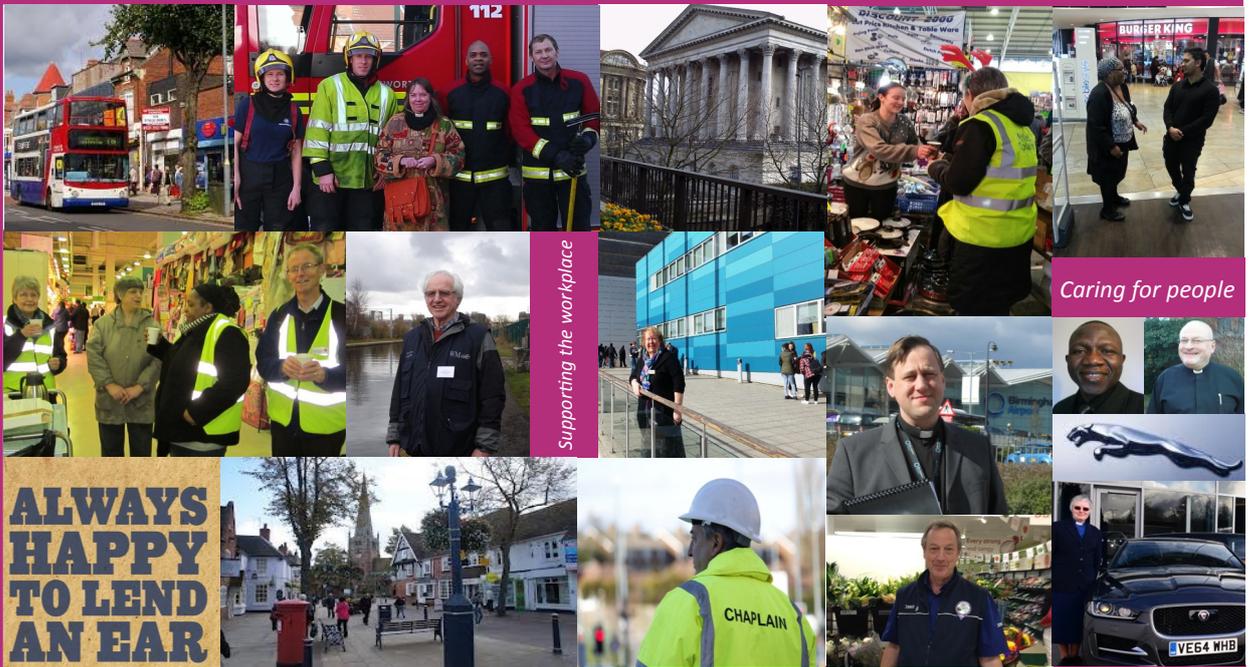


CTIGB

Churches and Industry Group
Birmingham & Solihull



Annual Report

2014-15

Aims of CIGB

To establish and develop Industrial Mission in the Birmingham and Solihull area with industrial chaplains and other partners

To engage the Christian faith in economic life with industrial, commercial and financial undertakings, trades unions and organisations dealing with training or employment.

To enable the church to be a transformative community in economic life, affirming work as part of God's creative purpose for all people, and being ecumenically enterprising

Core Activities

To act in Mission to promote a more faithful society by utilising the insights of the Christian faith

Engagement on key economic issues

Encouraging good working practices and positive cultures

To care for people at work

Through chaplaincy

Resourcing local churches

Partnership working with other agencies

To stimulate mission in church communities, recognising the role of work, money and commerce in discipleship

Providing worship, leadership and learning materials

Providing training and education on faith and work

To learn about industry and commerce and how it affects people

Through chaplaincy

Through links with the Chamber of Commerce, Unions and others.

Introduction

Chaplaincy in the workplace is growing steadily, and I am pleased to introduce this annual report which charts CIGB's part in this work. Churches and Industry Group, Birmingham & Solihull has seen a steady flow of new people, from a range of Christian traditions, responding to the call of God and wanting to train for Chaplaincy, seeking to embody visible Christian presence in places of employment.

We find our Chaplains are welcome as figures outside the normal management structures of business, available to staff and management alike. They do not conceal their faith, but neither do they thrust it on people. They do not disrupt the flow of work, but are accessible to offer pastoral support. They do not push a church agenda on workers, but raise their sense that the Church is aware and caring of them – and therefore so is God.

We are glad to receive the positive comments of various managers regarding the value of chaplaincy, and we are looking to see how we can routinely receive feedback which will help us develop this work

We are grateful to the churches and employers who help to fund our work, and we thank Peter Sellick, our Development Director, for another year of effective growth and support with our teams of Chaplains. We also express our gratitude to our partner organisations and the Chaplains, most of whom work on an entirely voluntary basis.

**Hayward Osborne, Archdeacon of Birmingham
Chair of CIGB Management Council**

Development Director's Report 2014

Workplace Chaplaincy and Industrial Mission is described as 'Bridge Building'. Building bridges between faith communities, individuals, organisational life and the economy. Making this connection is nothing new: an analysis of the Bible finds nearly 900 passages about work and the economy. Bridge Building can be risky and needs planning: but its success is evident when people use the Bridge as a way of making their life's journey better.

Churches and Industry Group Birmingham & Solihull is being contacted by more people, and more organisations wanting to be part of this Bridge Building. We have started new Chaplaincy teams: at Jericho Foundation, which works helping excluded people into sustainable employment; and with the new retail units in Longbridge Town Centre. A number of 'graduates' from our training course are also setting up their own Chaplaincies. This year we have had 27 new people pass through the training programme.

Organisations are increasingly adopting an 'enterprise culture' in order to survive. At our Annual Meeting we discussed what 'good enterprise' looks like. There is a growing movement to include values within economics and business education. Carole Parkes, on CIGB Management Council and at Aston University, is part of a task force at the United Nations encouraging Business Education to teach more about Social Responsibility and Sustainability.

Chaplaincy is a also growing feature of church life. We celebrated Chaplaincy in all its formats during 'Chaplaincy Fortnight' in June, with a number of special events taking place. In the same way that Jesus was faithful in the context of the first century CE's powerful and powerless,

Chaplains use the role of 'Guest' in 'Host' organisations, in order to be living statements of faithful difference.

On our Team Awayday in July we explored issues of Diversity and Equality. Members of our own teams shared their experiences of disability, ethnic background, faith difference and work/social status. Some of these issues are still live and painful. We were joined by a Muslim Healthcare chaplain who delighted us with stories of the connections between her faith and practice.

'How to be with people in a state of shock' was some of the learning that came from a course on 'Psychological First Aid'. Some Chaplains encounter a small number of fatalities / critical incidents / shock redundancies in workplaces. Tragedies can be occasions for Chaplaincy work to be really appreciated. CIGB Management Council also spent a little time asking some 'what if.' questions. This led us to formalising some of our 'group' policies a little bit more closely with our constituent team Chaplains: with particular emphasis on issues like Health and Safety, Data Protection and our expected Code of Behaviour.

At the heart of our Code of Behaviour is our belief that our Chaplaincies



help workplaces to become places of faithful values and of good character. We pray for fulfilled individuals, wholesome organisational life, and an economy that helps us to be good humans together. CIGB sees faith as an integral part of what it is to be human.

Peter Sellick

Solihull Town Centre Retail

Although there were concerns during the year over the number of empty shops that seemed to be appearing this worry is now over as, once again, virtually all are filled; sadly though, some of the shops that were well established over many years are ones that have ceased trading.

The plans for Touchwood 2, a mixture of shops and restaurants to be positioned between St Alphege church and the existing Touchwood entrance, have been on display. To make way for this development, part of the existing Council House, Orchard House, along with the Priory building will be demolished. It is intended that this project will update the town, particularly as Touchwood is almost fifteen years old. It is expected that building will start at the end of 2016 and Chaplaincy will be available to the construction work force.

The Chaplaincy team delivered Christmas cards to all the retail outlets in the town centre a week or so before Christmas. This is a very important and valuable aspect of our ministry, as it is an opportunity to make ourselves known to the smaller businesses, on whom we call rather infrequently during the year. It is also a chance for us to hear, on a wider basis, the effect of the economic situation on the traders as a whole.

We were very pleased this Christmas that we distributed 1300 mince pies, the most yet, so that virtually every shop in the town centre was visited. To do this we are extremely grateful for financial support from Touchwood, Mell Square and some other local businesses. This small gesture is very highly valued by the people who work in the shops and it is really pleasing to see the reactions: 'Are they really a gift?' is a frequent reaction.

In April it was good to welcome the Cllr. Joe Tildesley to our business

meeting and he was pleased to learn of the way the Chaplaincy team is welcomed and valued. Rev. Paul Champion from Shirley also attended one of our meetings and learnt of the way that the Solihull team operates. We look forward to there being a Chaplaincy team established in Shirley in the near future.



We continue to flourish as a team, and welcomed Jean Murray and Shirley Whitney officially into the team at the Chaplaincy Commissioning Service in November. Jean will be working alongside Ann in Sainsbury's and Shirley on 'new' ground in Drury Lane. As a team we are slowly beginning to visit more and more shops on a regular basis.

Beryl Moppett, Team Leader

Birmingham Airport

Another year, another report!

The team at Birmingham Airport remains strong, and Bryan, Alive, Neil and Duncan have this year been joined by Fr. Pham and John, expanding the team and the ways in which we serve the airport.

In many ways the Airport has proved to be an accurate barometer of the West Midlands economy. In terms of passenger numbers, 2014 was the best year ever in the Airport's history; this reflects the growing confidence in business and consumer spending, but is also a result of the extension of the runway and the further refinement and enhancement of what the Airport has to offer to the region.

The Airport Chaplaincy continued to do what it does best: offering support, reflection and friendship to passengers and staff. For some reason there was a drop in the number of unaccompanied asylum seekers we were asked to attend, but this was balanced by the increased instances of people returning to the UK who needed transport and assistance once they arrived in Birmingham: the team were happy to help.

There are very few fixed points in the Airport year; however, Remembrance Day and particularly the two-minute silence was marked by staff and passengers alike. Pancakes were enjoyed at the beginning of Lent, and over 80 people joined in with the Airport Carol Service, with music provided by talented members of staff.

The Chaplaincy also hosted the annual conference of UK Airport Chaplains and invited lecturer Andrew Todd from St Michael's College, Cardiff to lead 60 chaplains in a day of reflection around the question 'what makes Airport Chaplaincy different?' The Airport management were very

generous in sponsoring the event, and in supporting the Chaplaincy team throughout the year.

Finally, we could not operate without the support, dedication and hard work of the volunteer care team who again assisted the police and Airport staff in the annual emergency exercise (which, I'm sure you'll be pleased to hear, passed off without any real emergencies!).

When you next use the Airport, can I invite you to use our prayer space in order to pray, meditate or just escape the noise for a while? We are here (Ground Floor, next to Check-In, Oversized Baggage) to assist you as a Chaplain, a friend you can let off steam to, or a colleague who simply works alongside you.



Duncan Ballard



The new runway extension in use!

Duncan Ballard

NEC Group

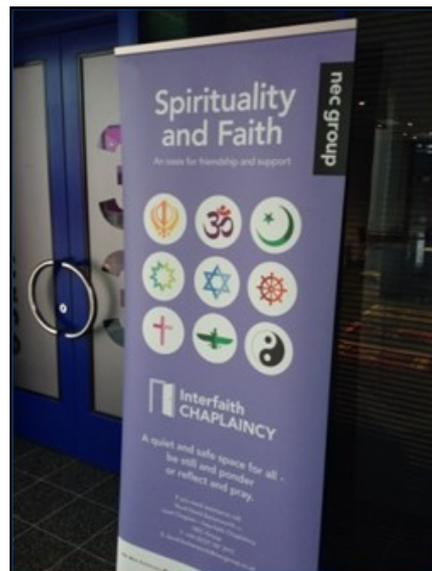
The NEC Group offers an Interfaith Chaplaincy facility to all its staff, business partners and visitors. Chaplaincy has been a pattern since the green-field site was dug, almost 40 years ago, when HM The Queen cut the 'opening ribbons'. So as the NEC Group has weaved its pattern over the years, 'spliced in' The ICC and later the Barclaycard Arena, the Chaplaincy team has maintained a diversifying presence within the business.

At Spring Fair 2015, a developing pattern emerged – that being a 'pop-up' Interfaith Prayer Room. This facility comprised an extra 3 Concourse Suites in the Atrium. The traditional Prayer Room in the Piazza remained available and was overflowing. The new Atrium facility was very warmly received by visitors and they saw that feedback was important. Some new-comers were very pleasantly surprised at the generous hospitality offered to people from all backgrounds, who wished to recognise their Faith in business and/or those who simply wished to sit and ponder life's pathway.

The Comments Book is glowing with thankfulness like, "simply thank you", to "now we can do business and pray, thank you!". Additionally, verbal comments outshone the written ones, and conversations enabled a personal encounter to develop fleetingly between Chaplain and guest.

New Interfaith Chaplaincy banners were provided to identify and highlight the Prayer Room. A new logo with Faith symbols worked well with visitors, who commented positively on the open-door icon depicting 'all are welcome in this place'. During the recent Conservative Party Conference at The ICC, the Interfaith Prayer Room was also well used. At the recent NEC Event & Hospitality Master Class an Interfaith space formed part of the NEC Group portfolio. This was followed by TSB

requesting the NEC Group Chaplaincy to provide an Interfaith Prayer space for their 4-day event with thousands of visitors. It was also wonderful to greet Archbishop Justin Welby at The ICC for the Birmingham Prayer Breakfast—a gathering of 500 church, faith, business and civic leaders.



In our everyday ministry we meet staff on their Induction Programme as they join the business. This includes new hospitality accounts at Cadbury and at the new Library of Birmingham, and the initial staff for the new £150m Resorts World site. We have been blessed by a rich working relationship with everyone at the NEC Group. This offers our Interfaith Chaplaincy Volunteers great confidence in their daily routines: they are welcomed at corporate meetings and in one-to-one discussions with everyone who comprises 'Team NEC'. They also meet with visitors from all over the world. It's great to be part of a business which supports 29,000 full time jobs in the West Midlands alone.

Sitting within the NEC Group HR team and forming part of the People Forum with representatives from all over the business, we gain an invaluable holistic overview ensuring our conversations are relevant to both individuals and the wider business. Outside the business, I am glad to be part of the CIGB Management Council. I also regularly speak in local Mosques, Gurdwaras, Synagogues, Churches & Cathedrals and not least, workplaces/civic encounters highlighting the NEC Group model of Interfaith Chaplaincy which is seen as a great exemplar in both the wider business and leisure communities.

David Butterworth, Team Leader

Jaguar Land Rover

JLR Solihull

As the company is so buoyant at present the atmosphere on the site is very positive. One difficulty is that many more employees have been taken on and it is difficult to meet all of them. I attend the Diversity meetings when I am able to and visit the site at least once every week. The recent visit by Archbishop Justin Welby to the site resulted in a report in the employees weekly newsletter. Although he met only a few apprentices and ex-military employees and toured a small area of the site, the visit will serve to increase the awareness that a Chaplain is available, both to the senior management and those working on the production line.



Archbishop Justin Welby's visit

Linda and the new Jaguar XE - but not hers!



Linda Granner

JLR Castle Bromwich

It has been a privilege to spend another year as Chaplain to Jaguar Land Rover's assembly plant at Castle Bromwich. The success of the company has put staff under huge pressure, and considerable building work is testament to the plans for the future. New faces abound and older faces have increasing responsibilities. All are coping with frequently changing contexts and expectations. People are moved on from established roles to use their skills elsewhere in the company so new relationships have to be forged.

Thus Chaplaincy faces the challenges of brief encounters with very busy people and new faces in new roles. There is little time to talk as the tasks mount up and the track moves at a faster pace. So success brings with it pressure and problems, especially as the resources of Jaguar Land Rover are limited compared to their global rivals. Expansion and development has to be carefully achieved, given few people with appropriate skills and experience, and relatively limited budgets.

During the last year the F Type sports model has become established. As Jaguar Land Rover plans the first Jaguar sport utility vehicle, so the Jaguar brand gets a more robust range for contemporary markets. The future looks far brighter than it did a few years ago.

But please pray for all those involved in the design of the products at Gaydon and those at Castle Bromwich who assemble them. Revival has broken out at Jaguar Land Rover for which we must give thanks: but let's also pray for a sustainable future; and for those who now have the task of delivering quality vehicles that the market wants to buy.

Colin Corke

Waterways Chaplaincy

Since my report last year the work has continued to grow and this has necessitated visits to places such as Derbyshire, Nottingham, and Warwickshire. The reason for this is until recently I was the only UK Waterways Chaplain north of Braunston (Warwickshire). But I can now report that we have a Chaplain who has moved to Exhall, Coventry, who is looking after part of the Coventry Canal; and also a vicar in Coven, Staffordshire, who is prepared to keep an eye out on that area of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal.

Last year I stated that my hope and dream was for others to take on the work – so part of that dream has materialised but there is still scope for more. To publicise the work I have spoken at various churches and Canal Society meetings, and if you wish to invite me to talk about the Chaplaincy work I am more than happy to oblige.

The value of being prepared to visit regularly, and for a long period, is vital as so many other things are simply short-term measures. In the main the work has been assisting people to access social help and benefits. I have helped people who are homeless by showing them where they can get access to shelter and a bed. The towpath can seem a good place to bed down especially on the off-side to the towpath as you are out of the way. But it is not a good place as sometimes homeless people get attacked by others who think they are an easy target. Occasionally I get asked directions, especially near what is known as the 'Old Junction' just by the Sea Life Centre. It seems people get confused by the number of canals and bridges in that area. So I have directed people to the pubs they were looking for, to the ICC and Conference Centre, and to various parts of Birmingham City Centre. I now carry maps to give to people.

I have continued to walk the towpath in the centre of Birmingham and also Lapworth on a regular basis. This has resulted in trust being built up between the Canal and River Trust staff and myself. Despite changes in personnel, the confidence that the staff have in the Chaplains has meant the new people are happy to work with us. Confidence is something that takes a time to develop but can be lost quite quickly: all Chaplains, regardless of their area of work, need to be people who others can trust.

The various events held on the canals have meant that I have now discovered parts of the system I didn't know existed. When you are driving on a road you may not know that you are passing over a part of the canal system. So I have visited Netherton, Tipton, Knowle and Parkhead where canal festivals have been held and I hope to do the same this year. The Floating Market by the Sea Life Centre in Birmingham was a success for the traders and it is anticipated that there will be one this year.

Future events are on May 9th & 10th at Hawne Basin. July 11th & 12th when the Worcester and Birmingham Canal celebrates 200 years of existence with an event at Kings Norton. September 19th & 20th with the Tipton Rally and September 26th & 27th with the rally at Netherton. I hope to see you at these events.



Richard Alford

National Express Buses

Acocks Green and Yardley Wood

Peter Seeney, haplain to Yardley Wood Garage, sadly passed away after Easter 2014. Following this loss I introduced myself to the garage and began visits there on Fridays each week. I also continue to visit Acocks Green Depot and Solihull Train Station where drivers wait to change over. Staff at Yardley Wood Depot have been incredibly welcoming of the presence of a haplain. Folks at Acocks Green are also now much more welcoming. Some of the best conversations there have been with Muslim and Sikh drivers who are happy to seek me out to ask questions related to our faiths. They are incredibly respectful of the role of the Chaplain. Perhaps this is because their faith is so much a part of their everyday lives. I feel very humbled by their openness in sharing their stories. This where God is at work.

Yardley Wood garage was also sadly upset by the death of 2 drivers, both on the Number 6 bus route, within 6 weeks of each other between October and November 2014. I managed to attend both funerals. When a colleague dies – no matter how long they have served for - the garages will send out to the funeral a vintage bus loaded with staff, and garlanded with a black wreath with the route of their bus displayed. The whole garage observes 2 minutes silence as the hearse passes by.

The bus drivers have a tremendous ethic of service. The second driver passed away whilst driving his bus on 23rd November during the time of the CIGB Commissioning service. At his funeral the vicar reported that CCTV showed that in the final moments of his life he did all that he could to ensure the safety of his passengers.

Both garages have been involved with many fundraising events such as

“Wear Your Football Strip to Work” during the World Cup, and MacMillan Coffee mornings. At the request of Yardley Wood garage, I linked them up with Yardley Wood Baptist Church and Sparkhill Food Bank for whom they now collect food parcels.

Some of my best encounters occur when “off duty”. Drivers have waved at me when they’ve seen me on my bike coming from work, beeped when I’ve walked from the local shops carrying my shopping and one chap asked, whilst I disembarked after a Friday night out with friends, how my kitten’s castration had gone!

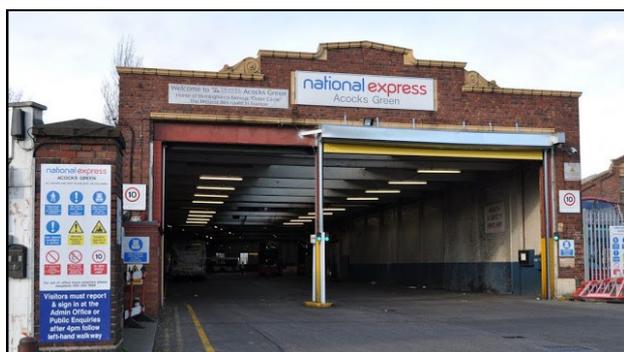
For me these moments are sacred in that God is present as He was on the Road to Emmaus through the mutual recognition of our common humanity.



Chrissy McAteer



Bus cake!



Acocks Green Garage

Chrissy McAteer

Birmingham City Centre Retail

“There’s light at the end of the tunnel”

Well that’s what the BBC1 news reporter said about New Street Station: “There’s light at the end of the tunnel.” It’s been a year of hope within the Retail Sector, hope that things will get better, and hope, in the midst of all the building work, refurbishment and chaos, that footfall will get better.



The Chaplaincy to the Retail Sector includes most of the shopping areas, large and small. At New Street the new Chaplaincy is going well. Iain and Peter are finding their way round, and retailers are getting used to seeing their bright yellow hi-viz jackets. The Chaplains are not only supporting retail staff, but occasionally point customers in the right direction when signs seem a bit unclear.

There’s hope that the new John Lewis store will help the economy within the City Centre and as all of the refurbishment comes to a close, a hope that things can get back to normal. The disruption of the last couple of years has had its toll on some retailers, who have found it very difficult due to such a low footfall. For some the challenge was too much which resulted in some having to cease trading all together.

Saying goodbye to some retailers is always sad. However, we’ve made new friends as new stores open, and the Chaplaincy to the Retail Sector continues to be well received. We continue to journey with those within the Retail Sector and we continue to build meaningful relationships in the hope that our journeying will enable affirmation that God loves and cares for those in the workplace.

Our annual distribution of mince pies and non-alcoholic punch to the Bullring Markets was well received by traders. It is always a pleasure to be able to spend time in the Markets with the Market Chaplains. It's one of the small ways we can enable hope and affirmation, and say thank you. Andrew and Jill Veitch's punch recipe gets better with each year! The only challenge is to disappoint the traders that this is non-alcoholic: as the request for something additional or stronger has been frequently suggested!



A hot drink on a cold day!

We are working to encourage more volunteers to see this wonderful, amazing ministry as something they may be able to participate in. We also thank God that there is so much to be grateful for, and much more to be hopeful about. The team continue to give their support and commitment for which I'm really grateful. The end of the refurbishments and the beginning of exciting new relationships is something we look forward to.



Our prayer is that we are able to continue to offer Chaplaincy to the Retail Sector and that hearts and lives will continue to be transformed by the hospitality and the love of God.

Elaine Hutchinson, Be.friend Team Leader

Open Air Markets

Weekly visits to the Open Air Market has established links between myself and many traders. We greet each other cheerily during my Tuesday visits.

But there is a feeling of despondency in the Market. Trade continues to fall away and the immediate post-Christmas period has been described by many traders as the worst ever. They also perceive a lack of hard information from the City Council about what the full plans for redevelopment are, and many traders worry that any plans may, in fact, come to do nothing. They feel they have been waiting a long time.

I was invited to take part in a Council and Markets Carol Service in St Martin's Church just before Christmas. I led the prayers and made the point that the markets urgently needed some sort of upgrade. I understand that the City Chief Executive was moved by these prayers - he had not realised the depth of concern felt by the Market workers.



The outdoor market



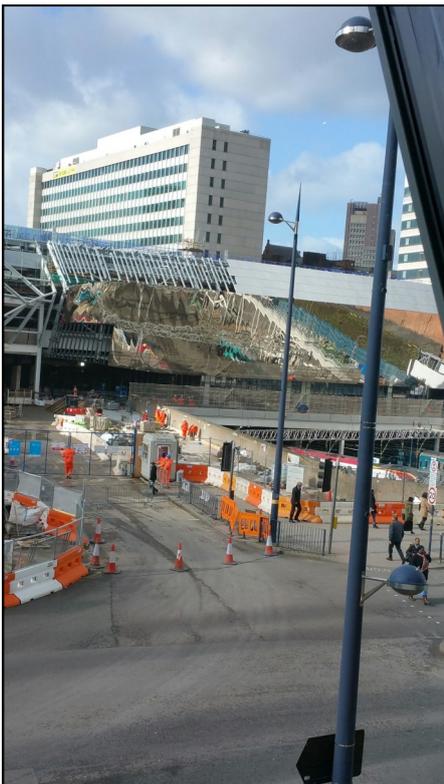
Market traders at work

Iain Frew

New Street Station Retail

I have started to visit the retail premises above New Street Station with Peter Woodall. At present the retail staff seem contented and only one member of staff has been reporting any difficulties to us. We are intrigued by the fact that almost all of the catering outlets are owned by the same company and that staff are interchangeable between units offering very different styles of cooking. We wonder how they can know all the varied catering styles so well!

There are only eleven outlets at the moment but in September the massive extension to the concourse will open increasing the shops to forty one – plus the multi-floor John Lewis Department Store. The whole shopping complex will be called 'Grand Central'. I am certain that I will be unable to service all of the additional units. Peter takes time off work to make a quick visit to the eleven shops already open and it would be unfair to expect him to visit all of the additional shops. The answer has to be – extra Chaplains please!



New Street station site



A vision of the future!

Rag Market

Inspired by a poetry workshop at a recent Chaplains' 'Day of Refreshment', Andrew has written his report in verse!

My patch

Another year has gone and suddenly it is 2015
What has happened in the last 12 months
Old faces have gone, but no 'goodbyes'
Just an empty stall - 'they've retired' is all I hear
Then a new face 'on the block' appears
New introductions and a 'hope it goes OK' I hear myself say
But deep down I think 'it's going to be a struggle'
Times have changed – internet – ebay – pound shops
the council struggles with so many issues,
traders complain, customers seem to have little money.
Rumours continue to spread – wholesale is moving out
developers are moving in – what is going to happen?
Then a few days of fun in December -
*the hot tea and cakes arrive - care of the Chaplaincy team
No complaints – except – do we have to wait another year?
In amongst it all, the issues that really do matter -
A friend whose son is extremely ill, family issues
that do not go away
be.friend is all I do, but God knows more
and I trust in him!

*It's actually a hot fruit tea punch and mince pies.

Andrew Veitch



Webster and Horsfall

There has been much going on at Webster & Horsfall. A new renewable energy plant, powered by waste wood, is being built at the rear of the premises, as the traditional wire manufacturer diversifies into other businesses. This has meant there have been a lot more people around than normal: it has been a very busy 18 months on the premises.

As with any company in this difficult climate, Webster and Horsfall have had their difficult times, but the company keeps going and the workforce is generally a happy one.

I have presided at several Baptisms and Funerals associated with company over the last 12 months and I can honestly say it has been a very rewarding time. We had a visit from the Bishop of Birmingham, The Right Reverend David Urquhart, last year which I believe he found very enjoyable.



Roy Anetts, Charles Horsfall and Bishop David

Great Western Arcade

Most Monday mornings I visit staff working in the Arcade. As in previous years, some shops have closed down unexpectedly. This comes as a shock and causes anxiety to staff in other outlets about the future of their own businesses. Thankfully some empty outlets have re-opened as new enterprises, and there have been new people to build relationships with over time. They are usually very surprised to learn that the Arcade has a Chaplain, and thank me for calling in.



On a personal level, staff have told me of health problems, and their sadness at the loss of a colleague or relatives. If it seems appropriate I offer to pray at home about their situations, and this is often

welcomed. On a happier note, other people have had exciting personal events to look forward to.

In December I gave out be.friend team Christmas cards to arcade outlets, which were all well received. They were intended to remind staff that 'We're here if you need us', and as a way of showing that God cares for them.

It's most encouraging to meet up with other Chaplains at our be.friend team meetings, the Commissioning Service, and other events, and hear how they are getting on.



Peggy Baker

Birmingham City Council

Council staff are still under great stress, both from restructuring and finance cuts, and from the desire to improve service quality. We have specifically increased the proportion of time spent with services that are under particular pressure. Our Meditation sessions with staff have been well received: “[The Chaplains’ Breathing Space sessions] help you relax and get you away from your desk. You get to meet people you wouldn’t normally meet in your working day.” “Meditation sessions have helped me calm down in the middle of the day and be able to put a perspective on the stress and demands of my work. “

In some departments, staff are required to become more entrepreneurial, which requires a different set of skills. We took part in ‘Big Conversations’ that marked the beginning of the new Chief Executive’s role, and shared in some amazingly imaginative ideas for reform from frontline staff. Despite all the challenges many people are still very committed to their work.



Prayer tree for Remembrance

The Council continues to be supportive of the diverse communities within its workforce. There are faith rooms in many of the buildings and active prayer gatherings. We experimented with a ‘Prayer Box’ for people to drop in requests. We also marked Remembrance and Christmas with ‘Prayer Trees’ (picture) and simple ceremonies. Peter has joined the Council Choir, following its TV appearance, and that is now part of the Council’s public profile.

Peter Sellick

Kings Heath Retail

2014 saw the completion of our first five years as retail Chaplains to the High Street in Kings Heath, our starting point set against the backdrop of the financial crisis and economic downturn resulting in the recession.

Now, as then, our weekly visits continue on a rota basis, currently to 80+ shops and providers, on the main High Street and some side roads, strengthening and deepening relationships built up over the years.

Retail business in Kings Heath remains transient. There are some longstanding well-established trades but other shops seem to come and go “at the drop of a hat”. One store closes here, and a ‘pop-up’ shop appears somewhere else. Whilst ‘Black Friday’ and online shopping added to financial struggles for some, 2014 also seemed, to us, to be a turning point for Kings Heath as a whole, with a number of traders either able to move to bigger, better premises; or for upgrades to current stores, making them more attractive to shoppers.



Kings Heath High Street



2014 also gave us the opportunity to support others in a variety of ways. One lady, who lives locally, was able to ‘shadow’ us on our rounds, as she tried to discern whether retail Chaplaincy is the way forward to her. She commented that although she has been a Kings Heath resident for many years, we had taken her into some shops she had never been inside before! On a gloriously sunny September Sunday we went to the York Road Festival – which was hugely successful, bringing in crowds of visitors – but on a more sombre note we supported staff at the Funeral Directors’ and their ‘clients’ at two “tree blessings”, serving as a reminder of thanks for loved ones lost during the year.

We gain encouragement from other Chaplains, family and friends, and the promises of God that He is working out His purposes in us, and that He will always be with us. We continue, with His grace.



Graham & Pat Wigley

Jericho Foundation

In January I started as Chaplain for the Jericho Foundation joining Rotimi Benjamin, the existing Chaplain. I visit two residential homes in the west of Birmingham, and one of the West Midlands Fire Service training centres. Jericho deliver catering services in their restaurants and staff canteens.

My visits have been well received and there have been lots of opportunities to chat with core staff, apprentices and residents. There are some feelings of uncertainty regarding their job security as the kitchens are not making a profit. However their services are well received and highly valued by the residents and fire service staff.

The apprentices receive lots of training opportunities including day-release to college, and work-based assessors to support their learning and skill development. The Apprenticeship Placement Scheme has had a high turnover of young people in certain sectors. The work is hard, and sometimes young people on placement do not arrive for work; this causes additional pressures for managing the kitchens safely as the teams have frequent commitments to deliver catering services for corporate events and functions at the residential homes.

It's early days yet, but Jericho CEO Richard Beard reports that he is very enthusiastic about the Chaplaincy. On the first Friday of every month he has a 'staff chat day,' which offers a welcome opportunity for staff to talk to him about any concerns they may have. Core staff and apprentices, with support from the Chaplains, hope to offer Easter and Christmas events for the staff and residents at the residential homes.

We continue to pray that *"God will continue to comfort our hearts, and establish us in every good word and work in Jesus' name."* 2 Thess 2:17

Pat Saunders

Longbridge Town Centre

In April 2014 Stephen Plant, Construction Chaplain to the Longbridge redevelopment, introduced Joan Byrne and I to businesses that had opened recently. We began visiting on Friday and Tuesday mornings, wearing *God's Heart for Longbridge (GHfL)* badges our minister, Revd Stephen Harris made, and carrying information leaflets created by Revd Peter Sellick.

Ann Polson agreed to take me into Sainsbury's, Solihull to demonstrate a large store Chaplaincy, and Joan and I met Sainsbury's, Longbridge management. After an enjoyable chat with the HR Manager we had an interesting tour, and soon began visiting staff in this huge store. Many staff are young, live locally and are very friendly.

Chaplaincy there is so different from visiting staff in small outlets, but we feel very welcome and are building relationships. An added bonus is that local churchgoers notice our badges and chat to us! In December I gave out *GHfL* Christmas cards to all town centre outlets, to remind staff that people in local churches are there for them.



The new High Street—M&S is still being built but other new shops and businesses are open.

In September, I talked to the Women's Fellowship at St John Baptist, Longbridge, and we have two further talks booked at local *GHfL* churches in March. This new work at Longbridge is very rewarding, and we hope more people will consider training as Chaplains for when the whole site is completed.

Peggy Baker

Longbridge construction

As Longbridge new town centre grows month by month, so does the Chaplaincy. More homes, more businesses, more people, more community. A new economy is being built and created.

The association of Longbridge churches, 'Gods Heart for Longbridge' (GHfL) received a grant from Birmingham Anglican Diocese to conduct a feasibility study into how best to provide a Christian presence in the new town centre and to serve the needs of the new community. As part of this, GHfL worked with the Longbridge Public Art Project over the year. This project has seen nine resident artists engage with the community in interpreting what Longbridge means to them in the past, present and future.

Over 5000 visitors braved the cold and enjoyed the spectacle of the Longbridge Light Festival in October which saw illuminated pieces of art in the public spaces and Austin Park, organised by the Art Project working with the community. Myself as Chaplain, Rev Colin Corke and local resident John Baker were tasked with judging the community window lighting displays. The Festival included an international conference on 'Place Making', which included talk of the importance of wonder and ritual in communities.

During the festival, GHfL organised the making of Christingles with children and families. The local Sainsbury's store donated the oranges, cocktail sticks and sweets. We gave away over 250. I'd love to have seen the store's stock controller puzzling over the sudden spike in orange sales! It was heart-warming to see so many children carrying their lit Christingles around the park, each with a tag explaining the meaning of Christingle.

New construction on the site includes:

- The largest Marks and Spencer's store to be built in the UK, and two more large retail units: Opening is planned for October.
- The housing development opposite Cofton Park has over 250 houses built and occupied. The houses are a mixed economy of owner-occupier, part-buy part-rent, private rental and social housing.
- An Extra Care Retirement Village is in planning for 260 residences, and is due to receive occupants in Spring 2017. A time-capsule burying ceremony on the site was held in February with local residents and church members invited to bring mementos and special objects that represent the history of the area.
- New accommodation units for M.O.D. Medical personnel are planned.

The past year has seen the completion and maturing of the three-acre Austin Park. Over 500 trees are established and flourishing. The River Rea sparkles in the sunshine and the sound of ducks emanates from the riverside marginals and reeds.



Our work continues to be rewarding, humbling, exciting and at times challenging: there are many more opportunities for Chaplaincy volunteers..!

Stephen Plant

Bournville College

'So - are you holy?' A leading question from one of the students though not the oddest: I assure her I am far from it! I explain that I personally am neither a vicar or a nun, that we are volunteer Christian Chaplains in college, to be there when needed as a friend and willing, confidential ear. We then had a good chat together with her friends about the problems of combining studying and child care. One of the students asked me to pray for her little girl who wasn't very well.

Many students face dilemmas of one sort or another but their commitment to their studies is inspiring. Some have endured physical and mental journeys which we can barely begin to imagine. A teenager from Helmand province struggling to help on the family farm from day break, walk 2 hours to the school where there may be a teacher, two hours back and hours more farm work. Now he is on a car mechanics course, looking forward to returning one day to find work restoring the many Russian aircraft which litter the Afghan landscape. A 15 year old in Birmingham came to re-join her father whom she had not seen for 9 years. Many stories; many lives in turmoil: all in need of our friendship and prayers.

Becky, Lyn, Rosemary, Gillian and I first met together, with Shelley Phelan (Executive Director Equality, Diversity and Safeguarding) from the college, in October 2012 when the state-of-the-art college was beginning to bed-in after its move. The Faith Room was already open to all (but for a while was mainly used by Muslims); but there was no other Chaplaincy activity. We are now here under the 'Equality and Diversity' remit, free to be around as long as we don't proselytize. Some Christians now meet to pray in the Faith Room weekly and the atmosphere is very co-operative. We've also put in Bibles and holy texts from other religions which have been respected by all. A prayer request box is to be installed in the college - we'll use the prayer room

to pray them through. We are often asked to pray for various concerns.

Our organized engagement activities have proved popular, such as marking Holocaust day, Easter, the week of Christian Aid and Remembrance Day. We prepare for Christmas with a concert followed by delicious mince pies and mulled fruit juice made by the catering students.

We're extending our relational encounter activities during the weeks of Valentine's Day and Mothering Sunday. A survey to find the favourite Christmas carol and song was very popular. On Enrichment day in September we had a stall and asked questions about life issues, self and God which resulted in a hundred+ encounters and rich responses.

Staff and students are accepting us, and warming to us. Our presence in college is becoming part of the fabric. They have shared with us their life stories and concerns.



Gillian, Thelma, Lyn and Becky

So we try with God's help to bring the Light of Christ into this world, aware of what a huge privilege it is. And the oddest question to date? 'Who's your favourite Womble?!'

Thelma Mitchell and Becky Schwan

West Midlands Fire Service

This has been an eventful year – but which year isn't? The Fire Brigades' Union has led several strikes and protest rallies and marches. The main issues are changes to pensions and entitlement to retire. The government currently is insisting that fire service personnel remain in post until they are sixty, a significant increase. There are very real concerns that this will result in injuries, compulsory early retirement on health grounds, fatalities and early deaths, especially for front line staff. A fire fighter's equipment, especially with breathing apparatus, weighs more than I can lift. Physical strength and endurance decrease with age for everyone, no matter what their base-line fitness in their youth.

Many fire service personnel feel cynical that a government can change a contract as it pleases. There is pressure at all levels within the Service. Whatever your politics, please pray for public sector workers who keep us safe and well.

I can still hear the chants: *'no ifs, no buts, no public sector cuts'* and *'they say cut back we say fight back, cut back, fight back, cut, cut, cut back,*



fight, fight, fight back.' And yes, as you can see, I have got the T-shirt. I believe it is important to be in solidarity with those who feel oppressed. I regard this as a gospel imperative and stand where Jesus would stand on his behalf.

During the course of the year I participated in a national survey of Chaplaincy work which has now been published and yields some challenging and surprising results. Most readers of this report will have had access to the survey's outcomes. <http://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/>

This year saw another development in that there was a ceremony on my station to commemorate Armistice Day, especially in this centennial anniversary of the First World War. A fire fighter played the bugle, I led the short observance. We invited members of the local community and our outstanding secondary school, Holyhead, sent a delegation from their Sixth Form, one of whom gave a profoundly moving reflection on war. A member of the Royal British Legion also took part. The local Member of Parliament attended. We had people of many faiths and of no faith. Despite the sorrowful occasion we were remembering, there was a joy in standing shoulder to shoulder and praying or longing for peace together.

We remain in need of volunteer Chaplains to give up as little as half an hour on a regular basis to pop into their local fire station to act a link to the surrounding area and to remind folks, through a ministry of being, that God is with them. You definitely need a sense of humour as fire service humour can be dark; also a living faith, being ready to talk about it as appropriate but never being confrontational.



Linda and Fire Officers

Linda Isiorho

Management

Our patron is the Lord Mayor of Birmingham and our Presidents are:

Rt. Revd David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham

Most Revd Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham and

Major Samuel Edgar, Free Churches Moderator.

The Management Council members are :-

Hayward Osborne, Archdeacon of Birmingham, Church of England — Chair

Mark Fisher — United Reformed Church—Vice Chair

Paul Dilkes, HSBC — Hon Treasurer

Terry Bunting — Trades Union

Peter Middleton — Roman Catholic Church

Phil Extance — Birmingham Chamber of Commerce

Colin Marsh — Birmingham Churches Together

Patrick Bryan — Black Led Churches

Carole Parkes — Aston University Business School

Dave Pinwell — Methodist Church & Social Enterprise

Barrie Smith—Baptist Church

David Butterworth—Methodist District

Godfrey Chesshire—Roman Catholic Church

Risk Management Statement:

“The charity trustees have given consideration to the major risks to which the charity is exposed and satisfied themselves that systems or procedures are established in order to manage those risks.”

Finance

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 December 2014

Income	2014	2013
Subscriptions/supporting churches	100.00	115.00
Donations: Birmingham Airport	2,765.00	2,765.00
Donations: JLR (Coventry & Warwick Mission)	7,000.00	7,000.00
Donations: Touchwood Solihull	3,000.00	3,000.00
Donations: Birmingham City Council	2,000.00	2,000.00
Donations: National Express	2,000.00	2,000.00
Donations: Others	65.00	178.08
United Reformed Church Synod	5,000.00	5,000.00
Anglican Diocese	25,500.00	25,000.00
Salvation Army	0.00	200.00
Methodist District	1,000.00	1,060.00
Methodist Central Circuit	3,000.00	3,000.00
Roman Catholic Archdiocese	0.00	0.00
Heart of England Baptist Association	1,000.00	0.00
Sundry income—training contributions; bursaries; collections	1,153.18	1,603.17
Interest received	129.50	115.71
Total income	53,712.68	53,036.96
Expenditure		
Subscriptions to organisations	899.58	739.58
Conference fees; training courses; Chaplains' expenses	3,464.26	1,591.54
Office expenses	1,427.22	1,386.60
Misc. inc Insurance Premium; Accounts Examination	736.60	784.00
Facilities Charge	3,000.00	3,000.00
Dev. Director employment costs & expenses	35,109.82	35,294.03
Other staff costs	7,620.12	7,511.80
Total Expenditure	52,257.60	50,307.55
Surplus of income over expenditure	1,455.08	2,729.41
Balance of accumulated funds at year end	40,227.84	38,772.76

The above is a summary of CIGB's annual Financial Statements which have been independently examined by Bayliss & Co, Chartered Accountants in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011. Our reserve policy is £30,000. This represents 6 months expenditure plus £5,000 carry over from the delayed start of the Development Director's 5-year contract.

Working with us

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

Churches

- *Encourage volunteering for Workplace Chaplaincy*
- *Pray for work and working members of your church*
- *Talk about ethical use of resources or support us financially*
- *Invite a chaplain to preach or lead a study group—such as during Chaplaincy Fortnight.*
- *Think about your relationship with local business: CIGB can train church members to work locally and help you link with businesses.*

Business and other organisations

- *Think about having a chaplain. It shows your care for staff.*
- *Faith as an aspect of diversity may be an issue for you. CIGB has expertise to share.*
- *Chaplains can help build community in workplaces—do you need help with this?*
- *CIGB has experience in the areas of values, ethics and corporate responsibility. Working with us demonstrates your commitment in these areas and can help you achieve your goals.*
- *You can make a financial contribution to support our general work or in recognition of work done directly with your organisation.*

Donating to CIGB

As a charity, CIGB relies almost entirely on the generosity of others to support our work. There are several ways in which donations can be made.

By cheque

Donations can be made in the traditional way by writing a cheque payable to 'CIGB'. Please post cheques to CIGB, 7th Floor, 1 Colmore Row, Birmingham, B3 2BJ.

From your mobile phone

To make it easier for people to support the work of CIGB financially we have set up a Just Text Giving account. To give text CIGB11 and the amount you want to donate to 70070.

By Electronic Transfer

If you would prefer to transfer a donation direct from your bank account into the account held by CIGB, our information is as follows:

Sort code: 20-07-71 (Barclays Bank, Leicester)

Account: 70234060 (Churches & Industry Group Bham and Solihull)

To ensure that our accounts are kept up-to-date, please let us know the amount you are donating by emailing: val.dalton@cigb.org.uk

Gift Aid your donation to CIGB

If you are a UK taxpayer, you can increase the value of your gift by completing a Gift Aid form. This form can be downloaded from our website www.cigb.org.uk/donations or a copy may be obtained from CIGB. Please complete the form and return it to us by email to: val.dalton@cigb.org.uk Alternatively, please print off a copy of the form, complete it and return it to: CIGB, 7th Floor, 1 Colmore Row, Birmingham, B3 2BJ, with details of your donation.



**Churches and Industry Group
Birmingham & Solihull**

CIGB, 7th Floor, 1 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 2BJ

Tel: 0121 426 0425 Fax: 0121 428 1114

www.cigb.org.uk

val.dalton@cigb.org.uk

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Supporting the workplace, caring for people