

Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland, Suite 1, First Floor West, Clydeway House,
813 South Street, Glasgow, G14 0BX

Charity number SC041857

What's on and where

WPCS has established a regular calendar of events, throughout the year, across the country, to help people find out more about chaplaincy in the workplace and how to go about volunteering.

So far this year, we have held Introduction evenings in Edinburgh, Arbroath, Stirling, and Inverness, with others following in Melrose, Glenrothes, Glasgow and Aberdeen - for more details please visit our website www.wpcscotland.co.uk find us on Facebook or Tweet to @WPCScotland.

You can also email us or speak to a chaplain directly using the information on our website Contact page.

In addition to our initial 'taster' sessions for volunteers, we run several training modules annually.

To date this year, chaplains have had the opportunity to learn about Organisational Dynamics, Active Listening, Bereavement and Signposting people to further support and help.

Later in 2015 we will be offering modules on Safeguarding, Suicide Awareness, Trauma in the Workplace, Building Resilience, dealing with Conflict and engaging with the Media.



The end of the rainbow: Shetland Isles chaplain Tom Macintyre pictured during his recent locum work in Lochcarron

Available to help

Continuing our focus on you, the chaplains, we bring you a taste of what it's like to be a workplace chaplain in our most far-flung outpost – Shetland.

Rev Tom Macintyre, a retired Church of Scotland minister, is a volunteer chaplain to Shetland Islands Council (SIC) and to Shetland College.

Here he outlines what that's like: "The chaplaincy is part-time so I concentrate on referrals from the Welfare Officer at SIC and the Operations Manager at the College. "This is basically a 'listening service'. I have very good support from the Welfare Officer who herself is part-time. Confidentiality is a big factor in a close-knit community like Shetland so I have access to discreet interview rooms in the department. The council have agreed that I can offer employees six, 50 minute sessions during working time. The welfare department has produced a flyer specifically relating to the chaplaincy and this is circulated on the intranet monthly to remind people of the service. I am invited to speak at the council's induction day for new employees. It can be very rewarding when people are able to move on through their

difficulties and express their appreciation of support given.

I know that sometimes people need someone to turn to in unsettled times and I want to be available to help.

"In addition, I am involved in Civic Ceremonies on behalf of the Council such as the Act of Remembrance, Holocaust Memorial Day and occasional commemorations. I'm also involved with youth volunteering."

A founding member of Shetland Inter-Faith Group, he was instrumental in bringing an Interfaith Activity Week to the islands in 2010, looking at issues of diversity, mutual respect and understanding.

Tom and his wife Marion moved to Shetland almost 10 years ago when he took up a five-year tenure as a Church of Scotland minister serving several churches on the west of the archipelago. His parish included Foula, one of the country's most remote inhabited islands.

"Before moving to Shetland I had ministries in Paisley and Ayrshire and previously in Govan, Glasgow, where I worked as industrial chaplain to the Glasgow Underground, making contact with employees in the maintenance workshops," he explains.

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WPCS NEWS

Highlander's view

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"I sometimes did the circuit on the trains to speak to the staff there. I became a workplace chaplain shortly after I moved to Shetland."

Tom's father was a minister in Lerwick, but Tom didn't grow up there. Born and brought up in Inverness, he considers himself a Highlander.

He and his wife stayed on in Shetland after he retired.

Tom says the benefits of living in such an island community are really that it remains a community, with people looking after each other.

However, that closeness can cause complications sometimes as it can be hard for things to remain confidential with everyone knowing everyone else!

Living in such a remote part of Scotland does not present huge challenges, says Tom, though he has encountered some areas where someone with a religious background is not easily accepted. That said, he has found support from the convener of the local authority and the island welfare officer.

"Shetlanders are very resilient, but in terms of health service, in particular, people with major problems have to go to Aberdeen. Health care and age care are beginning to become problematic. Younger people are more flexible.

"Cutbacks in staff in councils has meant much pressure is being put on staff. I provide support where I can, when asked to do so.

"The challenge is that I am part-time and cannot do the huge amount you would normally do in full-time chaplaincy."



Grant 'soars intu' Braehead

At 'Soar intu Braehead' in Paisley meet Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland volunteer Rev Grant Brooks (pictured top, left and right).

With everything from real snow – indoors! to rock climbing and movies, the centre is a popular go-to spot for kids of all ages.

Part of the intu Braehead complex – one of the largest in the country – Soar has some 600 people working under its roof.

On high days and holidays, it's particularly busy.

Grant's been chaplain at Soar since just before

Christmas last year and he spends three or four hours there every Wednesday.

"It's so busy at the weekends, staff wouldn't have time to talk to me and I wouldn't want to take them away from their work," he explains. "I am getting to know people now and really enjoy being here."

General Manager, Ian Anderson, believes having a chaplain in the workplace is reassuring for people.

"It's one of these things, you never really know when it will be needed and you hope that you never really do need to use the service.

However I wouldn't like not to have it.

"In a busy working environment people might think speaking to a chaplain is the last thing on their minds, then something happens and all of a sudden people are looking for someone to talk to. Sometimes things can happen with customers that could leave people distressed.

"But it's important to emphasise that it's about positive things as well. If someone wants to share their good news, the chaplain is there to listen to that too."

CAMERON TOLL EGGSTRAVAGANZA



Reuben

In conjunction with WPCS Edinburgh chaplains Reuben Addis and Graham Dann and the Cameron Toll Chaplaincy Steering Group, Cameron Toll Shopping centre's charity Easter egg appeal donated a cracking 200 of the chocolate treats to local children who would otherwise not have received one.

Said Reuben: "It was a stunning response, from the public and everyone at Cameron Toll. The management team did a brilliant job publicising it and as well as shops making donations, shop staff also handed in eggs to the appeal."



True value

"Who wants this £20 note?" A forest of hands went up in the hall each one eager for a freebie.

"I will give this £20 note to someone in this room," said the speaker, "but first I want to do something to it." He then took the note and crumpled it into a small ball. Opening it out he asked again who wanted the note.

Again the forest of hands shot up. He took the note again and this time threw it on the floor and stood on it grinding it underfoot. Picking the note up, he again asked who wanted it.

The same forest of hands shot up. "One more thing," he said, as he took a cup of coffee and deliberately spilled it over the note: "Who wants this damp, stained, trampled on and crumpled note?" he asked.

Again the same forest of hands shot up.

The speaker went on to say: "A valuable lesson has been learned today. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It is still worth the same." Many times in our lives we are crumpled, dropped and trodden on and stained by decisions we and others make and by life's circumstances.

We feel as though we are worthless, but no matter what happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value. You are special – don't ever forget that!" *Chic Lidstone, East Coast Regional Organiser.*

Something incredible happening

It has been an interesting few months both for WPCS and for me personally, writes Chief Executive Iain McFadzean.

I would like to, once more, publicly thank everyone for your support and encouragement, but most of all for your prayers for my grandson, Zachary.

He is now 1065gms, just over 2 lbs, and doing well. He has had a few little worrying moments and that will continue for a few months yet, but he is in God's hands and we can really feel His love and your prayers, thank you!

Recently, I was at the launch of a new organisation called The Alliance of Town and City Chaplaincies and was again amazed at what God is doing in chaplaincy in the UK.

All across the country, there are literally hundreds of chaplains appearing, in almost every field of public life. Two things were obvious from the conference, firstly that God is doing something incredible through chaplaincy that the churches of all denominations are becoming increasingly aware of and secondly that Scottish Chaplaincy seems, at the moment, considerably more organised than the rest of the UK.

I have had several requests to access our training, policies and procedures and even for chaplains to visit and shadow some of our placements. We will do everything we can: 'to spread the Christian values of tolerance, acceptance, love and forgiveness to people of all beliefs, or none, without prejudice, judgement or demands.' (Our Mission Statement). I am sure it is not a

coincidence that this has all happened at the same time as the launch of our joint project with the Church of Scotland to encourage people to consider if they have a calling to full-time Christian Service.

This will see us employ a Director of Training and Vocation and three interns, for three years, to train, explore and develop many varied paths of Christian service. These posts are now advertised on our website and elsewhere. If you want to know more call Cat, Rosemary or me and please spread the news as widely as you can.

Finally, as always, all of this is possible because of your commitment, enthusiasm and prayers. Thank you. Please continue to be inspired and amazed, as I am, that the God of the Universe, the God Incarnate, has exciting plans for you, me and all of His creation.

Isaiah 43:16-19, The Message (MSG)

*"This is what God says,
the God who builds a road right through
the ocean, who carves a path through
pounding waves,
The God who summons horses and chariots
and armies — they lie down and then can't
get up;*

*They're snuffed out like so many candles:
"Forget about what's happened; don't keep
going over old history. Be alert, be present.
I'm about to do something brand-new. It's
bursting out! Don't you see it?"*

And from Jeremiah 29: 11, (MSG)

*"I have it all planned out - plans to take
care of you, not abandon you, plans to give
you the future you hope for."*

Wait for it to work out, but work at the same time!