

Emotional support for COVID-19 anxiety

A new phonenumber run by 90 lay and clergy chaplains has been set up to provide emotional support for those suffering from COVID-19 related anxiety in the Avon and Somerset area.



The service is for anyone facing end-of-life issues, those who are bereaved, anxious about someone in hospital, residential care or isolated at home.

Revd Mike Haslam, Chaplaincy Development Adviser for the Diocese of Bath and Wells, reveals, “People are struggling with all kinds of issues; they may be

bereaved, or worried about loved ones who are sick, they may be very anxious about their economic situation, or they may be scared.

“We are there to listen and to care for everyone.”

The service was created by the faith communities working together in the major emergencies team (originally established 30 years ago to provide face-to-face support in times of emergency). Today the service has been adapted to become a chaplaincy phonenumber during the coronavirus pandemic.

Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset Police, Andy Marsh, has welcomed the service, recognising that “the current situation of the COVID pandemic has placed even more demands upon the police”

He says, “We have an ambition to provide outstanding police services to all our communities and we cannot hope to do that unless we look after them and care for them.

“I am immensely grateful to the team who stand by ready to listen.”

The service is available from 8am-11pm 7 days a week and is open to everyone – of all faiths and none: [0330 229 1700](tel:03302291700).