



Bringing meaning and purpose to work

The Waterways Chaplaincy is developing a national network extending into both rural and urban communities. It operates as part of Workplace Matters, an ecumenical partnership reaching out and taking Christian values through its chaplains into the community.



Workplace Matters
41 Holywell Hill
St Albans Herts. AL1 1HE
Tel: 01727 818144
admin@workplacematters.org.uk

Workplace Matters is a division of Ecumenical Partnership Initiatives
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...coming alongside you

If you would like to know more please
contact us through our website:

www.waterwayschaplaincy.org.uk

The Broads :

" A breathing space for the cure of souls"

Norfolk Naturalist, Ted Ellis

Your current local chaplains:

Angie Baldwin 07771 438062 angiebaldwin@gmail.com

Mike Cadman 07885282465 mcjpbds@btinternet.com

Working alongside



Norfolk Broads Edition



...coming alongside you

"Offering care and support"

On the Broads

Waterways Chaplaincy offers support to those who use and live on the UK's waterways, rivers and canals.

Chaplains are volunteers from local churches who visit the waterways regularly, offering companionship and a listening ear to individuals and businesses

Chaplains are interested in whoever they meet, be they boaters, holiday makers, cyclists, walkers, runners, anglers, rangers and volunteers and all those who work on and care for the Broads .

Chaplains share with people in good times and bad. They support and encourage everyone regardless of religion, orientation or race and are always happy to offer practical and spiritual help

Responding to the need

Recent years have seen increasing numbers of people moving on to and using the waterways. People tend to think that the waterways are quiet and uninhabited backwaters, largely disused. 'Where once our inland waterways were largely used for transport, irrigation and flood control, they are now they are now attracting a larger variety of people: boaters, walkers, anglers, cyclists, new home owners, businesses, as well as those seeking a floating home offering a calmer, less stressful existence. Our chaplains are volunteers from local churches who are part of the community. They share in good and bad times and are supportive and encouraging to all, regardless of religion, orientation or race. They support people of all faiths or none, and are always happy to discuss spiritual and practical matters if invited to do so.

The changing Waterways

The Inland Waterways network in the UK has been extensively regenerated in recent years, resulting in a huge resurgence of interest and popularity. Typically about 4.5 million people visit the inland waterways every fortnight, and there are about 36,000 boats currently in use. Amazingly there are more craft on the waterways now than there were at the height of the Industrial Revolution!



Being a boater

People live and work on the waterways, some use their boats for recreational purposes but many choose to live aboard. This means that the liveaboard boater will not have a post code and as such will find it difficult to register with a GP, claim benefit, tax a vehicle and open a bank account. Choosing this way of life does not always give access to schools, medical facilities or other amenities and these problems are compounded when bereavement, depression, illness or unemployment occurs. Even though communities are very good at caring for each other in times of trouble, our network of waterways chaplains are placed to respond to the needs of those who are most vulnerable, responding to concerned community members, providing pastoral support, care and guidance. So if you are a liveaboard, a pleasure boater or a holiday maker we are here to help.



A Boater's Tale

'Life was great on the boat. We were out of the rat race. Then my husband lost his job just before winter set in. We also had a new born child and problems with our heating. We were too far from a Citizens Advice Bureau and had no money to pay for transport or fuel to heat the boat. We felt lost and alone, and our problems were compounding. We needed help.'

We were grateful for the day that the Waterways Chaplain popped a card under our door. The Chaplain assisted with our immediate problems and stayed in touch with us until we were back on our feet.'

