

News from the Waterways



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Tower of London Welcomes Waterways Chaplains



The profile of Chaplaincy to Britain's waterways took a step up on Sunday June 24th when Chaplains from around the country met in the Tower of London for a 10th anniversary celebration service with a focus on this growing movement.

BBC 'Songs of Praise' presenter, Pam Rhodes, delivered an engaging address highlighting how 'Waterways Chaplains walk the towpaths because Christ walked the Earth.'

Her awareness of ministry to the waterways is informed by her experience of close family members being liveboard boaters and she noted the necessity of practical neighbourliness and how assumptions can never be made about people's personal circumstances.



Pam stressed how some people gladly 'run to the waterways' because of the attractive life they appear to offer, while others may be running to them because of what they need to leave behind. She commented on the high numbers of single older men living aboard boats, many of whom risk isolation as health breaks down and age encroaches.

London Focus

In May, Mark Chester was in the sunshine with David and Diane Pickford and Lorraine Newman as the publicity for new volunteer Waterways Chaplains goes on. There were still a number of boaters around from the Little Venice festival and they had had some very friendly chats with them. They had also been able to give out about 20 fridge/ prayer magnets. Revd Mark Chester had met up with a few Church leaders who had been very welcoming. One of whom would like to launch the Waterways Chaplaincy to his congregation during their harvest festival. An Assistant Arch Deacon in the area has asked Mark to go back later in July and talk to a group of local Church leaders about the work on the waterways.

Roberta & Tim Cassentieri

We will miss Rob & Tim who have decided the time was right for them to step down as Waterways Chaplains after a number of years voluntary service. We would like to thank them for their hard work and faithfulness on the waterways and pray that God will bless their future plans and service for Him.



Meet Albert, the first London probationary Chaplain

Albert will be working in the Victoria Park area and the Hertford Union.



News from the regions – sharing God’s Word in West Mids

Since January this year, the Waterways Chaplains in the West Mids area have reported 230 voluntary hours in contact with boaters dealing with issues such as licensing & mooring issues, addiction, homelessness and financial hardship. They also reported that they had 23 conversations with people about faith. Altogether, over 500 contacts and conversations were had in this area with all communities on the waterways.

Our new **Northern hub** started in May covering the South Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Southwell and Nottinghamshire areas. If you live in this area and think you might like to find out what it means to be a Waterways Chaplain, please email us (address below) and we will contact you for a friendly, no obligation chat.



Braunston Training and Celebration



This years’ national training day saw Chaplains coming together for the day to meet each other and improve their interaction on the towpath. Training topics included practical helps for reaching and helping boaters, GDPR including keeping personal information safe, and suggestions for carrying out boat blessings and carol services. The team were joined by the CEO of CRT, Richard Parry, during the celebration service in the early evening.

Support Us

Are you a Christian, a good listener and able to walk an average of a mile of towpath a week? You don’t have to own a boat to be a Chaplain – ask to speak to someone to chat about this work. You can even walk with your dog!

Could your local Church become **Mission Partners** with us?

Would you like a Waterways Chaplain to come and **talk** to your Church or Small Group?

Please contact us through the website www.waterwayschaplaincy.org.uk for more opportunities to help support this vital work and ideas for prayer.

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