

CHAPLAINS AT WORK



March 2016

supporting the workplace, caring for people

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2016. New Year—New Name! We felt that 'Chaplains at Work' reflects CIGB better than 'LINK' - hope you agree! This month there is a cornucopia of different articles including a report from our Chaplains' 'Day of Refreshment' and two stories from around the Chaplaincies, and information about forthcoming events around the city.

CIGB Chaplains in a Multi-Faith environment

Many CIGB Workplace Chaplains are operating in environments with a diversity of staff. Our Chaplaincies usually advertise themselves as 'available to all, regardless of faith position', while being clear that we are Christians, and come from that background.

At a recent Chaplains Meeting, Duncan Ballard reported about the development of a new additional Multi Faith Prayer Room, and how Chaplaincy relations with Muslim staff and visitors, in particular, was developing: eg a number of Muslims came to support the Carol Service held in the airport at Christmas 2015.

Our individual Chaplains' experience of other faiths ranges from deep knowledge and regular engagement with people of other faiths, to a fairly limited 'working awareness'. Our CIGB Training event in 2014 looking at diversity issues demonstrated a range of theological views about other faiths. A further training event this Summer, on 7th June, will continue this conversation, sharing and learning.

Meanwhile a new Faith Gallery has recently opened at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery which gives people a chance to explore how different faiths have influenced and shaped the city. Andrew Smith, the Director of Interfaith Relations for the Bishop of Birmingham, who was involved in helping put it together, writes ...



Faith Gallery
Birmingham Museum and
Art Gallery

"On display are over 70 objects used in religious practice and which help visitors explore the role of faith in places of worship at home, and within our journey through life. Objects on display include the Birmingham Qur'an – recently identified as one of the oldest surviving copies of the Qur'an in the world (until 3 August 2016 only) and the iconic Sultanganj Buddha. The Christian artefacts represent different Christian traditions and include a 16th

Century Arabic Bible. The gallery focuses on the six main faith groups in Birmingham; Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Judaism. Over the next two years the displays will evolve to incorporate more voices and faith communities into the gallery. The gallery development involved nearly a year of consultation with faith groups and communities across Birmingham. The groups and individuals identified objects in our collection, and from further afield, to enable them to tell stories about their beliefs to other people."

Entry to the gallery is free and it is a great opportunity to explore different faiths in an informal but instructive environment. For more information see <http://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/bmag/whats-on/faith-in-birmingham>



Sharing and learning:

"Christian Chaplains in a Multi-Faith Environment"

A CIGB Training Day
Tuesday June 7th

8th Floor, 1 Colmore Row B3 2BJ

If you'd like to come, please contact Val at
val.dalton@cigb.org.uk

QUOTABLE- "Invest in the human soul. Who knows, it might be a diamond in the rough."
QUOTE

Mary McLeod Bethune

What's going on?

A few more events to get involved with ... and news of a new book co-authored by someone we know well ...



Could I be a Waterways Chaplain?

Waterways Chaplaincy is a growing ecumenical national ministry aiming to supplement the work of local churches by reaching out pastorally to people involved in any way with life on our canals and rivers. We are currently expanding our volunteer chaplains' network in Birmingham and the West Midlands working in partnership with CIGB. If you would like to know more about Waterways Chaplaincy or would like someone to talk to a church group about our work please contact:



Birmingham Waterways Chaplain, Rev Richard Alford (pictured) or Senior Chaplain Rev Mark Chester—both email addresses below.

richard@rabbitwarren.org.uk
or the Senior Chaplain, Rev Mark Chester
(waterways@workplaceplacematters.org.uk)

'The Church exists to go to people, not to wait for them to come into church. Jesus Christ went out to people. And so the work of the chaplain is to go to ... people on boats (who) never will come in because they just go straight past!'
Archbishop Justin Welby endorsing Waterways Chaplaincy in June 2015

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The Waterways Chaplaincy will be holding a week of promotional events from June 11th this year. Churches will each be offered one day of events to raise awareness of the Chaplaincy and to recruit trainee Chaplains.

Might your church be interested in this?

If so, please contact Richard or Mark at the email addresses above.

Business Sleepout at Villa Park

Join business and civic leaders across Birmingham who will be sleeping outdoors at Villa Park once again to raise awareness of **homelessness in the city** - and to raise funds to help tackle issues in the area.

The sponsored event, which takes place on **Thursday March 17**, is led by Aston Villa Foundation, working with Church Urban Fund, Thrive Together Birmingham and leading local businesses.

Homelessness affects thousands of people in Birmingham, including families as well as individuals.

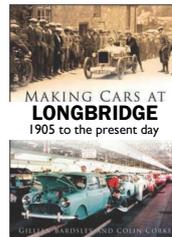
Contact james.hinton@avfc.co.uk to join in !



THE NEW BOOK!

Written by Social Historian Gillian Bardsley and CIGB Chaplain Colin Corke—lifelong enthusiast, Vicar of Longbridge and former Chaplain to the factory, "Making Cars at Longbridge" was published in February and costs £17.99. Available from bookshops, online at www.thehistorypress.co.uk or by telephone to Direct Sales on 01235 465500

"Making Cars at Longbridge: 1905 to the Present Day"



This fully updated edition honours the 110th anniversary of the production of the first 'Austin' car at Longbridge, as well as the 150th birthday of Herbert Austin. It includes a new foreword by Mike Murray of Modwen Properties, new chapters and colour photographs.

Lavishly illustrated with unique images from the official company archive, this book depicts the car design and manufacturing process but is also an amazing social record of those who worked at Longbridge over the years.

A new section of colour photographs shows the various stages in the life of a car, from the design studio to the showroom. The story concludes with the many changes that have taken place since the Austin plant's closure in 2005. The area now looks to the future with the 'Longbridge Technology Park', Bournville College, new housing, shops and supermarkets, and a park. Car-making in a much more limited form still continues on the 69 acre site owned by MG Motor UK where initial development, design and some final assembly takes place.

**QUOTABLE
QUOTE**

“Let your light shine before others, that they may see ... and glorify your Father in heaven. You are the salt of the world.”

Jesus. (Matthew 5)

Around the Chaplaincies

Two stories from Chaplaincies—both very different, but both giving some idea of the value of Workplace Chaplaincy today.

Ash Wednesday at the NEC

We’re well into the season of Lent now, but it’s nice to have a story from David Butterworth, Lead Chaplain at the NEC Group, who was pleased and surprised when some staff at the NEC approached him and asked to be ‘ashed’. Ash Wednesday comes just once each year—how lovely to hear of this request to the Chaplaincy team.



David Butterworth and colleagues



Here’s another story from a Chaplain which illustrates the importance of building relationships with the people we meet on our ‘rounds’:

Sharing lives

“Preparing notes for the CIGB Annual Report I jotted down that in chaplaincy you need to open up about yourself in order to build relationships.

The next day a member of staff who has always been very welcoming mentioned that she hadn’t seen me for some time. I explained that I missed a week or two after Christmas because of a health issue.

I don’t know why I mentioned this, but it turned out that she now had exactly the same problem and faced several months wait for treatment. I shared my experience of a long wait for a hospital letter or phone call, what my surgery involved, and reassured her. She thanked me for telling her, as she had not known anyone else with this condition.”



A pinch of salt and a lot of light!

Thelma Mitchell, Chaplain at Bournville College, reflects on the recent Chaplains’ ‘Day of Refreshment’ held in January.

“The sat nav did not like the cold January morning so a little judicious glancing at the traffic lights of the thoughtfully provided map guided me to Manresa House in Harborne – eventually! No, this was not so much a metaphor for my life in general – though maybe! - rather the start of a Chaplains’ day of refreshment. A warm welcome, a cup of coffee and then our informal worship began in the chapel upstairs – mercifully with all lilies removed for the duration! ** It was a day of refreshment in so many ways for those of us privileged to be Chaplains in the work place. Peace and time to pray, study, talk, eat without pressure in the lovely house and surroundings of the Jesuit retreat in Birmingham.



Manresa House



The bible study on our theme of **Light and Salt** was interesting, productive and inspiring. We explored how we might be light and salt in the workplace – and why we need to be. This study prompted the sharing of our varied experiences, finding common ground and purpose and encouraged by the honesty of our colleagues.

Meanwhile some were listening to God in quiet or being crafty or had their own agenda prepared for the day, utilizing the rooms and gardens, peaceful, lovely even on a winter’s day, getting back to the basics of our faith. So, refreshed and renewed, we were re-enabled to return to our workplaces, whether voluntary or stipendiary, reflecting the light and image of Christ to those we meet.

After a splendid lunch – to say soup and sandwiches scarcely does it justice! – and lots of chatter and laughter and finding things in common we were off to our chosen afternoon activities. My own personal light-bulb moment came during the afternoon quiet prayer time – that I don’t always have to be ‘doing’, though engagement activities are vital and often fun. Sometimes, however, it’s alright just to be there, a physical presence, ‘being’ Christianity in the workplace. I tried this out this week at the college and

**QUOTABLE
QUOTE**

"It is easy to dodge our responsibilities, but we cannot dodge the consequences of dodging our responsibilities"

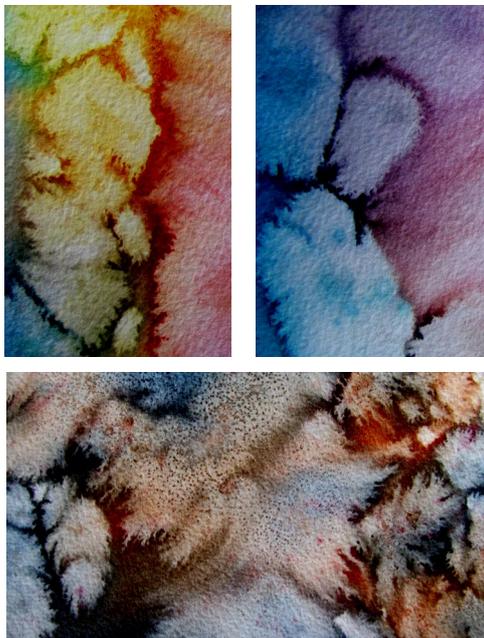
Josiah Charles Stamp 1880-1941
English Economist and President of the Bank of England

was amazed at how productive and rewarding it can be. I know now that as a chaplain there's plenty of room for both *being* and *doing* for Christ.

A huge thank you to Val and Peter for all their hard work which made it a true day of refreshment, spiritual and physical, and for their support and encouragement all through the year.

** sadly some allergy issues here for a couple of us!

One activity in the Art workshop was to explore the mysterious effect salt has on Watercolour paint. Here are some of the results!



This, second CIGB Annual 'Day of Refreshment' was organised as a response to Chaplains who said that they needed some time out from the usual busyness of their lives. Here's some more feedback ...

"I enjoyed the whole day - I can see why you call it a Refreshment Day - there was a peace and stillness which rests the mind."

"Publicity was good- in plenty of time which always helps. Venue worked well, and the food was lovely. Worship was good too. I liked the prayers. Workshops were relaxing. I went to the bible study which I enjoyed. I loved the art workshop. My salt paintings have been much admired."

"I just wanted to say how lovely it was to have such a day of peace and quiet in an otherwise busy schedule. We can always take a day off but somehow if it is designated as spending time with God and put in your diary and you go somewhere specific it seems to give one permission to just be, without the distractions of routine."

What Banking can do for Birmingham?

"We may have forgotten that money is all about trust. For a while our banking was product-led; we have realised that we need to go back to prioritising relationship banking"

At the end of October a number of senior banking figures met up with business leaders in Birmingham, to talk about 'What Banking can do for Birmingham'. The visit was co-ordinated through the Bishop of Birmingham, who now sits on the Banking Standards Board, and was previously involved with CIGB's Barbara Hayes in private meetings with the bankers during the financial crisis. The Banking Standards Board's remit is to help banks refocus their culture on 'integrity and behaviour, as well as knowledge and competence'.

At a Birmingham University Business School meeting, banking leaders from Deutsche Bank and HSBC talked about the number of jobs that banking was bringing into Birmingham: 1000 HSBC roles are moving to Birmingham in 2018 alone. James Cliffe, Head of HSBC Business Banking in the UK, also talked about their plans to 'buy local' and support Birmingham's economy. He said that research showed that when money is spent in local businesses, 76p in £1 remains in the local economy: when the same money is spent with a national/multinational, only 46p in £1 remains. Professor Joanna Gray, of Birmingham Law School, spoke of her interest in proposals by Localise West Midlands for a local currency 'The Birmingham Pound'.

A number of guests spoke about the need for banks to be 'more imaginative' in their offer to Small / Medium Enterprises, which form a very significant part of the local economy: perhaps to provide training, as well as funding, to encourage them to grow in confidence and invest. Other conversations touched on support for start-ups; exciting prospects to keep talented graduates in the city; jobs that capture the experience of older workers; and financial advice and education for those on low incomes.



QUOTABLE QUOTE

“Safeguarding the rights of others is the most noble and beautiful end of a human being.”

Kahlil Gibran



Safeguarding Training for CIGB Workplace Chaplains

Wednesday April 13th, 10am-3pm 1 Colmore Row

Occasionally CIGB Chaplains have encountered people who have told them about instances of historical or domestic abuse. Sometimes people feel vulnerable after a difficult experience. This training day will look at Chaplaincy responsibilities and best practice in meeting situations like these, and at how Chaplains can best safeguard themselves.

The training will be led by Sue Holder, Birmingham Methodist District Safeguarding Officer, who has many years of experience in dealing with senior Safeguarding issues while working for West Midlands Police, as well as Church safeguarding issues.

Although the main focus of the day will be issues that arise with Vulnerable Adults, other areas for the day include: Responsibilities of Chaplains, reporting and keeping account, handling disclosures, confidentiality and consent, keeping ourselves safe, and further resources. We will also cover basic safeguarding issues like signs of abuse.

CIGB Management Council are keen that as many chaplains as possible attend this essential training. A light lunch will be provided.

Please contact val.dalton@cigb.org.uk to book your place.

Expenses for Voluntary Chaplains

Most of CIGB’s 50+ Chaplains are volunteers: we don’t get paid for our Chaplaincy work. CIGB’s Management Council would like to encourage Chaplains to claim legitimate expenses:

CIGB Management Council are reminding our Voluntary Chaplains that they are entitled to claim for necessary expenses in order to fulfil their Chaplaincies. This could include travel to and from the Chaplaincy location, and the cost of a hot drink while out on chaplaincy ‘duty’.

How this is administered varies across the different Chaplaincy Teams and Locations. Some teams have their own budget for expenses, other Chaplaincies can claim from CIGB directly: if in doubt, Chaplains should contact their Team Leader or Peter Sellick.

The Management Council value very highly the gift of time and energy that chaplains give to this ministry – and do not wish chaplains to be unnecessarily out of pocket too.



Thanks for all your work!



LAST WORD

We love hearing your stories both the exceptional ones and the more everyday ones, and 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”.

Don’t forget to book for this!!



STAY IN TOUCH ...

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