

CHURCHES' INDUSTRIAL GROUP BIRMINGHAM



AT A MANAGEMENT CHURCHES' MEETING WITH COLIN MARSH, BARBARA HAYES, TERRY BLAIR, JOHN HEDDERLEY, IAN FREW, AMY MERRIMAN & REV. COLIN CORKE MEET IN BIRMINGHAM. THE VENUE WAS HARBOUR VIEW, CAROL PARKES, 2009 ROAD, STEPHEN WILLEY.

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FRONT COVER PICTURE - CHAPLAIN MAJOR BRYAN SNELL, ELAINE HUTCHISON, IAN FREW, AMY MERRIMAN & REV. COLIN CORKE MEET IN BIRMINGHAM

CHAIRMAN



I am very pleased to introduce this year's report from Churches' Industrial Group Birmingham, which acts on behalf of a range of Christian denominations in Birmingham and Solihull.

We have continued to provide and support chaplains in a range of employment locations, and in so doing have carried the banner for chaplains in the workplace, in business and in the community. The financial and political turmoil we face ourselves is a potent reminder of just how key such issues are, and how spiritual values are central to the economic life of our society.

We have been pleased to organise meetings of church representatives with individual MPs in our area, to inform them of our presence and work, and to discuss with them their understanding and political purpose in some of the current economic issues. We plan to continue this sequence of conversations and value the opportunity for such exchanges.

It was good to welcome new chaplains and to recommitment existing ones in a public service last November at St Martin in the Bullring, Birmingham. We will hold a similar event in Solihull in November 2009.

Together with other members of the Management Committee, I am grateful to our chaplains, our host employers and our supporters for their commitment and backing through another year. Our chaplains in particular have found themselves identifying and ministering to stories of anxiety and insecurity - both corporate and individual. We continue to pray for businesses and individuals in a time of financial uncertainty.

Hayward Osborne, Archbishop of Birmingham

TEAM LEADER



In 2007 CIGB concentrated on migrant worker issues and we began 2008 with the launch of our report 'Here to stay'. Throughout the year Stephen Willey led work on human trafficking.

Since then much has changed. Some migrant workers began to return home as economic conditions improved there, but the impact of the global downturn is felt every where.

Our AGM in June, concentrated on the environment and the benefits of developing new technologies to the West Midlands economy. Environment was to be our theme for a year and we have explored the possibility of a faith based energy service company.

However, the crisis in the banking system and the current recession has been our main concern for the second half of 2008. CIGB's chaplains have been doing significant work in the companies they serve sometimes dealing directly with redundancies, sometimes hearing people's anxieties and sense of insecurity.

The chaplains' experience formed the basis of briefing papers to church leaders. "Lost your job?", a leaflet on dealing with redundancy, has been distributed electronically to all local churches for use in their pastoral work and a separate paper on redundancy through insolvency has been produced.

CIGB helped arrange a day conference "Good news in the economic gloom?" and submitted an article to the Institute of Directors, on behalf of the Birmingham Centre for Business Ethics, outlining the importance of business ethics, especially during this recession. We will continue to develop responses to the economic situation through 2009.

Barbara Hayes

ACCOUNTS - Year to 31/12/08

	2008	2007
Income		
Subscriptions	465.00	465.00
Donations	2,000.00	2,000.00
Donations - Harborne	3,000.00	3,000.00
Donations - Solihull	245.00	304.33
Donations - Other	225.00	0.00
Research fees & exam fees related	1,147.00	1,046.54
Interest	11,082.70	14,235.34
Expenditure		
Subscriptions	981.86	981.86
Donations	1,041.00	1,041.00
Research fees & exam fees	1,511.00	1,511.00
Annual report	1,320.00	1,320.00
Publicity	6,000.00	6,000.00
Publicity charges	3,000.00	3,000.00
SGS Co-ordinator's allowance	3,000.00	3,000.00
Salary - Total program managers & staff	487.50	487.50
Salary - Total program managers & staff	163,724.13	163,259.27
Profits		
Profits	(11,029.86)	(11,864.53)
Accumulated Profits		
Opening balance 01/01/2008	24,376.46	26,230.88
Total receipts	(11,029.86)	(11,864.53)
Total payments	13,346.60	14,366.34
Balance	23,289.77	24,376.46
Represented by		
Birmingham Bank	11,949.47	6,693.62
CITF Deposit Fund	23,289.77	24,376.46
Plus income not yet credited	0.00	2,000.00
Less: other sales program	1,669.70	4,000.00
Less: credits at 31/12/2008	(11,929.50)	(3,000.00)
Total	23,289.77	24,376.46

12,000 in-kind services provided during 2008.
12,000 in-kind services provided during 2007.
12,000 in-kind services provided during 2006.

Prepared by: AMY MERRIMAN & REV. COLIN CORKE
Checked by: COLIN CORKE

MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

- Patron of CIGB: The Lord Mayor of Birmingham
- Joint-Presidents of CIGB:
Major Samuel Edgar
The Most Revd Vincent Nichols
The Rt Revd David Urquhart
- The Management Council of CIGB:
Mr Geoffrey Chesbire
Mr Terry Burrows
Mrs Elaine Clark
Mr Paul Dikes
The Revd Colin Marsh
Mrs Carole Parkes
Mr David Pinwell
- The Archbishop of Birmingham
Black Led Churches Representative
Birmingham International Airport
Senior Corporate Banking Manager
Birmingham Churches Together
Aston Business School, Aston University
Birmingham Methodist District Representative

CHAPLAINCIES

- Over 35 Chaplains working ecumenically across Birmingham and Solihull including:
- Jaguar Land Rover (team)
 - NEC Group (team)
 - Town Hall and Symphony Hall
 - Birmingham Law Courts
 - Birmingham International Airport (team)
 - Harborne High Street
 - Shirley High Street
 - Solihull Town Centre (team)
 - Blythe Valley Business Park
 - Webster and Horsfall Limited/Latch and Batchelor Limited
 - West Midlands Police (team)
 - Birmingham City Centre Retail (team)
 - Birmingham Jewellery Quarter
 - West Midlands Fire Service

FROM CHAPLAINS



'Chaplaincy is expanding within the Police and it is envisaged that 2009 will see the introduction of 8 new chaplains'. (Viv Baldwin)

'Manufacturing industry is undergoing major stresses. Nevertheless, life goes on and it is a privilege to be a listening ear for those who are living through difficult times'. (Tony Johnson)

'Imaginative developments from the new management team at Solihull's Blythe Valley Park. And invitations to attend meetings of two 'evolving fellowship groups'. (Dave Warbrick)

'I watch the changes on Harborne High Street, listen to staff concerns, share their joy at Christmas and Carnival and have a wonderful sense of being accepted'. (Amy Merriman)

'Due to the pressures of the past year on the car industry, it has been very difficult for the staff of both Land Rover and Jaguar plants as they consider their options'. (Colin Corke)

'Problems across the Jewellery Quarter but good news too - plans to seek World Heritage Site status and celebrating the bi-centenary of Matthew Boulton'. (Mary Gilbert)

'A busy year at the Airport - a new CEO, major building projects and the emerging recession. The team continue to support staff and passengers, particularly staff in uncertain times. Fr Paul Haines now covers Edmond - so our work grows'. (Barbara Hayes)

'The Chaplaincy team at the NEC has grown with the help of volunteers enabling us to offer Chaplaincy at trade and public shows. The prayer rooms are also receiving more attention'. (Stephen Willey)

'A sense of determination, we will get through this and the Chaplaincy team at Touchwood are supporting and encouraging the workforce at every opportunity'. (Beryl Hoppett)

ON CHAPLAINCY



I am not someone known for their love of shopping. If there were an option of hill walking along an exposed Northumbrian coastline in dreadful weather or having a leisurely few hours shopping, I would opt for Northumbria.

I am a final year ordinand at Queens, who hopes to be ordained in the summer of 2009. In the summer of 2006, during my ministry day that we decided to open our ministry day from the church building, I found myself heading to retail chaplaincy in Solihull!

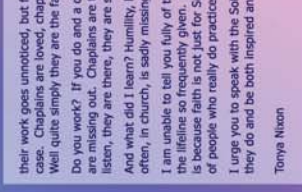
And what did I find. Well, in a nutshell I found God, over and over and over. Everywhere I looked there was God. So obvious really, yet so surprising. God was, and will always be, in the work that the chaplains do. The chaplains think case. Chaplains are loved, chaplains are needed and chaplains are needed - Why? Well quite simply they are the face of God in the workplace.

Do you work? If you do and a chaplain is not part of your life, then I believe you are missing out. Chaplains are the face, the hands and the body of Christ. They listen, they are there, they are seen, they help in ways that they may never know.

And what did I learn? Humility, kindness, compassion and a generosity that all too often, in church, is sadly missing.

I am unable to tell you fully of the work they do, the care they so freely give and the lifeline so frequently given. And why do chaplains do this? Well, the answer is because faith is not just for Sunday, their faith is their life, and they are a group of people who really do practice what the Bible tells us all to do.

I urge you to speak with the Solihull Retail Chaplains in church. Find out what they do and be both inspired and in awe.



Tonya Ntson