

# LINK

supporting the workplace, caring for people

As I look out of the office window the sky is blue and the sun is shining –what a blessing after all that rain! Welcome to the September edition of ‘LINK’ - I hope that the sun is still shining when you receive this. September marks the end of the summer holidays but lots of new beginnings including the appointment of a new Development Director for CIGB and also a new address. Read on to find out more!

## A new Development Director for CIGB

Hayward Osborne, Chair of CIGB, introduces CIGB's new Development Director who is due to take up his post in mid-November.

I am happy to say that we have appointed our new Development Director: the Revd Peter Sellick, who will start work with us in November. His formal launch in this role will be at our annual Commissioning Service on November 25<sup>th</sup>.

Peter is an Anglican priest, currently half-time parish priest at St Mary Magdalene, West Bromwich, in Lichfield diocese, and half-time as a chaplain with the Black Country Urban Industrial Mission, with whom he has been offering workplace chaplaincy since 2002. He has a solid track record of assisting and training others in chaplaincy, particularly in manufacturing industry with Brockhouse Forge and Avery Weightronix. He has led BCUIM during the vacancy in Team Leader post there, and has good experience of networking in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

He was one of the organisers of the IMA conference at Woodbrooke Study Centre in May this year, and is Treasurer for West Midlands IMA.

We shall look forward to welcoming him to CIGB, and to developing our work further in Birmingham and Solihull.

## A new address for CIGB

CIGB has moved! Our new address is:

CIGB  
7th Floor  
1 Colmore Row  
Birmingham  
B3 2BJ

The new office is situated above the Waitrose Store which is on the forecourt outside Snow Hill Station making it very convenient for travel by train or tram to Snow Hill, buses to and from the bus stops in Colmore Row, and we're just a few minutes' walk from New Street Station. Our telephone number and email address will remain the same—see the bottom of page 2.

## Commissioning Service 2012

Each year CIGB holds an ecumenical service of commissioning. New chaplains are commissioned and existing chaplains have an opportunity to dedicate themselves afresh to their chaplaincy work. We meet in a church of one denomination with a preacher from another.

This year our service will take place on Sunday November 25th at 3.00pm at the church of the



Church of the Sacred Heart & St Teresa

Sacred Heart and St Teresa, Coleshill, Birmingham. The service will be followed by light refreshments. We are delighted to be able to welcome Ms Jane Jarvis as our guest speaker. Jane is Director of Human Resources at the NEC and is a member of the Methodist church. This service will also be the occasion when our new Development Director will be officially ‘launched’ when he is licensed by David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham.

**We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to attend the service and look forward to meeting you on the day.**

## Commissioning Service

Sunday November 25th at 3.00pm  
The church of the Sacred Heart & St Teresa  
67 Coventry Road, Coleshill,  
Birmingham B46 3EA

**QUOTABLE QUOTE** The beginning is the most important part of any work, especially in the case of a young and tender thing; for that is the time at which the character is being formed and the desired impression more readily taken". Plato (The Republic)

### Chaplaincy training

CIGB's 'Introduction to Workplace Chaplaincy' course is well under way. Below is an article by a student who recently had a placement with the Solihull Town Centre chaplaincy team. If, having read her thoughts and insights, you feel that you might be interested in taking part in future training, or finding out more about workplace chaplains, please contact the CIGB office at the address below.

### Chaplaincy work experience

I am coming towards the end of three years of study at The Queen's Foundation, Edgbaston, Birmingham, working towards my ordination as Deacon into the Church of England later this year. As part of this final year I was required to do an 'attachment' to something which is outside normal church duties. In view of statements like "this is a time of no religion" I was keen to go into a situation which is often called the 'new religion' of retail therapy and to see how chaplaincy worked there.

During my time with the chaplaincy team, I was told that they had a motto which was 'WE CARE', and it certainly became very obvious that they do indeed care about the people they visit week on week in all sorts of shops, outlets and offices both with Touchwood Shopping Centre and the town of Solihull.

I shop quite often in Solihull, but by going round with the chaplains, it really brought home to me that each and every one of those people working in the shops are first of all human beings with their own stories; they had worries just like everyone else, they had joys and sorrows in their lives, and there were times when they were grateful to be able to share these stories into a safe pair of hands. For others who did not want or need to share, hopefully the sight of a cheery wave from the chaplain and a smile that says 'thank you for the work you are doing', goes some way towards brightening what could be a long and tiring day. I believe that every moment spent with people in a relaxed and informal basis means that it is easier to get alongside them, and when it is needed you are there to share in all of life's good and bad times.

As our world becomes more and more secularized, it seems to make sense that as church, we need to be evermore mindful that we need to have a presence in it. If we have no presence, we have no conversation, and without conversation the church becomes inward-looking and cuts itself off from the world.

For me, I see the work of retail chaplaincy as being counter-cultural; they are prepared to go out from their church environment, acknowledging their vulnerability, and without actually seeing any benefits from it in terms of people coming to church. They are very aware that they may well have helped individuals in their daily lives but that is not translated into what we would recognise as mission. These are special people doing a special job; only a few are called to this work, but maybe the Holy Spirit is speaking to you right now about this. As they all go out in Jesus' power and not their own, please uphold them in prayer.

For more information on the Town Centre chaplaincy or to explore the possibility of joining the team contact Beryl Moppett on 0121 705 0337 or email to [beryl.moppett@virginmedia.com](mailto:beryl.moppett@virginmedia.com)



Solihull Town Centre

### DON'T FORGET ...

Send us your news, your stories, your pictures, your quotable quotes and your jokes and stay in touch:

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Birmingham  
B3 2BJ

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Email: [cigbadmin@birmingham.anglican.org](mailto:cigbadmin@birmingham.anglican.org)  
[www.cigb.org.uk](http://www.cigb.org.uk)

### LAST WORD

Imagining the New:

A primary school teacher was observing her classroom of children while they drew. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's artwork. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "but no one knows what God looks like." Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing the girl replied, "They will in a minute."