



Dear fellow Chiefs of Chaplaincy,

On behalf of my colleagues, The Reverend Dr. David Coulter, Chaplain General, and the Venerable Jonathan Chaffey, Chaplain in Chief of the Royal Air Force, I bid you a very warm welcome to Portsmouth: We are very much looking forward to hosting you in our historic maritime city for the 28th International Military Chief of Chaplains Conference, which is running from 30 January-03 February 2017.

Our subject this year, 'Religion in the Public Square' is one which increasingly impacts chaplains who seek to care for their people holistically, whilst working in a political environment which often appears increasingly intolerant of faith-based opinions, actions and interventions. We have assembled a world-class panel of speakers who will help us explore some of the key themes associated with this debate.

All of the academic sessions will be held in the conference suite at the Holiday Inn in order to minimise travel requirements, and to enable us to make the most of our time together.

The historic city of Portsmouth is located some 70 miles (110 km) south of London, and will provide an excellent base for the cultural programme which runs parallel to the conference. Key events include a visit to the Queen's residence of Windsor Castle and a gala dinner within the Admiral's Gallery in the Mary Rose museum, in the heart of Portsmouth's historic naval dockyard. We are also planning an engaging and interesting spouses' programme to help to deepen your understanding of British culture and our naval history.

Another advantage of Portsmouth's proximity to London is its excellent transport links, with several routes into the region from Europe and further afield. Because of the large number of possibilities, please note that we will need to ask you to make your way to Portsmouth yourselves, but have provided a comprehensive travel guide to make the transit as simple as possible.

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year, but until then, please do not hesitate to address any questions you have on the overall organisation of the week to my assistant, the Revd. Dr Mark Davidson RN – NAVYCNR-CHAPLAIN@MOD.UK

Yours Faithfully,

Ian

The Venerable Ian Wheatley
Chaplain of the Fleet