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Ex-Royal Navy Chaplain takes the reins at St Andrew's Church and as City Centre Chaplain

Based in the heart of Newcastle, Reverend Michael Hills has taken on the role of the Vicar of St Andrew's Parish Church as well as the Head of Newcastle City Centre Chaplaincy.

The new appointment will be a welcome relief to Revd Mike who left his previous post in the Royal Navy where he was commissioned as the Church of England Chaplain since 1998.

Throughout his naval career Mike successfully gained the trust of many military personnel by working closely with various Royal Marine Commando Units which eventually led to serving an accumulative ten years on the Afghanistan campaign.

Other diverse roles included looking after a flotilla of 30 small ships, Northern Ireland patrols, fishery protection, mine clearance, and serving on board HMS Bullwark for two years which included a 10 month deployment in Far East Asia assisting with foreign navies and operational training as well as working with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (merchant seaman).

The Revd Mike says "I served the Royal Navy for over 20 years and throughout my commission it was important to create



relationships with all military personnel, civil servants and sea farers by demonstrating trust and confidence, which will be easily adopted in my new role.

"Going forward I intend to develop a strategic approach to get to know my Newcastle team to understand our requirements and continue to build on the existing relationship with Nexus and its employees.

"Our diverse team practice a professional ethos and a non-judgemental approach and can signpost people towards the appropriate welfare service when

needed. Our aim is to be the critical advisor and respect private conversations. We will continue to visit Nexus House every fortnight to provide support and inject some laughter along the way."

Employees are also invited to visit St Andrew's Church on Newgate Street for times of ecumenical contemplation as taking time out of your day is crucial for mental wellbeing. They will also be hosting a programme of Christmas Services in December which Revd Mike would love to see your support throughout the festivities.

The City Centre Chaplaincy Trust represents a partnership with the city centre churches and the business community to best serve their commuters by offering support services for personal and business issues by working towards a more caring society.

Metro's Chaplain, Chris Daniels will continue to look after Metro Depot, Nexus Rail and Control Centre by adding value to welfare and pastoral care.