

Spiritual Care Bulletin

GOODBYE to two of our Chaplains

Sonya Wratten has been a chaplain here since September 2017. Sonya is moving to the town of Reading to become the vicar of Reading Minster. Sonya has made a huge contribution to the Chaplaincy team at the Leicester Royal Infirmary. She has supported many patients and staff. She has been instrumental in a number of initiatives, such as "Mindfulness and Meditation" for staff, "Songs of Praise" for patients living with dementia, and celebrations for special religious festivals such as Eid and Diwali. We wish her well in her new role.



Jane Flint is retiring after five years working across UHL and LPT. When she started she was the first non-religious chaplain employed in the NHS. Jane has worked tirelessly to establish the role of a non-religious chaplain, deepening the understanding of what the role offers. During her time as a chaplain she has supported countless staff and patients. Her pioneering role also led to our second non-religious chaplain joining the team in May 2019. We know she will continue to be busy with various commitments, but wish her well in her 'retirement'.

Jane reflects here on her time with UHL and LPT:

"In January 2016 UHL became the first UK NHS Trust to employ a non-religious chaplain alongside religious colleagues. My five years in post have been both a pleasure and a challenge. Establishing recognition of non-religious pastoral and spiritual care has at times felt like I'm trying to swim upstream against a strong current. Chaplaincy has a long tradition defined by religion.

People who don't identify with any religion, or identify themselves as Humanist, Atheist, or Secular in general aren't used to having a choice of Chaplaincy care aligned to their world view. Most staff members I've spoken to through the years have been interested and positive about the inclusion of a non-religious chaplain. The UHL Palliative Care team and LRI Security Officers stand out for me as teams who welcomed me and gave me insight into the diverse challenges of working in Acute Care.

The inclusion of non-religious chaplains has furthered the UHL and LPT equality and diversity agenda. It has encouraged other NHS Trusts to open their recruitment to qualified, non-religious applicants. The post has helped to expand staff awareness and understanding of Chaplaincy and the breadth of support we offer. Having a non-religious member in the Chaplaincy team continues to stimulate a deeper understanding of different religions and beliefs in general.

It has been a privilege to be there for patients, families and staff."

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 | LPT: chaplaincy@leicspart.nhs.uk

Twitter: @Leic_Chaplaincy





HAPPY NEW YEAR from Sybil!

Our first LPT card of the new year features Sybil the pug, wrapped up warm in her wintery attire.

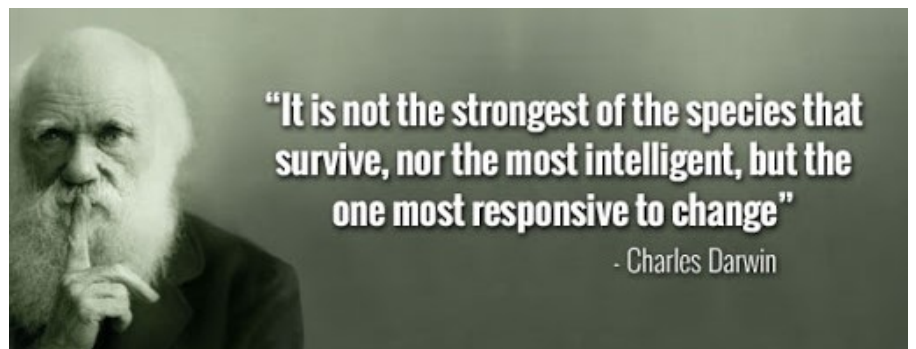
These cards are sent to all LPT community hospitals to remind the staff that chaplains are still visiting patients across the trust, and providing contact details for staff to make referrals to the service.

Darwin Day

Charles Darwin was a brilliant British scientist. Celebrated annually on February 12th, International Darwin Day commemorates Darwin's birth in 1809. It is also a day to bring attention to Darwin's contributions to science and highlight science in general. It is celebrated all over the world.

A few reasons to celebrate Darwin Day:

Darwin's ideas on natural selection revolutionised the field of biology. Our understanding of modern medicine was improved as a result of medical professionals understanding and applying Darwinian principles. All life shares a common ancestor, and thus each one of us is related to each other, and all life upon the planet. Darwin's work has been championed ever since it was first published, and today is a simple and yet powerful tool for understanding the world, with applications far beyond the natural world (for example in artificial intelligence and medical research).



A Prayer for our World

God of love and hope,
you made the world and care for all creation,
but the world feels strange right now.

The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.
Some people are worried that they might get ill.
Others are anxious for their family and friends.

Be with them and help them to find peace.

We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists,
and all who are working to discover the right
medicines to help those who are ill.

Thank you that even in these anxious times,
you are with us.

Help us to put our trust in you and to keep us safe.

Amen.

"If I had my life to live over again, I would have made a rule to read some poetry and listen to some music at least once every week." - Charles Darwin

You can find out more about
Chaplaincy on Twitter:
See twitter.com/Leic_Chaplaincy

