

# Reverend Captain Katie Watson 1974-2024

## Newcastle Hospitals Chaplain



Revd Cpt Katie Watson was well known throughout the region, featuring with her spaniel Poppy on the TV Documentary, Geordie Hospital. She was known by many Mothers' Union members through hospital visits or as colleagues in the Newcastle Hospitals Trust. The news of her death comes as a great shock and brings a profound sense of sadness and grief. Mothers' Union members across the north hold Katie's partner Emily and their two children in their thoughts and prayers.

Katie joined the army in 1992 aged 18 and was commissioned in 1997. She served in Croatia and Bosnia during the genocide of 1994/5 and later in Northern Ireland. In 2007 she came to the Hospital Chaplaincy on placement as a student and 'simply forgot to leave'. In 2020 she was appointed lead chaplain and was also ordained deacon.

Katie attributed the army with many of the skills she brought to chaplaincy, especially through the Covid times. Her list included 'courage to sit in the places others fear to go', also discipline, respect for others, integrity, loyalty, selfless commitment and the Sandhurst motto – 'Serve to Lead'. She spoke of 'being with people in the very best and the very worst of times' and 'having seen the worst of humanity and the very best of it.'

Katie said of the chaplaincy, "We only have two things to offer, the gifts of time and presence: we give them whole heartedly". Katie did that in abundance.

A retired doctor at the Freeman said: 'For many of us at Newcastle Hospitals Katie was our rock during the worst parts of the Covid pandemic'. Another described her as 'one of the most wonderful women I have had the pleasure of knowing'. May she rest in peace.