



# LINK

supporting the workplace, caring for people

Welcome to the first "LINK" of 2012. We hope that your memories of Christmas 2011 (doesn't it seem a long time ago) are very happy ones and that 2012 is going well so far! One lovely memory of Christmas 2011 was sent to us by the Solihull town centre team (see below). There is also a book review—new to "LINK", and the first of many, we hope. We also have an article about Birmingham's Wholesale Markets and an article from a previous participant of a CIGB chaplaincy training course—very interesting reading!

### Chaplaincy at Christmas

Beryl Moppet, Team Leader of the Solihull Town Centre Chaplaincy Team writes:

Following the tradition established a few years ago, the Solihull Town Centre Chaplaincy Team delivered Christmas cards to all the retail outlets in the town centre a week or so before Christmas. They were, as ever, well received and we feel this is a very valuable part of our ministry as chaplains. It is an opportunity to make ourselves known to the smaller shop keepers whom we call on rather infrequently and also for us to assess on a wider basis the effect of the economic situation on the traders as whole. Some shops continue to flourish whilst others struggle to keep afloat, reflecting very much the national trends. However compared to other shopping areas the centre of Solihull is not too badly affected. There are no empty retail outlets at present and the town centre has had a real buzz with the introduction of the Christmas market.

This year, for the second year running, we have distributed mince pies to the shop workers in the Touchwood shopping centre with the intention of saying 'thank you' for all their hard work and dedication along side making known that their very good customer care is appreciated. What made it so special for us though were the many hugs and kisses and even a bottle of wine that were received in return – what a difference a small gesture can make!



We are very grateful to the Touchwood management for the financial support that enables us to do this.



Some members of the Solihull Town Centre Chaplaincy Team, about to embark on distributing mince pies in the Touchwood Shopping Centre

## AGM 2012

Wednesday 16th May

at

**Diamond House  
Birmingham Airport**

Our theme this year will be

**"Creating Opportunities for Youth"**

Refreshments will be served from 5.45pm.

The meeting is from 6.15 until 8.00

**Hope to see you there!**

## Quotable Quote

The composer Grieg, reflecting on a visit to Birmingham “I believe in people, and I believe in God, and I still believe that God who created them has something good in mind for them.’

### Markets at the heart of Birmingham

One chilly Monday in January, CIGB took Andrew Watson, Bishop of Aston to visit the wholesale market in the centre of Birmingham. The market is busiest at 5 am but even later in the morning you get a sense of the activity and community on site. The fish, meat, dairy products & flowers are sold using traditional market barrows & modern internet sales.

The wholesale market is a hidden gem but its future is in doubt. The City Council had planned a move to a new, out of city centre, location but that’s no longer financially possible. Birmingham has the largest integrated market in the UK, serving retailers and restaurants across the city & beyond. The New York Times reckons Birmingham is the 20<sup>th</sup> best place in the world to visit, partly because of its restaurants. So the markets are good for the economy and good for the community. At a conservative estimate, 15,000 jobs are dependent on it.

The Bishop commented ‘It’s especially good to see the wide range of fruits and vegetables on offer here, meeting the needs of Birmingham’s multi-cultural society. The market is a place where people of many nationalities meet and trade, reflecting our city’s ability to benefit from the tastes and cultures of its immigrant communities. And at a time of high unemployment in the region, the value of the thousands of jobs dependent on the health of this place is incalculable’.

Ideally the traders would like to stay put, with some modernisation and perhaps freeing up some of the land for other developments. The market has the potential to be an even greater asset to Birmingham & surrounding areas. The Bishop signed the petition supporting the traders’ association in their discussions about the future.



Traders at Birmingham Wholesale Market

### Chaplaincy Training

On January 30<sup>th</sup> eight people began CIGB’s ‘Introduction to Workplace Chaplaincy’ course. We don’t always run a course at this time of year, but this was a response to demand. Not everyone who does the course goes on to be a CIGB chaplain but participants can find it useful in other places ...

*“As part of my Lay Ministry, I visit those working in a community centre on the church site. There are many people associated with the centre for whom this is a place of work – both paid and voluntary. Often this work is changing after cuts in funding leading in turn to much stress. It has been good to share a little of their journey.*

*In my own paid workplace, it is a privilege when colleagues discuss their concerns, joys and hopes. Just listening is often all that is needed.*

*At both paid work and in the community centre I have spent a fair amount of time in building up relationships. This takes patience but is well worth it.*

*Could it be that this is the key to Chaplaincy – taking time out for the individual?*

*After a discussion, I have often found myself checking the notes made during the Course. These have proved useful in setting my mind at rest in what I have said. Having enjoyed taking part in a recent CIGB Introduction to Workplace Chaplaincy Course, I then felt that this was probably something for a few years in the future. Being in full-time employment meant opportunities to use the new skills learnt were limited.*

*But, as the months have passed there have been surprisingly numerous occasions on which I have been able to use the skills learnt both in my place of employment and in my ministry. Maybe I should not be that surprised.*

*God often has tasks for us that we are not at first aware of.”*

If you would like information about future courses please contact:

[cigbadmin@birmingham.anglican.org](mailto:cigbadmin@birmingham.anglican.org)

### Groundbreaking course puts ethics at the heart of business

*‘A Birmingham university college is blazing a trail for sustainable business practices with the creation of the UK’s first undergraduate business degree to place ethics and sustainability at the heart of its curriculum.’ To read more go to: [cigb.org.uk/news](http://cigb.org.uk/news)*

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To support of the work of CIGB text CIGB 11 and the sum you want to give to 70070 or send a cheque to CIGB, 175, Harborne Park Rd, Birmingham B17 0BH

**Book Review**

Duncan Ballard, Leader of the Chaplaincy Team at Birmingham Airport shares his thoughts on “Being a Chaplain”

Publisher: SPCK Library of Ministry

Editors: Threlfall-Holmes and Newitt

ISBN: 978-0-281-06385-7

As a newly appointed Chaplain (to the airport) I was looking forward to this addition to the remarkably sparse literature on Chaplaincy.

The book argues that chaplains are a valuable resource to the church. Embedded in places as diverse as prisons, hospitals, educational establishments, and the armed forces, chaplains often encounter social trends well in advance of the institutional churches. Their experiences and expertise can be very helpful for thinking about ministry, ecclesiology, and ways of engaging with contemporary society.

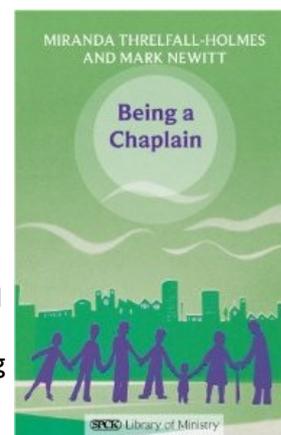
The majority of the book consists of stories from chaplains working in a range of settings primarily from the Armed Forces, Education, Health Care and the Prison Service. Other settings include Luton airport (of special interest to me), Manchester United FC and a Community Arts project in the North East of England. The final section of the book offers some theological reflections on the nature of chaplaincy as a whole, which is a genuine challenge in the light of the diversity represented in the preceding accounts. In particular, I found the following reflections very useful as a ‘newbie’: Responding to diversity: “multi-faith chaplaincy contexts”, “the role and skills of a chaplain”, “Exploring models of chaplaincy” and “Values and Tensions”.

Some common themes emerge – the tension of working in secular institutions, pressures of resources, the difficulty of identifying the ‘value added’ of chaplaincy, the sense that chaplains are sometimes overlooked or marginalized within the life of the mainstream church ...

I would have liked to see a slightly wider spread of chaplaincy sectors represented – town-centre chaplaincy and courts chaplaincy to name but two growing sectors. Nevertheless, this book is a great step forward in helping both the church and our ‘clients’

to better understand our mission and work. It has the advantage of an autobiographical approach from the chaplains’ stories – reading how others entered chaplaincy, and how they practise it, is instructive and encouraging.

It is clear throughout the book that chaplaincy is a vibrant, deeply rewarding ministry, served by some very dedicated chaplains often working in conditions that are profoundly challenging to people of faith. This is a hopeful and encouraging book, and should be required reading for every candidate for ministry.



**A new chaplain for an historic company**

Webster & Horsfall in Hay Mills dates back to 1856, producing wire and strip for springs, music & rope. The company produced the transatlantic cable in 1865 and in 1873 James Horsfall funded the building of St Cyprian’s church, with a school room for the children of his workers. Next door Latch and Batchelor produce wire rope for cranes & mining. The company is investing in new production lines and in the redevelopment of the Tyseley area.

With such strong links between church & factory, the Vicar of Hay Mills has always been chaplain to the business. Now that Revd Roy Anetts has moved into the vicarage he’ll be taking on that role. It won’t be an unfamiliar context as Roy himself works in industry. So – welcome to the team Roy!

**DON'T FORGET ...**

Send us your news, your stories, your pictures, your quotable quotes and your jokes and stay in touch:

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**LAST WORD**

Barman said “ We don’t serve Neutrinos.”  
Two Neutrinos walked into a bar.