

Chaplaincy About Town (ChAt) **- Expressing God's love in the High Street**

Dear Visitor,

When asked why she comes into our shop at 67 Meadow Street, Weston-super-Mare one of our regular visitors said it was because, “...we are nice and friendly and there is always a warm welcome.”

That response is a testament to the hard and dedicated work our wonderful volunteers put in day-by-day at ChAt. Their day starts and ends with prayer and this happens Monday through to Saturday. During the rest of the day our volunteers offer listening, signposting, hospitality and care to whoever comes through the door and this happens in excess of a 1000 times each year! During the summer months we open a Listening Post every Friday in the High Street where volunteers are on hand to offer our service to passers by.

The whole project is overseen by our Committee of Trustees and by our Board of Management, which includes people from the daily life of the town. We are grateful for the time and energy given by these volunteers as well! Our Project Co-ordinator helps free up time for Chaplains to do the work they are called and trained to do.

All of our Volunteers apply for the position because they feel they have something to offer, they are interviewed and references are taken up. We choose to do an Enhanced CRB check on all the Volunteers as they will be dealing with vulnerable adults and possibly children. We then train everyone in the basic skills of listening using resources from The Acorn Christian Healing Foundation. Some go on to further training in listening and all of this is free to those who commit themselves to the project.

The reason for putting this on the website is two-fold. Firstly to thank all those who have answered the call and become Volunteers with ChAt. We could not exist without you! Secondly, we need more of you! This is an appeal for more people to answer the call and become ChAt Volunteers. Our aim is to increase our numbers of volunteers to ninety during the next twelve months. Please get in touch using the details on the Contact page.

We are happy to come to any Church, house group, youth group, WI meetings or any other large or small gathering to talk about ChAt, and its aims and objectives. As well as volunteers and regular financial support, the most important thing we need is your prayer. Pray for the work of the Volunteers; pray for the people who avail themselves of our services. Pray that the will of God is followed closely in the Weston-super-Mare Town Centre.

Revd. Gill Putnam

Chaplaincy About Town - ChAt

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