

Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care at GOSH: information for families

Everyone has a spiritual side. This can help us deal with life's challenges, gives us hope and meaning, and lets us see how our experiences are part of a bigger picture. There are times when our spiritual side needs support. We understand that it can be stressful when you receive a diagnosis or your child is ill or in hospital. You might feel lonely, confused, angry or without hope.

Spiritual support can take many forms, such as listening, talking, praying together or just being there. Belonging to a religious or faith community nurtures the spiritual side for some. Others maintain their spirituality in other ways. Regardless of whether you belong to a religious or faith community or not, members of the Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care team at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) are here for you.

Members of the Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care team are ordained or lay members from a variety of faith communities. Currently our staff members represent: the Church of England, Roman Catholicism, Judaism and Islam. There is always a member of staff available, 24 hours a day seven days a week.

Representatives of other religious and belief communities are available through the on-call chaplain.

Who can we help?

The Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care team are there for everyone, of any faith or none. We are available for all staff members, patients and families. If you belong to a religious or faith community, please let us know so that we can

support you and your family appropriately while your child is a patient. Please tell us, through a staff member or as we visit on the wards, about your needs when your child is registered, admitted or as they arise.

How we can help

You can ask a member of the team to visit you to talk, listen, offer spiritual or religious support, or advocate on your or your child's behalf. If you would prefer to have someone from your own faith community visit, we can arrange this for you too. Religious ceremonies can be arranged throughout the hospital.



Changes during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

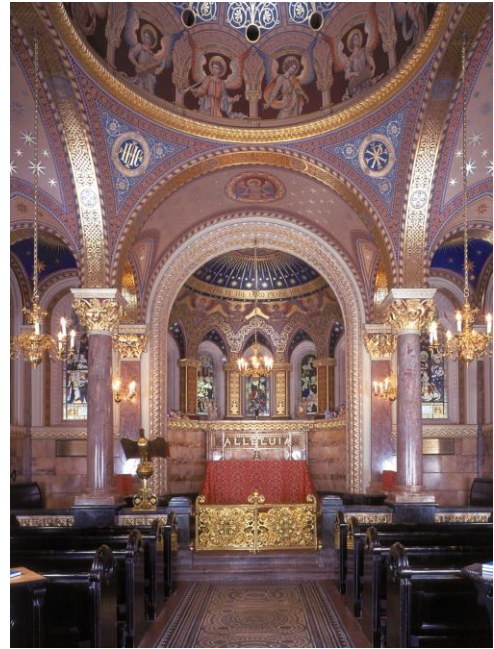
We have had to adjust how we do things during the pandemic, but a member of the team is always available to help and support you. At least one team member is on site at GOSH on weekdays and the rest of the team are contactable by phone and email.

We are holding Friday Juma Prayers in the Muslim Prayer Room but so that we can follow social distancing, the numbers able to attend at any one time is reduced significantly. Everyone attending prayers is also required to complete a Track and Trace form available before attending. The ablutions rooms are closed but we expect everyone attending to use hand sanitiser and wear a mask.

Prayers are held in St Christopher's Chapel on weekday mornings at 10.30am. Again, to allow social distancing, the numbers able to attend has been reduced. Everyone attending prayers is also required to complete a Track and Trace form available before attending. We expect everyone attending to use hand sanitiser and wear a mask.

Facilities

St Christopher's Chapel is located on level 2 (ground floor) of the Variety Club Building (VCB) and is open at all times for quiet and prayer.

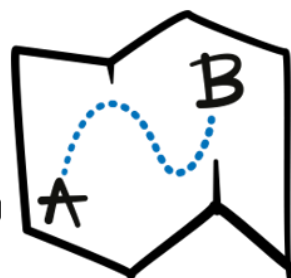


The lobby is also open if you would prefer a non-denominational area.

The **Muslim Prayer Room** and non-denominational **Quiet Room** is located on level 3 of the Southwood Building. These are also open at all times.



The **Shabbat Room** for our Jewish families is located on Level 1 of the Southwood Building and is open to all every day. The room is opened using a key pad – the access code is in Hebrew on the



door sign. The toilet facilities opposite the Shabbat Room have manual doors, taps and flush.

Acts of worship

There are a variety of services held during the week. Details of the coming week's services are displayed on the Chaplaincy noticeboard on level 2 of the Variety Club Building (VCB). Details of services in the local area are also displayed here.

We can also carry out prayer or religious ceremonies at the bedside if you prefer.

Confidentiality

We are a part of the health care team and, as with all members of staff, we will not tell anyone about

anything you tell us in confidence unless it could put a patient at risk. No member of the team will try to 'convert' you to their religion. We are here simply to support your spiritual side, regardless of your religion or faith.

Contacting us

Members of the Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care team visit the wards regularly, but should you wish a chaplain to visit, please ask a member of staff to arrange this. We can also be contacted in an emergency through the hospital switchboard, asking for the on-call chaplain or the chaplain of the religion or belief you desire.

Further information and support

You can also contact us directly on 020 7813 8232 or extension 8232 from an internal phone or by emailing chaplaincy@gosh.nhs.uk. The Chaplaincy offices are located in the lobby outside St Christopher's Chapel on level 2 (ground floor) of the Variety Club Building (VCB).

