

## A Different Viewpoint

With the country only just beginning to emerge from lockdown and churches trying new ways to stay connected, we thought we'd take the opportunity to bring you a look at the people and work of the Chaplains at our MHA projects.

### Rachel Walker, Chaplain at Emmandjay Court, Ben Rhydding.

One of my interests is writing and I often think that our lives are like books filled with many different, exciting chapters. My story began in North Wales where I was born and lived for 5 years. Most chapters of my life have been spent in Yorkshire though, which you will soon realize when you chat to me! I love travelling and I have also lived in Cardiff, where I studied nutrition at university and more recently in China, where I was privileged to teach English for four years. Throughout all the chapters of my life I have been active in my local church, being involved in pastoral work, taking part in services and Sunday school teaching. I'm now looking forward to this new chapter of my life as chaplain at Emmandjay.



If you are in the area (post lockdown of course!) please feel free to call in for a chat. I'm there on a Wednesday and Friday.

Alternatively you can speak to me at Emmandjay Court (01943 886610) or Email me – Rachel.Walker2@mha.org.uk

### This Issue: Special Focus on:



### Photo Competition

Glen Rosa would like us to do for their residents.

They would love to receive photos from circuit members for the residents to judge.

Photos should be emailed to the activities coordinator Annie Beever. Annie's email address is:

ILKActivityCoord@mha.org.uk

The theme is "The world around us" and the deadline for photos is the 21<sup>st</sup> June.



### Ian Carter Chaplain at MHA Glen Rosa & Kitwood House and MHA Gledhow in Leeds

Most of my working life has been spent as a school teacher, but for a couple of years in the early 1990s, I worked as an Outreach Coordinator and Church Planter for a large church in Northampton.

Recently, through roles in schools and local churches, I have been led into a more pastoral form of work, which has culminated in me being employed for four days a week as a chaplain to two MHA care homes.

To share in the lives of the residents, their families and their friends, and to be able to support these wonderful people through the joys and challenges of the fourth age, has been the greatest privilege of my life. It is an absolute delight to spend time with the residents, to chat, pray and worship with them, to celebrate with them and to be alongside them when life is at its most difficult. I can say with absolute certainty, that I wouldn't want to be doing any other job.



We join together for the MHA online service 14 June 2020 at 3pm [mha.org.uk/mhasunday](https://mha.org.uk/mhasunday). We are going to use this in place of our scheduled circuit service. It will be a time of reflection, memorial and appreciation for all those impacted by COVID-19, across MHA homes, schemes and beyond. We hope you will find this service a helpful moment to pause, reflect and pray together in these challenging times.

## Linda Sharp, Chaplain, Adlington House

I have been working as part-time Chaplain at Adlington House Retirement Living Scheme in Otley since September 2019 and had just completed my 6-month probationary period when the Coronavirus pandemic struck.

As I am in the shielded category, I am working from home, making pastoral calls to residents and sending in resources for reflection and worship. I also work part-time as the Administrator for Otley Parish Church and am doing that from home too.

My professional background is in Speech and Language Therapy and my experience of Chaplaincy was gained as a Hospital Chaplaincy Volunteer in Leeds. I am Anglican by tradition and worship as part of the congregation of Otley Parish Church, although during lockdown, I am very much enjoying worshipping "in" a variety of different locations.

I live on my own with my two miniature dachshunds and am seeking to embrace this strangest of times, in the expectation that a situation that may at first seem evil and capable of great harm, God can use and redeem for good. Inevitably, some days I manage that better than others!

Maggie and her staff team at Adlington House are doing an incredible job of keeping their residents safe and well during this most stressful and challenging of times and I count it a privilege to be able to pray and offer Chaplaincy support, albeit remotely.



## Prayer Requests

MHA Retirement Living is a unique way of life, as each resident has their own, self-contained apartment, with their own front door key, as they would in any other block of flats but with the additional factor of being part of a wider community with other residents and staff and a communal front door for everyone.

Under normal circumstances, this way of life offers the best of both worlds, in that people can choose to remain independent and keep themselves to themselves, or be as sociable as they wish, making use of communal areas and activities. And for those who need extra support and care with daily living, that is provided by staff who are familiar and largely unchanging.

Lockdown life in Retirement Living therefore poses a unique set of challenges for staff and residents alike and our prayer needs are as follows:

- For wisdom and sensitivity for our **Manager, Maggie Fendyke**, as she implements the Government's and MHA's guidelines for the safety of all in her care
- For the safety and wellbeing of all **staff**, including those who have contracted and are now recovering from COVID 19
- For wisdom and empathy for our **Chaplain, Linda Sharp**, as she continues to work from home, offering pastoral support by phone, letter and email
- For times of rest and refreshment for everyone

### For all our residents:

- to have the courage and fortitude to cope under these extraordinary circumstances
- for those whose family and friends live far away and are unable to visit at all
- for those who have recently been bereaved and have not yet been able to have a proper funeral or memorial service
- for one resident who has spent several weeks in hospital and is now back home
- for those whose eyesight and hearing is failing, adding to their sense of isolation and reducing the activities available to them
- for those who have, until now, been independent and active and used to being out and about and for whom, as a result, lockdown is particularly hard
- for those whose memory and cognitive abilities are diminishing, making life in lockdown confusing and rules hard to adhere to
- for new residents who are waiting to be able to move in to Adlington House

Finally, give thanks that none of our residents has contracted the Covid 19 virus; for the dedication and hard-work of every staff member and that there is a wonderful sense of community spirit and neighbourliness at Adlington House

## Update on the CAP Debt Centre

During these very strange times the support that our debt centre provides is essential to our clients.

I am pleased to tell you that we are still able to offer the same debt advice service without meeting face to face and that we have not stopped reaching out to those in need.

We are maintaining contact with the clients we already have, reassuring them, offering to pray with them and have continued to support them with food parcels if they are in need.

It has been an amazing first year for the centre and we are gaining support from the local community with various agencies now referring clients to us. We have in fact just seen our first client become debt free which is a fantastic achievement for them and certainly something to celebrate for us.

As the Centre Manager my goal for the next 12 months is that we continue to help those in our community struggling with debt and find new ways to connect with them, bringing them the same hope that things can get better.

God Bless



christians  
against  
poverty

CAP