

## Andrew Phillips: Prayer Letter April 2019 Birmingham Children's Hospital Chaplain



### Introduction

**Birmingham Children's Hospital** is a world leader in some of the most advanced treatments, complex surgical procedures and cutting-edge research and development.

Chaplains support patients, families and staff whether or not they profess a faith. The chaplaincy team engage in activities with children to help with their pastoral, spiritual and religious needs.

Part of our work is to support families who have sadly been bereaved through the death of a baby or child. We provide support, end of life blessings, baptisms, and lead funerals. We hold memorial events, to which all bereaved families receive an invitation to attend in the year after their child has died.

### **We give thanks to God for:**

- The Christmas services which were well attended.
- New volunteers joining the Chaplaincy Team
- The Mothers' Union being part of the welcome team in the chapel each week.
- The continued opportunities each day to meet with patients, their families and staff.
- The Chapel regularly used by families and staff as a place to pray and be quiet
- The regular opportunities to talk to staff, families and patients every day
- Our work at both the Children's and the Women's Hospitals with an increasing Christian Chaplain presence at the Women's Hospital

The chapel with its Christmas decorations

It was a stunning welcome for everyone who popped in for some quiet reflection and prayer. Give thanks for the many that come into the chapel every day (and night!)



The chicks are coming!! We are incubating 10 chicken eggs in the Chapel. They are due to hatch on Maundy Thursday (Update: we now have 4 chicks in Chapel!!)

Give thanks for the many that are coming to the chapel to see the eggs. Please pray as we engage in conversations on the Easter theme

The photo is of our Senior Chaplain and the Hospital's Chief Medical Officer. For more info see the short video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbyUCdqH5LI>



### Please pray for:

- I am the Chaplain to the High Sheriff of the West Midlands 2019/2020. Please pray for wisdom as I serve in this way and have conversations with a wide range of people. I took part in the High Sheriff's formal Declaration Ceremony on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April at the Law Courts in Birmingham
- Preparations for the annual Memorial Service on 12<sup>th</sup> May at St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham. I will be leading this service
- The Chaplaincy team which comprises paid chaplains, honorary chaplains, and Chaplaincy volunteers
- The activities we use to engage with children and young people
- Children on Ward 10 which cares for children with neurological injuries or diseases. Pray for a boy aged 12 suffering injuries as a result of a road accident
- For staff dealing with complex and traumatic situations
- I am studying the next module in the Post Graduate Certificate in Paediatric Chaplaincy



Decorating Russian Dolls is one of the activities we use with children. Activities are a way of assessing the needs of children and putting in place a care plan. These dolls were decorated by a child I worked with which showed something of how she felt

- Pray for Freddie\*, a boy of two, who has undergone a transplant
- For those who are waiting for organ transplants and for families who may be thinking of donating an organ
- My work with staff support in A & E and Burns and other wards both in groups and one to one.
- That I may show Christ in my life and words

**NOTE:** \* The names and some details have been changed

If anyone is interested in supporting the Chaplaincy work financially please email me at:

[andrew.phillips3@nhs.net](mailto:andrew.phillips3@nhs.net) for more details