

THE ROLE OF THE MAYOR'S CHAPLAINS

The Mayor's Chaplain is chosen by the Mayor and announced at the Council's Annual meeting in May of each year. More than one chaplain may be appointed at any one time – usually from the north and the south of the Borough. This is often the vicar, priest or minister of the Mayor's local church but to preserve continuity the Mayor could opt to retain one or more of the Chaplains from the previous mayoral year.

The post of Mayor's Chaplain has no legal status, is an honorary one, and as such is unpaid.

The traditional role of the Chaplain is to offer spiritual, pastoral and moral support/guidance to the Mayor in confidence.

Over and above being available to provide support should the Mayor so require, the Chaplains will also meet informally with the Mayor at their discretion. The Mayor's Assistant will email the Mayor's weekly diary of appointments to the Chaplains to afford them an opportunity to include the Mayor in their thoughts and prayers.

The Chaplain is responsible for prayers before Council meetings. It serves as an opportunity to remind Members of their role as representatives of the larger community which they represent and the impact of their deliberations and decisions on their community as a whole.

The Chaplain also plays an important role in assisting with the format of the annual Civic Service and other services. He or she attends civic functions, for example Remembrance Day or any other occasions by invitation of the Mayor and is responsible for Grace at Civic Dinners where requested.

At Christmas time the Chaplain may accompany the Mayor on visits to local hospitals and homes and can also be relied on to support citizens and the community in a time of local crisis or disaster.