

CHAPLAINS AT WORK



January 2017

supporting the workplace, caring for people

New Year, new newsletter ... well a new edition anyway! Following the tradition of the BBC we like to review the year just past as well as looking forward. The New Testament practice of eating together happened fairly often in 2016 to our great joy! In this edition we also say goodbye to two long-serving Chaplains, meet another and hear of another's great courage. A belated Happy New Year!

New Year—Support for the Spirit

Peter Sellick looks back on 2016, and looks forward to 2017.

"This is my Son, my beloved; with whom I am well pleased" (Matt 3:17)

"Reward is so important in the workplace ... it doesn't have to be monetary ... it could just be someone telling you that you are doing a good job, and giving you support."
(Dr Almuth McDowall)



Almuth McDowall, Head of Organisational Psychology at Birkbeck University and, Angela Clow, Professor of Psychophysiology at the University of Westminster were speaking at New Year on 'Woman's Hour' (BBC Radio 4) about Stress at Work. January is often said to be the time when more people decide to look for a new job.



Analysing causes of stress at work, Angela Clow and Almuth McDowall noted how many more people are isolated in their working life from sources of support – in working remotely, hot-desking amongst strangers, communicating only digitally with their managers. If people don't see each other face to face, it is harder to spot the signs of stress, or even to pick up on training needs. Workplaces that are dominated by artificial strip lighting and electronic screens can disrupt our own daily biological rhythms, which makes it harder to switch off from work even when we get home.

Part of Workplace Chaplaincy is about being that person offering support, and providing chances for people to step back from work, to get back in touch with who they are. For many people that includes a sense of Faith. Chaplaincy is also about giving priority, and space for God in the workplace.

In 2016, the chaplaincy team began the year with a 'spiritual refreshment' day at Manresa House in Harborne, and our Chaplains' meetings and training sessions always start with prayers and reflections.



On the Training front we spent a day with Sue Holden, Birmingham Methodist District Safeguarding Officer, looking at ways to safeguard ourselves and to recognise safeguarding issues during our Chaplaincy work. Another Training Day was spent with Ruth Tetlow as we considered how we, as Chaplains, relate to members of other Faiths. We have also spent time discussing CIGB's Constitution, and looked at ways to bring it up to date so that it reflected our work more accurately.



We try to support each other in our own work areas, by hearing what each other are up to, and, at the least, taking that away in prayer. One way we can reward ourselves is through snacks, cakes, and sandwiches - and eating together has been a popular finale to some of our meetings! We dined together to say farewell to a number of colleagues over the year: including Stephen Plant, Linda Isiorho and Duncan Ballard.

Chaplaincy relationships with businesses continue to grow in depth, as well as number, though several of our workplace organisations face challenging times – not least in retailing, markets and the public sector. At our 2016 Annual Meeting, we heard some of the 'headwinds' facing retailers – issues like Internet shopping, Wages and Taxes.

But even with headwinds, challenges and success, there is room for knowing and experiencing God's blessing on our lives. Simon Foster of Saltley Trust, presented at one of our meetings and told us about a research programme into discipleship growth. One of the initial findings has been that Christians grow in their faith when they go out from church and connect their faith with social contexts. Simon also told us of

QUOTABLE-QUOTE

“Have no fear of moving into the unknown. Simply step out fearlessly knowing that I am with you, therefore no harm can befall you; all is very, very well. Do this in complete faith and confidence.”

Pope John Paul II

Cont'd ...

a finding that had delighted him from their research: “Don’t underestimate anyone’s spiritual life”.

We were delighted to commission five new volunteer Chaplains at our Commissioning Service in November— see next page to meet one of them— and as our fantastic existing chaplains recommitted themselves to this call, Rev Sarah Hayes ,our guest preacher, reminded us that whilst we offer care and support for people at work, we should remember to leave room for the God moments.



“Parting can be such sweet sorrow ...”

It was great to welcome five new Chaplains in November, but we have had to say goodbye to two more.

Farewell to Duncan

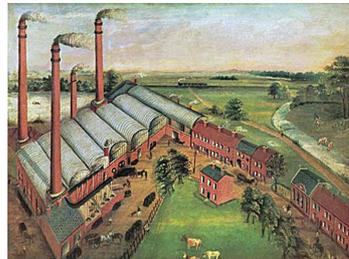
November 23rd was a day of mixed feelings: on the one hand, lunch was provided following our Chaplains’ meeting, so there were feelings of great joy at the prospect of a free lunch, (yes, there really is such a thing at CIGB), and a chance to chat for longer with chaplaincy colleagues. However, the joy was mingled with sadness as we said goodbye to Duncan Ballard. Duncan has led the Chaplaincy team at the Airport for a number of years and the role has gradually grown to include welcoming refugees into the country, acting as a chaperone for unaccompanied minors, finding a safe refuge for a young woman who escaped from an arranged marriage ... and that’s just scratching the surface. Duncan was vicar of Hampton-in-Arden with Bicken Hill – with responsibility for three churches, and also Area Dean for Solihull. A very busy man! He leaves Birmingham for Ashbourne in Derbyshire: definitely our loss and Derbyshire’s gain. So our sadness at Duncan’s leaving was mingled with hope as we said goodbye: Hope that God will continue to bless Duncan and to use him mightily in his new role.



Farewell to Roy

We will shortly be saying farewell to Rev Roy Anetts. He is moving in February to a new parish in Cupar, Fife. He has been Chaplain to Webster and Horsfall at Haymills, Tyesley, since 2012, and Parish Priest at St Cyprians, Hay Mills, and St Michael and All Angels, South Yardley.

Roy had been in Engineering for many years, before moving into full-time ministry, and relished the intimate connection between church and factory at Hay Mills: the church is built on land around the factory and the stream that would have fed the original mills now flows underneath the church. The church is literally built on industrial power!



Roy has supported staff at the Webster and Horsfall through change. The business is over 300 years old and is famous for supplying the wire for the first transatlantic telegraph cable.

Recently, as their business model has gradually diversified from drawing wires to hosting other businesses, including new recycling energy plants, there have been considerable redundancies. Managers have really appreciated Roy’s care and assistance.

All at CIGB wish Roy, and his wife Kate, a blessed new ministry.



Roy with Charles Horsfall and Bishop David

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 ☆ **Introduction to Workplace Chaplaincy** ☆
 ☆ **Spring 2017** ☆
 ☆ This course is rapidly filling up, but if you’re ☆
 ☆ interested it will run on 6 consecutive Mon- ☆
 ☆ days from 5pm – 7pm starting on Monday ☆
 ☆ February 6th. Cost £20. ☆
 ☆ ☆
 ☆ Please contact Peter to book your place at: ☆
 ☆ peter.sellick@cigb.org.uk ☆
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**QUOTABLE
QUOTE**

“Go out into the world today and love the people you meet. Let your presence light new light in the hearts of people”

Mother Teresa

Meet the Chaplain:

The second article in our series puts Tina Hands in the spotlight. Tina began her Retail Chaplaincy towards the end of 2016. and was Commissioned at our service on November 20th. Here is Tina’s story:

“Two years ago, sitting in church, I heard about chaplaincy to the Police and about the NEX Bus chaplaincy. It was during the ‘Kids’ Slot’ and so, unsurprisingly, it was at my level! That was my ‘Lightbulb moment.’

“I could do this,” I thought, “and I have been doing this every time I go into the supermarket and ask the cashier how they are; or smile and speak to a waiter in a restaurant.” I’ve actually been doing it for years in my work as a Hairdresser, or a volunteer worker in a Charity shop ... even at the local slimming club. Having had the lightbulb moment, my next question was “well ... where?” and Tim, my Minister, said that he hoped I might consider the local shops



I wasn’t very keen as I had always thought of those shops as being a bit dull. I had a much better idea, (or so I thought), and hoped that it might be my local supermarket where I was already known. However, in March 2016 I started voluntary chaplaincy in those local shops and it’s amazing – not dull and boring at all – because it’s about people and their lives. People like:

- Single mums working full-time to support children.
- People struggling with relationships.
- A large family with a business that is struggling.
- Someone who is terrified of death and is looking after elderly parents.
- Members of a family who all work really long hours and very rarely get time to spend together.
- A trader whose home was burgled and the fear that brings.

- The trader with cancer.
- Workers held at knife-point earlier in the year.
- Young people struggling to afford their first home
- The busy clairvoyant.

It’s about ordinary people leading ordinary lives in uncertain times. It’s about hardship, fear and celebration. That original lightbulb moment has, for me, become an LED lightbulb and I pray that its extra bright light will shine indefinitely. Here a verse from Matthew’s gospel which has inspired me:

“Ask and it will be given to you. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Matt 7:7



At our most recent Chaplains’ meeting Pat Raymer adapted this poem, written by Ian M Fraser, as part of her opening prayers.



Not just in buildings blessed by consecration
But in banks and business, coping with inflation,
And at supermarket, bus and railway station:
We are church.

Not just on Sundays, festivals observing,
But on the weekdays at a check-out serving,
God looks to us for faithfulness unswerving:
We are church.

Not just for worship is the promise given’
Earth has to be sustained – so that in heaven
Work linked with prayer together show we’ve striven:
And we are church.



**QUOTABLE
QUOTE**

“I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.”

Nelson Mandela

“ On your bike ... ”

Our very own National Express Bus Chaplain Christine McAteer was involved in a serious accident in 2015. Here’s an edited version of an article from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham website ... I’ll put the URL, which includes details of how to sponsor Christine, at the end of this article ...

“Christine McAteer is back on her bike after a van failed to give way to her while she cycled to a meeting and hit her head-on. Miraculously, Christine escaped the accident, which took place on 20 October 2015, with minor injuries and a deep laceration from where her bike had been crushed into her left thigh by the larger vehicle. She was taken by ambulance to QEHB, where she says the care of staff was excellent.

Now, over a year on from the collision that damaged her leg, Christine has signed up to complete the Velo Birmingham; a 100-mile, closed-road bicycle race that will come to the second city for the first time on Sunday 25 September 2017. The date will mark just over two years since Christine’s crash.

Christine said: “Before my accident I was pretty confident and had cycled on all sorts of roads within a 20-mile radius of where I live; even the scary Hagley Road! Since my accident I have felt much more nervous, both whilst cycling and as a pedestrian or car passenger, and I’m now working to rebuild my confidence.

“I am so grateful to the paramedics, nurses, surgeons and x-ray team for all the care I received. I am back cycling now and feel that I want to give something back and the Velo seems the perfect opportunity to do that while also building my confidence back up.”

Well done Christine, and every good wish from your CIGB colleagues as you take on this huge challenge! The quote at the top of the page is for you!



<https://www.qehb.org/news/local-woman-back-on-her-bike-after-crash-to-support-the-hospital-that-treated-her>

Day of Refreshment 2017

This is a chance for Chaplains to spend a day together, and as the name suggests, is an opportunity for spiritual refreshment, or as Sarah Hayes put it: “Making time for the God moments.”

Our theme this year is “The Good Shepherd” and, as usual, there are a variety of different workshop sessions including a Bible study, Art appreciation, and creative writing to mention just a few. Alternatively people can spend the day in quiet meditation, or go for a walk. Whatever brings refreshment!

Our venue is Manresa House, 10 Albert Road, Harborne, B17 0AN. Lunch is provided and there is no charge for the day.

There are a few places available! Please let us know if you would like to come. Contact details below.



LAST WORD

We love hearing your stories—and there are a few in this edition— both the exceptional ones and the more everyday ones. It’s great to be able to share these stories as they are so encouraging. We’re very good at ‘anonymising’ stories so we can make sure important details and individuals are not identified, if necessary ...

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this edition of “Chaplains at Work”.

STAY IN TOUCH

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