrangements and strict criteria apply. No ceremonies can be held at weekends or out of hours. So if one of your patients is considering requesting marriage or civil partnership, ward staff should consult a hospital chaplain as soon as possible for the latest advice. Please ask switchboard to contact the On-call Chaplain urgently.



## URGENT CALLS FOR RELIGIOUS OR SPIRITUAL SUPPORT

When you call for support urgently, we want you to be able to speak to the correct person as quickly as possible. Most times this will be a UHL chaplain, though in some cases you may be put in touch with a local community religious leader.

*(for instance if you ask for a Roman Catholic priest)*

If your call is urgent:

- **Phone switchboard giving your ward details**
- **Explain that the call is urgent and why** *(this should prevent the call being put through to an unstaffed chaplaincy office, especially outside normal office hours)*
- **State the religion or belief of the patient**
- **If you have to leave a message, give your contact telephone number as well**
- **If you haven't heard back in 15 minutes, phone switchboard and ask them to ring again or** *(where appropriate)* **to phone the next person on the list**
- **If in doubt, or if you need further urgent advice or help, you can ask switchboard to call the On-call Chaplain at any time 24/7**