

CHURCHES' INDUSTRIAL GROUP BIRMINGHAM



AT A MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING: REVD COLIN MARSH, THE VENERABLE HAYWARD OSBORNE, REVD STEPHEN WILLEY, PATRICK BRYAN, CAROLE PARKES, PAUL DILKES, DAVE PINWELL AND REVD BARRIE SMITH

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FRONT COVER PICTURES - BERYL MOPPETT (TOUCHWOOD), STEPHEN WILLEY (NEC), COLIN CORKE (JAGUAR LAND ROVER), MAJOR BRYAN SNELL (AIRPORT), ELAINE HUTCHINSON (BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE)



ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10



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 believe that the work environment and economic life is not only critical to the life of our nation and of individuals within it, but also of importance to God. We aim to make visible the link between faith and work, and show how what we believe fundamentally affects the quality of the work we do as well as the management decisions we make. Although finance and commercial factors are central to how business is run, we believe that money cannot have the last word.

Therefore we provide workplace chaplains, there to support and engage with people whatever their role in the world of employment. The chaplains are the public face of the church in the workplace. As well as offering pastoral availability to people of all faiths and none, they are a reminder of the importance of spiritual and moral values in the business world.

We aim to raise further the awareness of this work in the life local churches, and encourage all people of faith in their working lives. We continue to support church leaders with information and briefing on economic matters in the West Midlands. And we want to increase the resources available to us from churches, businesses and individuals to build on the solid work already taking place.

Together with other members of the Management Committee, I am grateful to all who contribute to this significant enterprise. Its value has become even more apparent in our present time of economic challenge.

Hayward Osborne, Archdeacon of Birmingham

TEAM LEADER

Throughout 2009 CIGB continued to respond to recession. Our chaplains have given significant support to individuals facing redundancy and to organisations facing change.

Some redundancies are sudden while others are long drawn out processes, neither is a good place to be, either for those made redundant or those responsible for making cuts. Supporting people through all this is demanding work and we are grateful to the largely voluntary team, which has given so much.

As part of our work on recession we have briefed denominational Church Leaders, run a morning event for local church leaders, participated in thinking on Christian approaches to economy and given a presentation at diocesan synod to help equip churches.

As usual there has been movement in the chaplaincy team with new arrivals in Kings Heath and Birmingham City Centre. We continue to grow the team of voluntary chaplains and 12 people attended our annual chaplains training course. We will be exploring new areas of chaplaincy as a result.

Another strong theme for 2009 has been faith and work. The 'Our Work in God's Workplace' project delivered an excellent day for Christians working in the criminal justice system. CIGB was jointly responsible for a workshop at the Anglican Transforming Disciples conference. As a result a booklet 'About our Father's Business' is available on the CIGB website to assist churches in this area. In 2010, working with 'Faith Encounter', CIGB will run a multi Faith 'Faiths at work' programme funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Work on business ethics and responses to climate change are on going.

Barbara Hayes



AIMS OF CIGB

To establish and develop Industrial Mission in the Birmingham area through industrial chaplains and others

To promote the understanding and interpretation of the Christian faith in economic life, in conjunction with industrial and commercial undertakings, trades unions and organisations dealing with the training or employment

To be a resource to the church in relation to work and economic life, affirming work as part of God's creative purpose for all people.

CORE ACTIVITIES

To learn about industry and commerce and how it affects people

- * through chaplaincy
- * through links with the Chamber of Commerce, Unions and others

To care for people at work

- * through chaplaincy
- * resourcing local churches
- * networking with helping agencies

To act with others in promoting a more humane and just society by offering the insights of the Christian faith

- * researching and acting on key economic issues
- * encouraging good working practice and positive cultures

To share with the wider church the knowledge gained in order to stimulate a greater awareness of the impact of industry and commerce on society

- * providing briefings and other material
- * providing training and education on chaplaincy and 'faith and work'

FROM CHAPLAINS

City Centre Chaplaincy

It's been four months since I started in this post and it's been a real eye opener to just how vast the city is. I am still getting to grips with different aspects of City Centre life, and I am still networking and listening to where God is calling me to focus. For now I am going where I am welcome. My Commissioning service at St Martin's in the Bull Ring was a blessing and well attended.

As my work progresses, I hope to build and raise the profile of Chaplaincy in the City and continue to seek ways of being a presence in the City.

Jaguar Land Rover

Regular visiting and walking of the two sites has continued through the year. Workers 'on the line' sometimes shout across to ask for prayer for their favourite football team, or introducing their mates with the comment that they need to make a confession. All good hearted but this contact will enable deeper conversations to take place if and when pastoral needs arise. One of Jaguar Land Rover's midlands factories (Solihull or Castle Bromwich) will discover during 2010 it is closing in a few years which makes for uncertainty. At Castle Bromwich the Chaplain is a member of the Diversity Council and we appreciate the support of HR as we engage with the future and face further integration into one identity of Jaguar Land Rover.

Solihull Touchwood Centre

The town centre has seen the demise of shops and businesses as has happened all over the country but being a popular area the majority of the resulting vacancies have been filled by others eager to have a presence in the area. However this has not been without pain for many employees who have had their hours reduced or work load increased or conditions of employment re-negotiated. At management level there have been many changes - difficult to keep up with at times, but we look forward to greater stability in the near future.



FROM CHAPLAINS

NEC group

We are present for NEC Group employees and those from partner organisations (including people working with franchises). We are also present for visitors, particularly at larger shows, or by request from event organisers. Where it is requested, we also offer worship. Listening to people's concerns about their day to day lives, not related to their working context (and not all about difficulties!) continues to be an important part of our work.

In departments where there has been a reduction of staff, anxiety about how to cope with additional responsibility and work loads sometimes remains after reorganisation and levels of stress can be higher than people find comfortable to manage. In such situations, where time to talk with a chaplain feels pressured, it is sometimes possible to offer a smile or a short conversation without causing staff to feel more pressured by our presence!

Kings Heath High Street

As "new kids on the block", we entered, for us, the uncharted waters of Retail Chaplaincy as we began visiting traders in Kings Heath last September. We've discovered that "retail" is a transient world. We've met many very interesting, friendly, 'ordinary' people. The difference comes because we meet them in their workplace, on their territory, their 'patch' and, for the most part, they welcome our return visits. Links with the Business Association and Centre Partnership provide opportunities for comment and feedback to those decision-makers responsible for change and improvement in the community

Airport

It is impossible to have a year without change at the Airport and we've had the opening of the new international pier and are developing a central search area. Good news, yet commercial decisions have human impacts and chaplains have supported people facing uncertainty and provided practical information. The Chaplaincy team has grown but temporary closure of the prayer room in March may affect our pattern of work to some extent.

For a full list of our Chaplaincy teams and their reports please visit our website at www.cigb.org.uk

MANAGEMENT

Our Patron is the Lord Mayor of Birmingham and our Presidents are Rt Revd David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham, Rt Rev Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham and Major Samuel Edgar, Free Church Moderator.

The management council, chaired by Hayward Osborne, Archdeacon of Birmingham includes expertise from Aston Business School, social enterprise, the Chamber of Commerce, Trade Unions, Human Resources, companies and churches.

Income, Expenditure and Balance for the year to 31 December 2009 (2008):

Income	£20,948.79	(£15,082.43)
Expenditure	£20,461.71	(£16,712.11)
Surplus/Deficit	£ 487.08	(£-1,629.68)
Balance of Accumulated Funds	£23,233.85	(£22,746.77)

For further details of the management council, chaplaincies and annual accounts see our website or contact the CIGB office.

WORKING WITH US

If you are interested in building a good economy please think how you might work with us.

Churches

- * Support us financially but also through prayer
- * Invite a chaplain to preach or lead a study group
- * Think about you relationship with local business could CIGB train a chaplain to work locally?

Business and other organisations

- * Think about how having a chaplain proves your commitment to your staff
- * Supporting CIGB gives an insight into your companies ethics and values
- * Can we help you with faith as a diversity issue?

