

# LINK



supporting the workplace, caring for people

Christmas seems like a distant memory now, along with all those seasonal goodies, and the New Year doesn't seem quite so new. But as this is our first newsletter of 2014 ... Happy New Year! As always, we have articles on a variety of subjects along with information about a number of forthcoming events.

And is anyone else out there hoping for just a *sprinkling* of snow?

## Did you visit the German Market in Birmingham in December 2013?

Opinions vary, but I love it. Yes, it is a bit 'samey' and a bit on the expensive side but there's just something about the atmosphere and the lights and the European-ness of it that I love, not to mention savouring bratwurst and



Glühwein in the frosty air ... But what happens when the market comes to a close? I'd never really thought about it, and I'd certainly never thought about what happens to all those left-over bratwurst and other delicacies. Well, the answer to that is that the stallholders very generously donate all leftover perishable food and it is collected and taken to the Salvation Army headquarters to be distributed as needed.

In previous years this has been arranged by Birmingham City Council. However, just before Christmas Stephen Plant, chaplain to the Longbridge Development, sent an email round asking for help from other chaplains and churches as Birmingham City Council had been unable to arrange the collection of this food and there was a danger that several tonnes of food would end up in a landfill site – terrible on so many levels. Stephen gathered together a team of people and cars and, as a result of his prompt action and organisation, a huge amount of leftover food found its way to needy people. The rest of this article is taken from Stephen's 'thank you' email:

"An operation like this is more of an art than a science and during the dismantling of the market, from 9pm, it is difficult to predict when things might happen. Communicating in at least one other language, German, and several eastern European ones too presents its own issues!

Dozens of eggs, tens of litres of milk, hundreds of bread rolls, dozens of cakes, 600 half metre long bratwurst sausages, 600 steaks, tens of litres of orange juice, 20 or more 10 kg sacks of flour..... and a partridge in a pear tree!!! Well I didn't see one but I'm not sure what was in that last box !

Later, in the early hours, even more food arrived, so

much that the Salvation Army could not take it all. Six of the 12 other charities that were to collect food arrived around midnight and later the council provided a van to take all the remaining produce, quite a lot by all accounts, to St Basils.

Beside the perishable produce lots of sweets and chocolates went to Children's charities and hospitals in the city. Many of the stall holders, as usual, donated all of the left over copper, and some silver coinage to local charities."

It is hoped to be able to plan a more co-ordinated approach ready for December 2014, but huge thanks to Stephen and to all those who responded to his request for help. And of course, to the stallholders who were so generous.



## A DATE FOR YOUR SMART NEW 2014 DIARY!

### CIGB Annual Meeting: Faith and Social Enterprise

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> May 5:30-8pm

Venue: Banking Hall, Wragge & Co.,  
55 Colmore Row, B3 2AS.

Refreshments will be served from 5.30pm followed by the AGM Business meeting at 6.15pm.

At 7.00pm our guest speakers will address the theme "Faith and Enterprise".

The meeting will end at 8.00pm.

Guest speakers include Richard Beard, CEO of the 'Jericho Foundation'; Neil Roberts of 'Three Trees', Chelmsley Wood; and Rt. Rev. David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham.

**QUOTABLE  
QUOTE**

There is a lot that happens around the world we cannot control. We cannot stop earthquakes, we cannot prevent droughts, and we cannot prevent all conflict, but when we know where the hungry, the homeless and the sick exist, then we can help.

Jan Schakowsky



**Your Faith Your Finance: Church resources for Ethical Investment and Spending**

[yourfaithyourfinance.org](http://yourfaithyourfinance.org) is a place to explore ethical and spiritual issues around the use of money. In the midst of economic crisis and increasing poverty, the demand from worshipping communities and individuals for resources and information has been growing. The website provides ideas about banking, investing, shopping and worshipping in ways that promote ethical, Spirit-led uses of money and resources for group discussion and reflections on money in the Bible and theology.

Between them, churches, congregations and individual believers in the UK own billions of pounds. Some of this is invested, some of it is spent: Church procurement can also be ethical and contributing to the social good. Shopping from local Social Enterprises ([shopforchange.info](http://shopforchange.info)) can help local communities, as expenditure is more likely to be reinvested locally.

As well as having an ethical viewpoint, churches are also more likely to take a longer-term perspective: much of the recent crisis has been blamed on short-term economic decisions.

The Kosover Rebbe, a Chassidic rabbi, once said: "If you are able to think about your business when you are praying, you should be able to think of your prayers when doing business."



**Passing on the ChaplaincyPlus baton**



Steve Bavington writes about the end of one era and the beginning of a new one for ChaplaincyPlus. On the 8<sup>th</sup> January, Chris and Clair Dinsdale retired from ChaplaincyPlus.



Chris had been involved in ministry to the business community for the past 20 years, starting out with Midweek in Mayfair in London in 1993, and moving to help set up ChaplaincyPlus in Birmingham City Centre in 2003.

Over the past 10 years they have worked tirelessly to support, nurture and encourage Christians in professional roles in their faith helping them to live out their calling within the company God had called them to. Chris established some key events in the city, including the long-running Carols for the Business community which had over 900 attendees across two services, and the highly successful Birmingham Prayer Breakfast. Clair's counselling ministry was a real blessing to many – as was City Women, an informal gathering of women in business which met at lunchtimes for fellowship, discussion and mutual encouragement.

The charity, which now is in touch with over 700 city centre professionals, is run by a board of trustees made up of individuals from the business community including the Chair, Peter Coggan and Anthony Collins.

Chris and Clair have now handed on the responsibility for carrying out the day-to-day running of the charity to Steve Bavington who started in October so was able to learn the ropes before Chris and Claire stopped. He is supported by Sarah Thorpe who will organise the City Women group and, along with Peter Coggan, will support Steve in some of the pastoral work.

**IMA Industrial Mission Association**

The IMA Biannual National Conference May 12–15 at Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire:

To explore:-

- a new vision for the economy,
- a new vision for the churches' engagement with the economy,
- a new vision for the IMA in relating to both the economy and Church

Speakers include Bishop Peter Selby of St Paul's Institute and John Ellis, Assembly Moderator of the URC, along with others from the New Economics Foundation, TUC and CBI.

The fee for the conference, including full board is £200 although it is possible to attend on a daily basis. CIGB may be able to help with costs—please enquire about availability.

Participants will gain fresh new insights on work and economic life; will be part of the development of chaplaincy whilst enjoying a stimulating and energising conference, learning from and networking with other chaplains.

**QUOTABLE  
QUOTE**

"in this great land of the free we call it human trafficking. And so long as we don't partake in the luxury, ignoring slavery is of no consequence. It is much easier to look away and ignore the victims. The person who ignores slavery justifies it by quickly deducing the victim is a willing participant hampered by misfortune."

D'Andre Lampkin

**Modern Slavery Bill: A call to Businesses by The Evangelical Alliance and Faith Organisations.**

A recently released film shows some of the horrors of the historical slave trade—a timely reminder that right here and now, under our very noses, this evil crime is still being perpetrated. Peter Sellick writes ...



The film '12 Years a Slave' tells a story of the US when people were being traded and trafficked as commodities for business purposes. Men make money out of Solomon Northup: by transporting him, by working him in cotton and sugar cane fields, by owning him. These white men make money out of people while quoting the Bible at them.

Slavery has a particular resonance in Birmingham: its industry made lots of money out of the 18<sup>th</sup> century slave trade. "Birmingham armed the slave trade," according to Professor Dabydeen of Warwick University's Yesu Persaud Centre for Caribbean Studies.

The International Labour Organisation estimate that 21million people are still living in slavery in the world today. Frank Field MP's review for the UK Government's Modern Slavery Bill estimates that there may be 10,000 people in the UK who are victims of slavery and trafficking. The number of trafficked people that the police dealt with rose 10% between 2011-12 to 2,300.

Amongst the key recommendations of responses to the Modern Slavery Bill is a call to businesses: commercial enterprises must look for greater transparency in their supply chains to see if exploited people are being used to generate profits. The Evangelical Alliance and leading Christian Organisations are demanding that supply chain investigation must be reported publicly by businesses. ([eauk.org/current-affairs/politics/modern-slavery](http://eauk.org/current-affairs/politics/modern-slavery))

In the US, the Human Trafficking Industry is estimated to be worth \$34 billion. "Human Trafficking is a high-profit, low-risk business. The penalties for human trafficking are lower than for drug trafficking", said a spokesperson for an American Airline which sees traffickers use its network.

Birmingham, of course, made a lot of money out of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century Slave Trade. Professor David

Dabydeen of Warwick University has reported for a BBC documentary that : "Birmingham was the main supplier of iron and ironware to Africa ... padlocks, irons, chains and muzzles - all the instruments to police the slave trade. Of course that made an enormous amount of money."

From the 1760s onwards, there was also a large trade in weapons, with 150,000 guns made in Birmingham believed to have been sold to West African rulers. Guns were exchanged for enslaved Africans and "it was a common saying that the price of a slave was one Birmingham gun". Some of the capital that financed industrialists Matthew Boulton and James Watt in their development of the steam engine originated from trade with the West Indian plantations. More than a hundred steam engines were ordered from Boulton and Watt, destined for the Caribbean between 1778 and 1807.

The Modern Slavery Bill in the UK ought to mean life-sentence punishment for Slave-Owners and seizure of assets for Traffickers, such is the seriousness of the crime, according to Frank Field's review. It is also suggested that businesses ought to face similar corporate prosecution.

We all must look closely at sources of the goods and services we buy. Slavery exists throughout the supply chain. "Goods get cheaper because wages get cheaper. As churches and faith organisations, we have a responsibility to look where things come from".

Carole Parkes, of CIGB Management Committee and Co Director Social Responsibility & Sustainability at Aston Business School, is part of the UK programme to promote the UN Global Compact for Businesses. This movement calls on businesses to adopt Ten Principles, which include:

- Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights.
- Principle 2: Businesses should make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.
- Principle 4: Businesses should uphold the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour.

Kerry Smith of the Methodist-funded Adavu Project recently highlighted these connections in a speech at Aston University Chaplaincy for Martin Luther King Day. The West Midlands approach to tackling Trafficking and Slavery is praised in Frank Field's review of the situation.

Joys of chaplaincy

"Today, in one shop, I met with a young man whom I'd not seen for months - He seemed so pleased to see me, as I was to see him. Perhaps retail chaplaincy should be bottled and sold as a tonic?"

One of CIGB's retail chaplains

Commissioning Service—a report

A member of the congregation writes ...

A Sunday afternoon, in late November, saw a large group of God's people from many different church backgrounds gathered together to celebrate workplace chaplains, to welcome and commission new chaplains and to provide an opportunity for existing chaplains to collectively look back and reflect, and to rededicate themselves to their future work in this field.

Thirteen new chaplains were commissioned to work in a number of different areas including National Express West Midlands, Birmingham City Centre retail, Solihull retail, Canals Trust, the NEC group and Bournville College. A further 40 existing chaplains attended this event. Most of the new chaplains had already been involved in their chaplaincy work for several months, but this service was, at it were, their official launching. It is also one of very few opportunities for workplace chaplains, their families and friends, and CIGB's

Management Council to worship together.



As an ecumenical Christian charity, CIGB's Commissioning services are held in a church from a different denomination each year, with people from other denominations taking part in the

service. This service took place at Trinity United Reformed Church in Hall Green.

Carole Parkes, of CIGB Management Committee and Co-Director Social Responsibility & Sustainability at Aston Business School, was our guest speaker and gave an insightful address on the theme 'Workplace, Wealth: Worship'. Carole's address can be downloaded from the 'News' page of CIGB's website: cigb.org.uk .



We were delighted that Barrie Smith, Regional Baptist Minister, was able to commission the new chaplains. Barrie is also a member of CIGB's Management Council.

We were also very pleased to be able to welcome Councillor Mike Leddy, Lord Mayor of Birmingham, who spoke from his own experience as a businessman of the value of workplace chaplains.

Refreshments were available after the service, giving a valuable opportunity for chat ... or networking! Cakes were provided by the chaplains, with coffee and tea being made and served by the Boys Brigade – our grateful thanks to them, and indeed to everyone involved in this encouraging and uplifting service.



"CHAPLAINCY, THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND AND THE COMMON GOOD"



Saturday 1st March 2014

10.30 to 4.30

Ripon College Cuddesdon, OX44 9EX

This day will present recent research commissioned by the Church of England into its involvement in chaplaincy conducted by the Cardiff Centre for Chaplaincy Studies and the Oxford Centre for Ecclesiology and Practical Theology. The day will also provide the opportunity for participants to consider the implications of the research for chaplaincy and for other areas of ministry. It will be led by two of the research team: the Revd Dr Andrew Todd and the Revd Dr Victoria Slater.

Cost £30 including lunch.

For more information or to book a place please visit: www.rcc.ac.uk and click on the 'learning' tab.

LAST WORD

Okay, so it's maybe past the time for New Year resolutions, but here's a thought from Mahatma Gandhi:

"Be the change you wish to see in the world."

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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