



LINK

supporting the workplace, caring for people

Autumn is here in all its glory—time for another CIGB newsletter! Thank you for all the positive comments on our new look, which were so very encouraging. We hope that you'll enjoy reading this issue, and that you'll feel inspired to write something for the next one. We're always pleased to hear how things are going in your area, and would love to receive any 'quotable quotes' or even any appropriate jokes! Do you have any? Do send them!

Commissioning Service

Each year CIGB holds a 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 the service will take place on November 20th at St John's Church, Longbridge, at 3.00pm.

The service will be followed by light refreshments.

St John's Church, Longbridge Lane,

We are delighted to be

able to welcome the Right Reverend William Kenney CP, Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham, who will be our guest preacher.

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



The Right Reverend William Kenney CP

Commissioning Service

Sunday November 20th at 3.00pm

St John's Church, Longbridge

B31 4JN

A Star in Solihull



The Touchwood Centre in Solihull celebrated its 10th anniversary this year and as part of the celebrations an award ceremony was held. Beryl Moppet Leader of the Solihull Town Centre Chaplaincy Team was invited to attend – but had no idea that she would be the recipient of one of ten very special 'Star' awards until she was invited to receive the award from Anthony Brown, the Managing Director of Lend Lease. The wording on the award was 'In recognition of your outstanding contribution to Touchwood'. What a lovely surprise for Beryl and her team, and how wonderful that the chaplaincy team should be recognised in such a public way. Congratulations Beryl! We are sure that you and your team will continue to inspire and encourage the staff and visitors to Touchwood and the town centre.



Beryl Moppet receives her 'Star' award from Anthony Brown, Managing Director, EMEA, Lend Lease



Quotable Quote “The economy shapes people’s lives profoundly; it is about moral questions, even though the link between decision and outcome is sometimes hard to trace. Nervousness about bringing Christian perceptions to bear on economic questions is a very modern heresy!”

The Birmingham riots

Elaine Hutchinson, City Centre Retail Chaplain offers some thoughts on the aftermath of the civil unrest:

“The riots, which took place in August this year, were a challenge for the Retail Chaplains and we spent the week listening to the stories of people who had been directly affected by the riots.

There was a real appreciation from retailers who clearly needed to tell their stories to help them make sense of what had happened. They were able to voice concerns about their safety, the future and the impact the riots would have on their businesses.

I listened as one retailer told how he had been locked in a cupboard as the looters raided and destroyed the shop. The traumatised staff were expected to come to work as usual despite their horrific experiences the previous night.

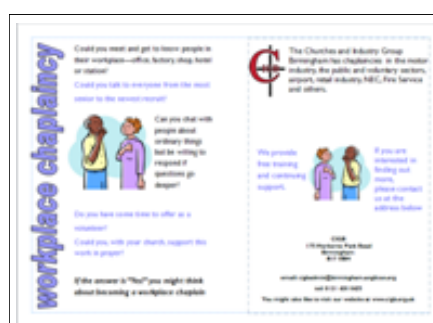


As we stepped over broken glass and into shops that were empty I wondered what on earth I could say to bring that might hope into this situation? I wasn’t sure, but then I was reminded of the words of Ann Morisy that conversations, however small, are all meaningful, because there are pockets of enacted hope.

As Chaplains we were there, not only listening to what needed to be said, but speaking something of that hope into what seemed to be a hopeless situation.”

New CIGB leaflets

There are some new leaflets available to download from the website. The first is designed to be a double-sided A5 leaflet, introducing workplace chaplaincy, which is suitable for leaving at the back of church. It appears on the website as an A4 document—print it and then print again on the other side!



‘Lost your job’ offers ideas, reassurance, useful contacts, ideas, and practical help.

Both these leaflets can be found on the CIGB Website: www.cigb.org.uk

They are on the Resources page in the section on ‘Workplace Chaplaincy’



Two other new leaflets ‘The Local Church and Local Business’ and ‘Business in Church Premises—a check list’ are also available for download. These leaflets offer some ideas and guidelines as to how churches might engage more effectively with local businesses. The article on page 3 of this newsletter ‘The church in the market-place or the market-place in the church?’ shows how one church is putting some of these ideas into action.

These two leaflets are also on the Resources page of the website but this time in the section entitled ‘Churches Responding to the Economy’.



National investment week: 16—22 October

Ethical investing in the UK is rooted in the faith community. Churches, charities and people of faith were the first to take account of ethical criteria in investment decisions. NEIW aims to encourage people to consider ethical options for their savings and investments so that these decisions can help build a better world. An 'Action Guide for Churches', including worship resources, is available at

www.neiw.org/church-guide or www.eccr.org.uk



A church in the market-place or a market-place in the church?

Like many churches, St Mary's in Bearwood hosts a variety of community groups and businesses who hire their facilities. Slimming clubs, martial arts training, after-school booster clubs, dance classes and market researchers are all 'in business', large or small, franchise or independent. They bring the world of paid work to the church door.

In the last few years St. Mary's has gone one step further, and has enabled two small businesses in their first year of life to take those critical first steps.

Birmingham Community Acupuncture use a room in the church hall which has been refurbished to local health authority clinical standards. Not only has a new business offering therapy to the community at an affordable price been assisted, but the same room also provides a venue for the annual 'flu-jab' event run by a local medical practice.



From the church doorway to the High Street

via 'Andrew's Plants'.

'Andrew's Plants' operates three times each week on church grounds adjacent to the pavement, offering locally-grown plants of excellent quality at very competitive prices, along with friendly advice about where to plant them! No fee is charged but the church receives an agreed percentage of sales.

In return, both these part-time ventures draw attention to the Church and the facilities offered by the adjacent Hall and provide a day-time presence on site.

Above all, this approach demonstrates to the local community that the Church, represented here by St Mary's, is willing to engage creatively with people taking 'a leap of faith' in starting their own business.

Malawi

In September the Anglican Diocese hosted visitors from its twinning partner, Malawi and CIGB was privileged to help arrange some visits for the business and professional people including a lawyer, accountant, finance manager and banker. Agnes Salaka visited Harris and Harris Accountancy, the only Community Interest accountancy firm in the country, based at Fort Dunlop, and working with social enterprises. Geoffrey Mbwala visited BHSF, founded in 1873 to help poorer people access medical care, and still a successful insurance company. One businessman in renewable energy unfortunately had to cancel the trip but not before we had linked him with Practical Action and their project on widening access to energy in Malawi.

It was wonderful to see our networks benefitting people working so far away and to be part of that wider church mission.



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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