



# LINK



supporting the workplace, caring for people

Well, I almost got my sprinkling of snow—some white stuff certainly came out of a cloud but it wasn't very pleasant and now it's forgotten as I look out of the window and see blue sky and sunshine ... and daffodils! Welcome to this springlike edition of "LINK". As always, there are articles on several different subjects, and information about two important CIGB events: our Annual Meeting and an exciting new venture "Chaplaincy Fortnight".

## "CHAPLAINCY, THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND AND THE COMMON GOOD"



This was the title of a recent study day held at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, Oxford, and attended by several CIGB chaplains. Peter Sellick reports on the event ...

**"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus"** (Philippians 2:5)

Chaplaincy, of all sorts, is a major stream of discipleship growth in the church, according to recent research by Cuddesdon Study Centre and the Cardiff Centre for Chaplaincy Studies for the Church of England. But for a long time it has been unseen and hidden.

New research estimates that they may have as many as 10,000 lay volunteers doing some form of chaplaincy in England. Chaplaincy enable growth in discipleship amongst workers, as well as providing the space for chaplains to develop their own faithful understanding.

The study was commissioned by the Church of England to understand the chaplaincy picture a little better. The research recognised that much chaplaincy work has strong ecumenical connections, and representatives of the Methodist, URC and Salvation Army Churches were part of the discussion of the results.

CIGB had been chosen as an ecumenical case study of urban workplace chaplaincy. The researchers has also done statistical analyses of returns by the Church of England's dioceses, and other case studies (eg Education, Prison, Healthcare, Police, Armed Forces).

Cathy Ross, Contextual Theology Lecturer at Oxford University, chose the themes of 'Hiddenness' and 'Humility' to reflect the study. These are the



themes of Jesus' Missiological approach described in Philippians 2: "he humbled himself...Therefore God also highly exalted him" (v8,9).

Official returns counted only 153 lay volunteer chaplains in the whole of Church of England; while the case studies suggested hugely more—possibly as many as 10,000! The researchers found that there were roughly 8 lay chaplains for every 1 ordained chaplain; 1 paid worker may support 20 or 30 volunteer chaplains. But the church has not been good at counting lay people.

Mission work always involves an emptying and a hiddenness. But the researchers questioned whether insights into Mission from chaplains had been included in the church's recent theology around church growth.

'A missionary has to live on terms set by other people'. Max Warren of the Church Missionary Society tells us that 'you cannot go into new places with a ready gospel in your pocket'; 'Missionaries have to realise that God was there before them: you have to take off your shoes because the place you are going is holy'.

Mission may be an uncomfortable word for some chaplains. Many understand their work in terms of the Incarnational aspect of God's Mission: it is more about service than about proselytizing. But Chaplains often say that they cannot separate their faith from their pastoral care.

Through its huge variety of chaplaincy the church has a tremendous social reach. Chaplains are found in a very wide range of places, and that experimentation is growing. Unfortunately, the researchers also noted, many of the spheres of life where chaplaincy is at work are not well represented in the church's decision-making structures. Hence chaplains have to spend much energy raising their profile – both in the church and in their place of witness.

The central claim of this research is that Chaplaincy has a huge amount to contribute to the church, as well as what it contributes in its sectors of work. The full report available soon from [stmichaels.ac.uk/chaplaincy-studies](http://stmichaels.ac.uk/chaplaincy-studies).

**QUOTABLE  
QUOTE**

“The achievements of an organisation are the results of the combined effort of each individual.”

Vince Lombardi

**CIGB Annual Meeting:  
“Faith and Social Enterprise”**

**Date: 6<sup>th</sup> May 5:30-8pm**

**Venue: Banking Hall, Wragge & Co.,  
55 Colmore Row, B3 2AS.**

This year’s Annual Meeting focuses on a very ‘hot’ topic, that of faith and enterprise. Guest speakers Richard Beard and Neil Roberts will speak of their experiences and work with two very different Social Enterprise Groups working in their communities, namely The Jericho Foundation, based in Balsall Heath and Three Trees Community Centre based in Chelmsley Wood. The Right Reverend David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham, will add his thoughts and insights before handing over to the floor for what we hope will be a spirited discussion.

As always, this meeting is open to anyone who would like to attend—and we would be delighted to see you!

**Please let us know you’re coming by either emailing [val.dalton@cigb.org.uk](mailto:val.dalton@cigb.org.uk) or telephoning 0121 426 0425**

Refreshments will be served from 5.30pm followed by the AGM Business meeting at 6.15pm. At 7.00pm our guest speakers will address the theme and the meeting will end at 8.00pm.



**Some words of encouragement to chaplains everywhere ...**

Sometimes it feels like hard work—and we wonder just what it is we’re doing. Here’s a story of a brief encounter from one CIGB chaplain:

“..... a soldier popped into the Chaplaincy this morning.

He told me that when he was in the city a few months ago, after returning from action and trying to readjust, a kind lady saw him in the shopping centre and she chatted with him. He had had a terrible day trying to find work as an ex-soldier and it must have looked like it on his face and body language. She approached him with a smile.

He went onto say how nice that was that someone would do that. ‘How nice is that’ he said and often. He didn’t know who she was or what she was and he had no idea of the term ‘chaplaincy’ in that retail context. But he wished to say thank you to some one ... and I was the one! “



**A new outlook for  
ChaplaincyPlus**



Following on from Chris and Clair's retirement in January, Steve Bavington has now taken on the challenge of carrying on the work of ChaplaincyPlus.

Steve previously worked for the YMCA in the Black Country as Communications, Marketing and Fundraising Manager, and led the charity's Christian Spiritual Development work. Having been part of a Birmingham church for the last 15 years, Steve feels very connected spiritually with the city.



Steve said: "I feel so honoured to be in this place. I am excited and nervous in equal measure as I look at the opportunity to support individuals and develop the network. I'm thankful for Philippians 4:13 which reminds me that "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me".

"I am looking forward to discover new ways of partnering with CIGB and other Christian organisations, working together to advance the kingdom in individuals and companies, and across the city as a whole. Please join with me as I pray for our combined impact continue to grow, transforming our city."

Steve is joined by Sarah Thorpe, who offers pastoral support and leads City Women (an informal gathering of women in business which met at lunchtimes for fellowship, discussion and mutual encouragement) and Peter Coggan who will support Steve in some of the pastoral work too.

The first two months of this year has seen ChaplaincyPlus move to new offices on Floor 8, One Colmore Row as their previous landlord continues with the refurbishment plans linked to the "Grand Hotel" where their offices were based.

If you would like to be kept abreast of the work of ChaplaincyPlus, or know of Christians working in the city who may value the support of our network, please email Steve, or pass on his email address or website details.

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[www.chaplaincyplus.org.uk](http://www.chaplaincyplus.org.uk)



## Chaplaincy Fortnight

You may have heard about this already—but we’re so excited about it that we just had to include it in this newsletter!

You’ll see from the poster below that this event will run for two weeks from 15th—29th June including 3 Sundays. Churches of all denominations have been invited to ask a chaplain to talk about their work at a service or perhaps a midweek meeting or homegroup. We have a list of chaplains from many different areas including police, retail, canals, hospitals, construction all raring to go and hoping to receive an invitation to YOUR church! You might also like to use some resources from our website in a service or in a homegroup.

To find out more please visit our website: [www.cigb.org.uk/resources\\_for\\_churches/chaplaincy-fortnight](http://www.cigb.org.uk/resources_for_churches/chaplaincy-fortnight)



We’re using this logo as an illustration of how chaplaincy sometimes takes place. But which one is the chaplain???

**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](http://www.cigb.org.uk/resourcesforchurches/chaplaincy-fortnight)

Supported by Presidents of Birmingham Churches Together

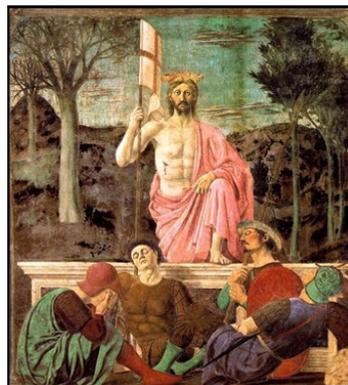
## An Easter Thought: “So must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life..” (John 3:15)

Raising up is a hopeful biblical theme. People are raised up to health; Jesus is raised up to new life. In our work lives, people are raised up in promotion. New houses and workplaces are raised up from the ground on building sites. Despite adverse trading conditions we are also now hearing signs of rising prospects in Industries and on the High St.

This picture shows workers with their feet off the ground. They have been lifted up in the process of their work. Hopefully their lives are lifted up in consequence of their work. They appear silhouetted against sunshine of hope; while their work goes on in the hiddenness of a building site.



Piero della Francesca’s famous painting below of the



Resurrection (1465) shows Jesus climbing up out of the Tomb while watchers sleep. We are also to be lifted up through the hope of Jesus’ resurrection. On the left of Jesus is the wounded coldness of winter; on his right the greened and clothed promise of summer.

If the economy were always a zero-sum game (ie someone loses whenever someone else wins), then for every raising up, there would be an equal and opposite lowering down. But the economy does create wealth. People working together do generate new value.

There are many painful losers in the market place; and too often they are those who have least power (in this country, and abroad). Work can be dehumanising and alienating. But at Easter can we also celebrate that fact that people working and trading together can make a better world; and even a sustainable one..?

In the painting, it is the place of the figure Jesus who is central to the Resurrection. In the building scene above it is the intriguing shapes of the human actors that give the scene life and interest.

As Chaplains stand with workers during the Easter season, they can be a surprising reminder of the resilience of faithful life and the triumphant arising that is God’s plan.

Peter Sellick

**QUOTABLE  
QUOTE**

“It is literally true that you can succeed best and quickest by helping others to succeed.”

Napoleon Hill

**A Day In The Life Of ...**

The first in a new series of articles from chaplains—just to give you an idea of the kind of encounters they might have in a generic day. This month, Graham and Pat Wigley write of their experiences one Tuesday morning in King’s Heath High Street ...

It was a cool, grey, damp Tuesday morning as we made our way to Kings Heath and parked on the church car park (New Life Baptist Church is our place of worship and our base for chaplaincy). Sometimes, we feel a very strong sense that we should visit one particular person or shop first, but we hadn’t felt any such ‘promptings’ this time, so we prayed for sensitivity, wisdom and guidance; drank a quick coffee; and off we went.

We visited a number of shops with a range of products on offer – from butchers to bikes; hair accessories to household goods to greengrocery; mobile phones to men’s and women’s clothing. A Funeral Director and three charity shops made up the mix, and more than half the people we saw that morning were independent traders.

So we listened and chatted, and chatted and listened. Someone was excited about holidaying in the Philippines in just three days’ time, and we talked about the proximity of a recent volcanic eruption on Java. Someone else was excited about her daughter’s upcoming 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, the new ball gown they’d bought for her school prom and the accessories still to be sorted. There was mention of second-hand furniture; of sales of baskets of fruit (ideal for visiting relatives in hospital); of insurance premiums; and of targets and stock levels.

Several traders were very sympathetic towards the people affected by the floods in Worcester and on the Somerset Levels. They felt they themselves had much to be thankful for, in spite of Half Term having an impact on trade, with families on holiday or choosing to ‘lie in’ and shop later in the day. One person spoke of the moral dilemmas that sometimes face employees - do you toe the company line when giving details of a product to customers, or include a more truthful opinion and risk losing your job? One shopkeeper attends a Sikh Temple offering 24/7 hospitality and care in its local community. Another spoke of having a ‘Christian heart’ for her staff and the work she does. An interesting comment from someone who has been in the retail industry for a long time was that “people are looking for a sense of excitement when they go shopping!”

It was all fascinating ‘stuff’ that gave a ‘flavour’ and breadth of interests - and we continue to be amazed that people are happy to share so much with us about the details of their businesses and about themselves and their personal lives. It was an enjoyable and rewarding morning, which encouraged us to go out the next day and start over, with another set of people, and more stories to share!



Graham and Pat would love to expand their work in King’s Heath. Is this something that you think God might be calling you to? If so, do get in touch with CIGB at the address below.

**LAST WORD**

Dear chaplains  
Did you notice the lovely encouraging story on page 2? I know that you all have moments of great encouragement because you talk about them! It would be great if you could write them down and send them to me for inclusion in “LINK”: Good news and good photos are always welcome!



**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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