



LINK



supporting the workplace, caring for people

Welcome to the June "LINK". As I write the rain is pouring down on the city centre, but we hope that umbrellas will soon be replaced by parasols! This month, articles include a couple of reports and the second in our 'Day in the life of a Chaplain' series! And there is news of future courses and events including our annual Commissioning Service which takes place each Autumn.

Chaplaincy Fortnight

It's not too late to take part, but you probably need to act quite quickly!! We're very excited about this new venture and hope that you will be too.

To find out more please visit our website:

www.cigb.org.uk/resourcesforchurches/chaplaincy-fortnight/

Here you will find ...

- ◆ A list of participating chaplains with their contact details
- ◆ A large selection of resources including service outlines, suggested prayers, hymns/ songs etc

Chaplaincy Fortnight
Birmingham & Solihull
15-29 June 2014



"Celebrating the Whole Body of Christ"



Just as Jesus met the Samaritan woman at a well (John 4), Chaplains work in many walks of life: schools, construction sites, shopping malls, factories, emergency services, and waterways as well as hospitals, prisons and armed forces.

Chaplaincy Fortnight is an opportunity to hear stories of where Chaplains have found God at work in the different parts of our communities and to learn more about their work.

We hope that churches will:
Invite a Chaplain to speak at a service or meeting
Pray for Chaplains

Find out more: www.cigb.org.uk/resourcesforchurches/chaplaincy-fortnight

"Ministry in the City of Birmingham"

*A day course for Church leaders and Church organisers
For those who are new, or those who want to know more*

Thursday 23rd October 9am—4pm
The Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham

*How is the city changing?
What are future prospects?
What role are churches playing in this?*

The day will include introductions on Public and Private sectors, Community Health & Development and the Voluntary and Faith sector along with examples of Church engagement in Hodge Hill
There will also be a bus tour of Birmingham!

The cost of the day will be £20
Please contact Val Dalton for more information and booking
val.dalton@cigb.org.uk



Birmingham City Centre Retail Chaplaincy

Annual General Meeting
Monday 22nd September
5.00—7.30

St Martin's-in-the-Bullring
Birmingham

Please contact Elaine Hutchinson if you would like to attend

0121 643 6151 or chaplain@carrslane.co.uk

A Day in the life of ...

The second in our series of articles by Chaplains giving you an idea of the kind of encounters they might have in a generic “day”. This month retail chaplain Peggy Baker, part of the team working in Birmingham City Centre Retail team. writes ...

I now expect surprises during my visits to city centre retail staff on Monday mornings. Since attending the CIGB Training Course in autumn 2011 and starting retail chaplaincy in April 2012, I have felt really blessed by opportunities to chat to people of all ages whom I may not otherwise have met.

Challenging and unexpected questions have set the grey matter of this senior citizen working furiously, to find an appropriate and sensitive way of answering, not to forget a quick prayer for the right words.

I have learned so much from my visits, especially how welcoming and responsive most people have been. There are sadder moments, such as discovering that yet another retail outlet has closed, often at short notice. Those I had chatted to and built a relationship with have disappeared, and could now be unemployed.

As outlets re-open, or new staff are taken on in established shops, there are new people to get to know. Most react positively, often with amazement, when I say I am there to offer support if and when they need it, as outlined in our be.friend leaflet.

A huge variety of topics have been discussed over two years, from guinea pigs to driving lessons, the voluntary work people do, family concerns and many more. The uncertainties of retail work and several instances of shop-lifting have also been raised.

I have not visited in my own strength. Prayer has been a vital element, and much support from our be.friend team, CIGB staff, my family and church fellowship.

It is a privilege, and so humbling, to be able to offer to pray at home for those with problems. It is even more touching when someone wants you to pray for them but says, ‘I am not a believer’, which convinces me that there is a great need for Christians to be out in the community, planting seeds.



“Diversity of People and Faith”

An AwayDay for CIGB Chaplains to take place on July 2nd at St John’s Church, Berkswell.



“The world outside your organisation is changing faster than the world within your organisation”.. CIGB has some diversity: Birmingham and Solihull are ‘Super-Diverse’.

Chaplaincy fits into the ‘Diversity Agenda’ at a number of our workplaces: what does that mean for us? How can we use this opportunity? On our AwayDay, we will look at diversity on issues like ethnicity, age and volunteerism; as well as beginning to consider how we can better claim to be chaplains to people of other faiths.

Most organisations want to remove barriers that stop people from flourishing. Business research shows that when workplaces are struggling to come up with new solutions to old problems, that diversity in the project team correlates with success more than does ‘ability’ within the team. Creative solutions need leadership that is a group process, not an individual: leadership that helps people to see ‘change’, rather than ‘loss’. Real inclusion helps people to feel engaged and to be willing to give extra ‘discretionary effort’.

Jesus clearly saw diversity as an opportunity. Desmond Tutu took part in the Diversity Training for the 2012 Olympics Staff. He said: “People are tending to pull apart. We need something that will say that we are different not in order to be pulled apart but so that we should know our need of each other”.

As Jesus showed, diversity causes conflict and is messy: but some conflict and mess can be constructive, in working towards a new solution – a solution that may not come into existence in a homogeneous environment. Messiness is the opposite of static ‘group-think’. Jesus’s disciples were a scrappy bunch: but they conquered the world.

**QUOTABLE
QUOTE**

“Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.”

Theodore Roosevelt

CIGB’s Annual Meeting

Faith communities were urged to have faith in enterprise - and social enterprise in particular. Rev Neil Roberts from Three Trees Community Centre (and Chelmsley Wood Baptist Church) talked about long term commitment and being willing to take risks and be creative, having listened to the community. Celebrating Social return on Investment, as well as Financial return, was the mission of Jericho Foundation in Balsall Heath: for every £1 that had been invested in their enterprises, over £4 had been returned to the community in social benefit.

Richard Beard, CEO of Jericho, encouraged churches to use their resources to look for a social return: to use social enterprises in their buying of goods and services and to adopt social enterprise models as methods of changing communities. How do churches use their assets (eg empty buildings, financial savings) for a social return? The Three Trees model of using its building to offer space to a café, charities and arts projects - as well as a faith meeting space – was an example of this,

More than 60 people, including Solihull Mayor Cllr Joe Tildesley and Church leaders from several denominations affirmed each other at the Annual Meeting on May 6th. The Bishop of Birmingham, who had been scheduled to speak, graciously agreed to cut his time as participants wanted to know more about social enterprises from the people on the ground.

Hayward Osborne (Archdeacon of Birmingham and Chair of CIGB) asked all the chaplains present to stand up and introduce themselves and it was very uplifting to hear from so many chaplains from so many diverse areas of workplace chaplaincy. Paul Dilkes, CIGB Hon Treasurer, accomplished the business part smoothly, and introductory words from the Mayor and Major Sam Edgar (Moderator of the Free Churches) affirmed the work of the Chaplains.

The Jericho Foundation began on a very small scale 21 years ago helping and supporting disadvantaged individuals to “overcome barriers and become fulfilled, skilled and employed.” It has grown to include at least 7 different areas including ‘Print and Promotion’, contract cleaning and recycling businesses offering apprenticeships and sustained employment alongside training and mentoring all within a commercially operated business which is able to compete with private organisations. And is firmly rooted and grounded in the Christian faith.

Hearing of the struggle to survive as a business, or as a church and community centre in a disadvantaged area was a thought-provoking contrast to the opulent splendour of the Banking Hall at Wragge and Co. where our AGM was taking place.



A Jericho story

Martin – creativity unleashed

On the outside of the Jericho building in Balsall Heath is a fantastic piece of graffiti art, encompassing all the different businesses we run. It was produced by a guy called Martin who was a client of ours about 5 years ago.

When Martin arrived, he’d mope around the building with his hood up, not really making eye contact with anyone. But gradually through his time with us, the hood came down. We discovered that he’s a very good graphic designer and artist, and we helped him set up his own business.

As a thank you he painted the mural – a lasting reminder of potential released to bring life and colour to the community.

Revd Peter Seeney RIP

Revd Peter Seeney a Chaplain with CIGB died very unexpectedly just after Easter. Peter, a RC Deacon, had been in his parish church, Our Lady of Lourdes, Yardley Wood, preparing for worship, when he collapsed. A full church gathered with his widow Hilda for his Funeral and the service was partly led by the new Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham, Bishop Robert Byrne.

Peter had just started with CIGB as a Bus Chaplain with National Express Buses, at Yardley Wood Garage. It was mentioned at his funeral that Peter was quite a shy gentleman, but he had a sensitivity and interest in other people that were the qualities of his chaplaincy. For a number of years he had worked as a book-keeper in central Birmingham and had reflected on his experience of office work, business politics and home-life balance and Peter brought this understanding into his chaplaincy

STAY IN TOUCH ...

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CIGB's Annual Commissioning Service: 23rd November at 3.00pm

Every year we gather together with Church Leaders to give thanks for our work and to Commission our new Chaplains. We pray for our work and the local economy and reflect on the challenge of faith in the working world. In 2013 Carole Parkes, co-Director of Social Responsibility and Sustainability at Aston Business School, talked about the 'Purposes of Business'. In 2012 Jane Jarvis, HR Director at the NEC Group, compared her experience of the transformational nature of business with Jesus' Parable of the Mustard Seed. [Please put the date in your diary and join us on the day.](#)

"TRUST"

A report on the Industrial Mission Association (IMA) conference held at Swanwick on 12–15 May.

Peter Sellick writes ...

'Trust' was a recurring narrative of the conference: Trust as a measuring stick for the Economy and for what Chaplaincy has to offer. The breakdown in trust was a large part of the need for failing banks in 2010 to be bailed out by the Government: the banks did not trust each other. The frightening fluctuations in the economy and the growing rich-poor divide bring us instability and fear. With stories of employers abusing 'zero hour' contracts, mis-selling products, avoiding taxes and bosses being rewarded for failure, even the CBI admitted to the conference that there is a major problem of 'Trust in Business'.

We are told that to effect change we need different mind-sets and a new narrative – one key word in which should be Trust – and new power-bases. "Life is not a Lottery: we have the power to change". The New Economics Foundation sees the church, and its chaplains as having a role in this. Chaplains are witnesses who are sent "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8), Rev Phil Jump (Chair of Industrial Christian Fellowship) reminded us, and through their performance of trust they provide the environment for people and organisations to move on from Experience, to enable them to Express, Explore and Explain how things really can be better.

Paul's Body imagery (1 Corinthians 12) reminds us that all parts of the body need nourishing – even the least 'honourable' parts, like the foot or the ear. The economy should work in such a way that no-one is humiliated. There is 'trust' in the way that all the body parts work together.

The 40 voluntary and paid chaplains also shared their current experiences of chaplaincy and organisational structures across the UK. Volunteers agreed to take on new roles for the National organisation – Industrial Mission Association – to develop Training programmes and Communications; and the IMA agreed to pay for a national development officer to spend a few hours per week progressing the opportunities facing the movement.

The invited speakers included John Ellis who is the Moderator of the General Assembly for the United Reformed Church, and previously worked for the Bank of England. He described how one major multinational business had approached the national churches to help reform their ethics: the business had sought assistance from a number of consultants and

organisations, but thought the churches were the best people to help them make a right difference to their organisation.

Bishop Peter Selby, Co-director of St Paul's Institute, spoke of his worries of the power that money has in the modern economy. "Banks have become almost Imperial in their reach and their power: they have sovereign powers to create money". "97% of money now in circulation is leveraged and created by banks; this means that economic instability is a mathematical certainty." The result of instability is fear; and fear leads to idolatry (eg of money). "Life is not a gamble: Trust in God is not a gamble." Rev Phil Jump reminded us of Colossians 2:14-15: Christ has defeated the powers and principalities – but Jesus experience shows us that we have to be vulnerable and full of trust.

Introduction to Workplace Chaplaincy

CIGB's next Training Course will take place at 5.00pm on 6 consecutive Mondays starting on Monday 29th September and finishing on Monday 10th November (to allow for half-term)

CIGB has teams of voluntary chaplains to businesses, enterprises and organisations across Birmingham and Solihull, with about 50 volunteers altogether. We have vacancies for more volunteer chaplains and are developing new chaplaincy areas.

Our training courses tend to fill up quickly so if you are interested in chaplaincy and would like more information, please visit

www.cigb.org.uk/about-us/training-courses/

We do not have any paid posts at the moment. Our chaplaincies are in places like Bullring and Touchwood Shopping Centres, International Conference Centre, Social Enterprises, and the Fire Service. We are an ecumenical team, and are happy to work in partnership with other faiths. Our chaplaincies offer chances for service and showing the love of Christ, rather than for overt evangelism.

CIGB does not organise chaplaincies to places like Hospitals, Prisons or Schools – if you would like more information on those chaplaincies, we can put you in touch with other contacts.

If you think that Chaplaincy might be for you, please contact Peter Sellick at:

peter.sellick@cigb.org.uk