

Subject: Chaplaincy Prayer letter September 2026
Date: Tuesday, 1 September 2026 at 10:33:22 British Summer Time
From: admin@basingstoketownchaplaincy.org.uk
To: BTC Admin
Attachments: image001.jpg, image003.jpg



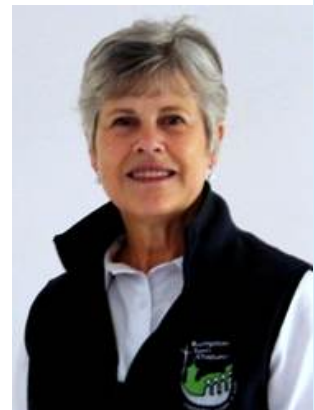
Chaplaincy Prayer Letter September 2026

Getting Stuck In

September! Maybe the weather will become cooler (and we will get some rain!) as the new school year begins and many activities restart after the summer break. The Town Chaplaincy has a new start too. This month Libby retires with our grateful thanks for all she has done in the office for many years. We welcome Samantha Reeves to take over the administration but retain Libby to be a Trustee so we can continue to benefit from her knowledge and wisdom.

This summer we have been saddened by the death of Pam, who served as a Chaplain for 15 years, after a few months of illness.

Pam visited shops and joined the team at the magistrates' courts when that service was started. She was widely known and loved because of her caring attitude and interest in people. She epitomised **being** a Christian while also being ready to explain her faith. Many of the hand-held crosses we use were distributed by Pam. She explained the symbolism that God is faithful and loving and we can be reconciled to God through the death of Jesus on a cross.



See the link below to an obituary for Pam in the Gazette:

<https://www.basingstokegazette.co.uk/news/26409517.tributes-basingstoke-town-centre-chaplain-pam-holton/>

Christians **being active in** the community show the relevance of Christ in everyday life. Just being present in a uniform makes a difference; people have said they appreciate seeing that there are people willing to talk to anyone who needs to share concerns or burdens. Christians also **make** community; our churches' activities and services to the community, our attitudes and our support of others all help to make the Basingstoke area a good place to live. Churches do this and Christians volunteer for additional services or to participate in community activities.

The Chaplaincy is building bridges with other faiths so that we can work together for the good of the community and have the opportunity to discuss our differences. Discussions on what the Bible and Quran have to say on a topic have continued regularly over a number of years, and we look to engage in activities together. We will be supporting a coffee morning at Chute House on Thursday 24th September to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Here is an opportunity for cake lovers across cultures and faiths to get to know one another better while supporting a worthy cause.

We are also helping with the annual Interfaith Peace Walk on Sunday 13th September starting at 2pm. A short walk will go from the Winklebury Centre car park to the football ground where we will be welcomed at the clubhouse and provided with refreshments. The theme is Youth, Faith and Football, so if you are interested in any of those do come along. Civic and faith leaders will be there supporting an activity to bring people together. There is the option of missing the walk and meeting at the football ground, where parking is available.

Meanwhile, we continue to visit shop workers and plan to develop our involvement in chat groups in the refurbished Discovery Centre, especially the Living With Loss Café. We urgently need another lady to take Pam's place in the magistrates' courts. A Chaplain is a calming independent presence for nervous and distressed people to talk to, and also to give support to the staff. We provide training and continuing support. We also offer taster sessions for anyone interested to see what goes on, and whether God is calling them to serve Him in this way.

Jesus said, *"Your light must shine before people, so that they see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven."* Matthew 5 v 16

This autumn may you find your niche to be a light for Christ and to influence our community.

John

John Hayward

Chair of Trustees

Prayer requests

Thank God:

- Please thank God for Libby's service and pray for her in her new role as Trustee. Also pray that Sam will settle into the role quickly and feel welcome in the team.

- Thank God for Pam's life as a witness to God's love and graciousness and pray for someone to take her place in the Magistrates' Courts. Pray for Tim, Eric and Graham as they serve there.
- Pray for Tricia helping people coming to the Living with Loss Café, and that more will take up the opportunity to share their grief and find comfort and friends.
- Peter works with the Police Chaplaincy supporting those working in pressured conditions at the Police Investigation Centre and police stations. His care dog is a great help. Pray for wisdom in supporting police officers and civilian staff.
- Judith visits shops in Festival Place and The Malls. Retailers' costs are reduced by employing fewer staff so there are pressures of work and insecurities for workers. Pray that they will feel supported and safe.
- We are linked to The Safe, Basingstoke Foodbank and other Christian charities that seek to help others. Pray that Christians will be caring and churches welcoming to enquirers.



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