



LINK

supporting the workplace, caring for people

Welcome.

A recent report from the religion and society think tank Theos has described Chaplaincy as 'A Very Modern Ministry'. Difference expressions of Chaplaincy are growing all over the UK: CIGB continues to receive requests for Chaplaincy training, new Chaplaincies are starting and many of our teams want to expand. At its best, Faith brings gathers people to celebrate together what is important and to know the Grace of God. Peter Sellick

Chaplaincy Fortnight

June 7th-21st

Chaplains speaking to Churches
Praying for Chaplaincy everywhere

Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge (Ruth 1:16)

In the Bible Ruth travels to a foreign land to accompany her mother-in-law and to discover God. She is not a Jew. Chaplaincy is a ministry of Walking With People in their Journeys. Chaplains are constantly surprised to find that God is already in new places.

Chaplaincy is a growing movement of Mission and Evangelism



This fortnight we are celebrating the many types of Chaplaincy in Birmingham and Solihull through meetings, prayer and discussion. Chaplains from healthcare, emergency services, retail, prison etc are available to come to churches to tell of where they have met Jesus, and to ask for prayer.

To invite a chaplain go to:

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

To read some great stories about chaplaincy:

www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/the-connection-magazine



Annual Meeting
11 May from 5:30pm
Hall 7, ICC Broad St

Chaplaincy: a Business-eye View

How do organisations value Chaplaincy?

The Annual Meeting and AGM of CIGB will be held on Monday May 11th in Hall 7 at the ICC on Broad Street, Birmingham.

Refreshments will be served from 5.30pm
Business meeting at 6.00pm
Guest Speakers and discussion from 6.45pm
Meeting ends at 8.00pm

Guest speakers include:

Mike Murray - Senior Development Surveyor
St Modwen, Longbridge

Shelley Phelan - Exec Director, Equality and Diversity
Bournville College

Contact Val Dalton for places:
val.dalton@cigb.org.uk 0121 426 0425

Introduction to Voluntary Workplace Chaplaincy

6 wks from Mon 28 September 5:30-7:30pm
CIGB Offices, 1 Colmore Row B3 2BJ

CIGB places and supports teams of voluntary chaplains to businesses & organisations across Birmingham and Solihull, with over 50 volunteers altogether. We have vacancies for more volunteer chaplains and are developing new chaplaincy areas. Our training courses tend to fill up quickly (cost £20). For more information please visit

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

Lord God, bless the labour of our hands,

Whether in the office or in the kitchen; on the farm or in the garden;
on the hospital ward or with an unwell friend; in the school of the world of business;
on the phone or on the computer; when holding our children or our grandchildren.
May all we do this day be done to your glory. So, Lord, bless the labour of our hands.

(Brian Hudson [adapted])

STAY IN TOUCH ...

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Pop-up Prayer at NEC

In recent months at the NEC, the Interfaith Chaplaincy has evaluated 'Pop Up Prayer Rooms'. A Pop-up Prayer Room does exactly as it says on the tin. If an Interfaith Prayer Room need is identified and a room or space is available we can simply pop along with a suitcase full of Faith books, reflection materials, prayer mats and Faith guides. Within minutes the space is converted into a Prayer Room for the duration of an event.

During the 'Spring Fair international' we opened three extra spaces to offer Faith based hospitality to the 65,000 visitors. The feedback was simply amazing – welcoming this generous provision. We repeated this at "The Big Bang Fair", which is the UK's largest celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths attracting 75,000 young people.

A university was impressed with our offering and suggested that they may follow suit in their university libraries: especially in times of exams when students are anxious and welcome greater access to prayer spaces.

David Butterworth



Evangelism and Proselytising

What is the difference between evangelism and proselytising? How can we 'represent' the Church in a Multi Faith Chaplaincy context?

Simon Sutcliffe, Tutor in Evangelism and Pioneer Ministries at Queens Foundation Birmingham (and Methodist Minister), led a useful workshop for West Midlands Workplace Chaplains in March. "Mission is the whole activity of God; when we are living within the purposes of God, we are part of God's Mission" His definition of Evangelism: "Evangelism is helping people to be church where they are".

Workplace Chaplains take their part in God's mission by placing themselves in other people's space. They are often like guests and have to exercise their ministry in that context. That environment can set rules and codes of behaviour. But the Guest/Host relationship is a powerful dynamic and both Guest and Host can be changed by the encounter. Simon Sutcliffe retold the Gospel story, (as something like!): Jesus lives as a Guest in our 'mastered world', but through his actions, he draws the powerful 'Hosts' into God's purposes.

Participants appreciated the way in which Simon listened to, and respected, their experiences. Chaplaincy shakes up some people's prejudices about 'Faith and God'. It can encourage people to think of the bigger issues in life. Some recent reports have described Chaplains as 'embedded apologists', or as 'pre-evangelists'.

Peter Sellick

Living Wage Celebrations at NX Buses

CIGB NX Bus Chaplains are delighted that Birmingham-based bus company, National Express West Midlands, has become the biggest private sector employer in the region to say it will pay its workers the living wage.

The operator, which employs 6,500 people, has pledged to pay employees, agency workers and contracted staff a minimum of £7.85 an hour from 2016. The current minimum wage is £6.50 per hour. 340 staff at National Express will see their pay go up.

According to research carried out last year, 494,000 (24%) people in the West Midlands are paid below the living wage - a rate two per cent higher than the national average. Figures from the Living Wage Foundation show that 1248 employers across the country are signed up to pay staff £7.85 an hour.: only forty-eight of those are in the West Midlands.



Birmingham

Ethical Banking?

Tues 23 June c7pm Venue TBA

Charles Middleton, Managing Director, Triodos Bank UK, will be speaking about the Triodos experience of putting ethics and banking together; and what other banks can learn from this.

Contact: johnbnightingale@hushmail.com

