



Churches' Industrial Group Birmingham

Newsletter Spring 2008

'Here to stay?'

Over 50 people attended the launch of 'Here to stay?' our report on migrant workers in the region. Speakers included the Rt. Revd. David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham, Diane Preece of Pertemps and Chris Brooke from Wychavon District Council. Participants came from business, the public sector and the church.

The key themes of the report are the need to respond to the vulnerabilities of all groups – settled populations, recent migrants and newcomers and the need for real hospitality through which people can create a new community.

Hard copies of the report are available and a PDF can be downloaded from the CIGB website.

If your church or group would like a speaker/facilitator to help explore issues and actions around migrancy please contact the CIGB office. – Details below.

Gang of four

Building on the work of Alison Maddocks, former City Centre Chaplaincy Development Worker, and on the success of 'Christmas Presence', four people are doing a chaplaincy course, in preparation for chaplaincy to city centre retail.

The group will be joined by others considering chaplaincy in other areas.

The course runs on Feb 19th, March 11th, April 1, 8, 28th and May 6th at the Methodist Central Mission, Corporation Street, Birmingham. 2-4 p.m.

Anyone interested in joining should contact the CIGB office – Details below.

Saving the planet or going for growth?

The environment has moved from a minority interest to be the key issue of our times. Faith communities were not at the forefront of environmentalism but theologies of creation and social justice put it centre stage, particularly as climate change predictions become more severe.



We have inherited a model of economic growth and growth seems to be needed if we are to meet the needs of the global human population. Yet we must curb our impact.

Making a difference requires personal and corporate action but concerned citizens and companies need the support of public policy and other frameworks.

At CIGB's AGM in June Simon Slater of AWM and Peter Braithwaite of ARUP will discuss the issues facing our region and how we can be part of the solution. Outlining what sustainable economic growth might look like and offering a framework that can help companies, charities, churches and families understand their impact & how it might change.

On placement with the airport chaplaincy.

As a third year part-time student at Queen's theological college I have just recently completed an attachment with Barbara Hayes and the chaplaincy team at Birmingham airport.

During this time I have come to value the work of the chaplaincy in its ministry and mission, realizing how essential it is with many opportunities. I thought I would be taking God into the workplace, but instead I discovered God was already there. In sharing peoples stories one could help others to recognise God's presence. One can share the joys, troubles, concerns and quietly bring them before God in prayer. Airport chaplaincy provides a real welcome and support to the many overseas workers and travellers.

As part of this attachment I was given the opportunity of attending the voluntary chaplaincy training course at the diocesan office. This was an excellent opportunity to learn more about the role of chaplaincy, the work place, the theology of work, visiting, practical skills and it provided a place to meet others involved in chaplaincy. I highly recommend this course.

It takes time to build relationships, which unfortunately means the time spent on attachment is very limiting, but still offers a wonderful insight into this ministry, the effects the workplace has on the individual and the corporate, and the challenges and opportunities it provides. It shows a wider perspective of being 'church' in the real world, sharing peoples' journeys and helping them to see God in that journey.

Carole Camp

Events, Courses, Resources

Human Trafficking: twenty first century slavery.

An evening of in put and reflection at St Martin in the Bull Ring – 29th February 7.30 p.m.

Speakers: Christien van den Anker and Tricia Young. Offertory for Anti Slavery International and Odenadi UK. Free event

Answering Cheerfully: dilemmas at work.

April 25 – 27, Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, Birmingham

A safe space for employees, managers and directors of any faith to explore issues at work.

Leaders – Rosemary Hartill, Judith Roads.



Free Chaplaincy Course

Methodist Central Mission 2-4 p.m.
19th February, 11th March, 1st, 8th, 28th April ,
6th May. [see article]

Churches together listening and speaking in economic life

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