

Spiritual and Pastoral Care at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre

The Spiritual and Pastoral Care Team (SPCT) at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre (MVCC) cares for the pastoral, spiritual and religious needs of patients, relatives, carers and staff.

Being diagnosed with a serious illness can raise lots of questions that may not have been thought about before. Maybe your diagnosis makes you wonder about life and how to live well with illness or about how to nourish your inner strength.

Everyone's experience and questions are their own. You may:

- experience many different emotions
- have questions about dying and death

Sometimes it can help to talk these through with someone who will listen and not judge you.

Other times you may prefer to keep your deep thoughts to yourself, but would like a gentle chat with someone who is a friendly face and outside of your family network.

We are also available to support carers, family members and staff.

How can I get in touch with the SPCT?

- Non-urgent messages. Please leave a message by phone or contact by email (see overleaf).
- Urgent requests. Please ask a staff member to contact the on call chaplain.



What can the SPCT provide?

There is a multi faith team of chaplains at MVCC, one of whom is on site each weekday. A 24/7 on call service for urgent requests is in place.

If the comforts of faith are important to you, we can offer:

- prayers/blessings
- Christian sacraments including Holy Communion (Church of England or Roman Catholic)
- Muslim prayers and recitation of the Qur'an
- visits from our chaplains, who are Buddhist, Church of England, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Pentecostal, Roman Catholic, Sikh and visits from SPCT volunteers and from representatives of a variety of faiths. There is also a Humanist (non-religious) celebrant who is happy to visit and to spend time with anyone

A chaplain visits each ward, the day centre and Bishops Wood Hospital most weekdays, and will always come on request. You may be visited initially during working hours by a member of the team who does not represent your faith or secular outlook, but all members offer a friendly listening ear and can (if you ask us) contact one of our chaplains who does represent your faith or belief, so they can support you too.

A Roman Catholic priest is available at any time for patients at the end of life.

The Multi-Faith Prayer Room

Opening times are Mon - Fri, 8.30am - 4.30pm, as a place for quiet reflection and prayer. There are copies of the Bible and holy books for a variety of other faiths there.

Outside these hours, please ask a member of staff to contact the Porters who can open the room:

- it is on the right when you come in the Mount Vernon Hospital entrance
- from Cancer Centre reception, follow the signs for the Oak Tree Restaurant. Instead of turning left into the restaurant, turn right. The Multi-Faith Prayer Room is the last room on your left before the hospital entrance/exit

Muslim Prayer Room

This is open Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm.

- it is signposted from the Mount Vernon Hospital entrance. When you face the Oak Tree Restaurant, turn left and follow the corridor until you see the main staircase
- from Cancer Centre reception, follow the signs for the Oak Tree Restaurant until you see the main staircase

The Muslim Prayer Room is on the first floor. Go up the staircase and turn left at the top. It is the second room on the left.

A lift is available. Please ask a member of staff if you need to use it.

Contacts

For **non-urgent** needs leave a message for the SPCT at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre: 020 3826 2658
(messages are picked up Monday - Friday)

SPCT email: spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net
(say it is for Mount Vernon Cancer Centre)

For **urgent** needs, please ask a member of MVCC staff to contact the SPCT via the Hospital Switchboard at Lister Hospital, ext 5000 so a visit can be arranged quickly.