



Chaplains e-Newsletter

July 2023, 2/4



Welcome to our e-Newsletter for Summer 2023

The late spring and summer have been a time of some anticipation and excitement as the nation prepared for the Coronation of a new monarch, King Charles III, in early May. For most of us, it may prove to be a once in a lifetime experience, although many older generations still have clear memories of the Coronation in 1953. Happily, the lead-up and the Coronation weekend itself went smoothly and safely, thanks to the careful preparation and dedicated service of large numbers of people from the armed forces and public services, including police officers, for which the public were (mostly) grateful. Sadly, the last few months have also seen considerable media and public criticism directed at the police, especially the Metropolitan Police Force, following publication of the Baroness Casey Report (see more on the issues raised on page 2).

'Chaplaincy focuses on spiritual and emotional needs and offers a complementary role to that of trained counsellors, occupational health and welfare units...'
(ACPO Guidelines, 2013)

News of the current Chaplaincy team:

The chaplaincy team continues to evolve and this spring we were pleased to welcome our newest member:

- **Prince Osei-Gyamfi (Huntingdon)** joined the Chaplaincy Team recently and his pen-portrait is sketched out later in this newsletter. Prince makes weekly visits to Huntingdon Town Station, normally on a Wednesday morning.
- **John Minh (Sawston and Cambourne Stations)** still drops in to see officers and staff at both stations from time to time.
- **Dharmanatha Porter (Parkside, Cambridge, and Deputy Lead Chaplain)** maintains his weekly visits each Weds morning (1000-1200). He calls into Histon Station too as needed. In June, Dharmanatha was able to join a post-incident support session for police officers called to attend the tragic house-fire in central Cambridge that led to the deaths of a mother and 2 children.
- **John Bedford (Thorpe Wood, Peterborough)** makes a regular weekly visit to the station, normally on a Friday morning.
- **Lynda Taylor (Force HQ in Huntingdon)** continues to visit HQ once a week (usually Tuesday morning, 0900-1300). She occasionally visits **Monks Wood** to meet the recruits in training, and she drops in on the other police stations around the county from time to time. Lynda also attends the regular meeting of the force's Wellbeing Tactical Group. In May, she attended the force funeral of Tony Tinsley who worked as Health and Safety Adviser for Cams. Tony was a greatly respected and much-loved staff member who will be sadly missed.





Response to major and critical incidents
Supporting emergency services personnel and assisting community recovery

Operational support
Being a resource where faith and operational issues interact, facilitating and developing links between communities and the police

Personal, practical and spiritual care
Supporting all police officers, police staff and their families of all faiths and none



For further information please visit www.policechaplaincy.uk

Happily, all our larger stations (Thorpe Wood, Parkside, Huntingdon Town and Force HQ) now have at least one volunteer chaplain dedicated to them, as do the smaller stations of Cambourne, Sawston and Histon. We are still awaiting completion of the lengthy, high-level vetting procedures for another applicant to join the team, and we are actively working to recruit more volunteer chaplains to visit and serve the stations in March, Wisbech, Ely, St Ives and St Neots. Two people interested in the chaplaincy role have recently applied and will be interviewed during August, which is encouraging. If you know of others who might be interested in and suited to the role, please do put them in touch with me for an exploratory conversation.

Policing by consent and the importance of professional standards



The Baroness Casey Report on the MET

May 2023 saw publication of the long-awaited independent report by Baroness Louise Casey on the Metropolitan Police Force's culture and standards.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Chief Constable, Nick Dean, reflected on the report's content and selected extracts from his response - posted on the force intranet in May - are presented here: "... it is a hard-hitting message for the Metropolitan Police Service, but it equally sends a clear message to the whole of the police service which cannot be ignored by anyone."

"Policing has always been and will continue to be built on policing by consent, a key sentiment at the heart of Robert Peel's principles that has stood the test of time... trust and confidence are fundamental to our policing model.

I am proud of the work that has been done within our Constabulary, the formation of the People and Professionalism Department, a Culture Statement, Cultural Workshops being delivered for all frontline supervisors, a revision of our Corporate Plan and great support from all our networks. There is much more that is taking place, which I believe is making a difference; however, there is still more work to do.

I know just how committed all of you are to upholding the standards that are fundamental to the work we all do here in Cambridgeshire, but that doesn't mean that we do not have individuals within our service that let us down.

We all have a part to play in upholding standards, speaking out when we see things that are not right and supporting colleagues who are experiencing difficulties.

Do not let this Report distract us from our work - it should motivate us all to make things better."

Professional Standards - protecting the three BCH forces

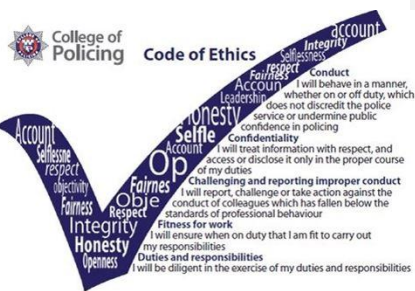
The Professional Standards Division (PSD) is committed to maintaining and improving public confidence and quality of service across the collaborated tri-force of Beds, Cambs and Herts.

PSD seeks to prevent and detect unethical behaviour, dishonesty and corruption among police officers and staff, including areas such as sexual misconduct, misusing force systems, disclosing information, discriminatory behaviour, in and out of the workplace.

Updated Code of Practice for police vetting

The national College of Policing has recently strengthened the code of practice for police vetting practices. It sets out to spot unacceptable behaviour in force and to act ruthlessly when it comes to light.

The code of practice is only one part of the jigsaw in improving police culture and building trust. Other ongoing initiatives include: new leadership training, a refreshed Code of Ethics, and work with forces to improve the response to violence against women and girls.



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Introducing Rev Prince Osei-Gyamfi....

Originally from Ghana, Prince is an ordained minister in the Pentecostal tradition and has lived, trained and worked in different parts of the world, including Ghana, New Zealand and the UK. As well as exercising leadership and pastoral care in a church context, Prince has long experience in executive mentoring and coaching, to foster personal development and promote an inclusive culture. He is committed to cultivating community leadership and cohesion, and to nurturing a positive social environment that serves the diverse needs of all parts of society. Prince has provided guidance and support to ethnic minority student groups at Cambridge University and has also served as a primary school governor in Fenstanton. He lives with his family in Sawtry.