

The Role of the chaplain

Chaplains are present to value, affirm and care for people at work; to listen and share in the anxieties and joys of peoples' lives and to share the issues that people face at work.

They visit during working hours, the frequency and duration of visits being agreed with the managers.

Arrangements can be made if someone would like a longer chat.

Chaplains are present for people of every faith and no faith.

They guarantee that everything that is shared is confidential (*within the limits of the policy for the protection of children and vulnerable adults*).

Their support is unconditional and non judgmental.

Chaplains are not present to convert anyone and have respect for everyone's faith or beliefs.

They do not intrude where unwanted and will not interrupt work.

All chaplains have CRB checks

What are the qualities needed for chaplaincy?

Chaplains accept that, most of the time, they will come and go without being aware of doing anything special; but they know that over time people will come to recognize and trust them, enabling conversations about deeper issues to take place when needed.

Chaplains need to have enough self-confidence to thrive without the reward of feedback. They need to have enough self-awareness to know where their own strength and hope come from and to be able to draw on this to share that strength with others.

Good chaplaincy conversations start with the other person's needs and agenda - it is rarely appropriate for the chaplain to share theirs.

Skills?

Skills needed include:

- Listening
- Ability to discuss 'the ultimate' in non church language - particularly in conversations with those who may never come to church
- A willingness to learn

Are you interested in people?

Could you meet and get to know people in their workplace - office, factory, shop, hotel, airport, fire station etc?

Could you talk to everyone from the most senior to the newest recruit?

Can you chat with people about ordinary things but be willing to respond if questions go deeper?

Do you have some time to offer as a volunteer?

Could you, with your church, support this work in prayer?

If the answer is "Yes!" you might think about becoming a workplace chaplain.

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."



What is a chaplain?

A mature Christian who regularly visits in the work place.

Why do they visit?

To provide care and support for all members of staff, affirm them in their work and share the issues that people face at work.

Who are the chaplains?

Lay and ordained Christians from local churches.

Are they trained?

They are selected and trained for the work.

Do other places offer chaplaincy?

Workplace chaplains are in many major towns and cities across the country.

About CIGB

The Churches and Industry Group Birmingham is growing and has interesting chaplaincy opportunities in the motor industry, the public and voluntary sectors, airport, retail industry, the NEC, the Fire Service and others.

We provide free training and continuing support.

If, having read this leaflet, you are interested in discussing this further, please contact us at

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You might also like to visit our website
at
www.cigb.org.uk



Workplace chaplains

Churches and Industry
Group Birmingham



Covering
Birmingham, Sutton
Coldfield and Solihull