

CHAPLAINS AT WORK



November 2016

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter—and what a beautiful Autumn so far. As usual we have a selection of articles including stories from around the Chaplaincies; an idea for celebrating God's Harvest ... perhaps a bit late for the traditional harvest time, but great to do anytime. There's also news of the Ethical Money Churches project together with other news and views.

Pavilions Chaplaincy: the next chapter ...

In our last newsletter, we mentioned the Pavilions shopping mall in Birmingham City centre which, after many months of uncertainty, had finally closed. It left established businesses to try to find a new home and long-serving staff looking for new posts.

Workplace
chaplaincy in
Birmingham
City Centre

Staff were really keen that all the fixtures and fittings went to new homes rather than to landfill sites. Chaplain Elaine Hutchinson sent messages out, and soon, "Catholic Nuns were taking things abroad; new café owners were picking up equipment; new churches took chairs; homeless shelters and Islamic relief found materials for refugees".



Some left-over crockery was found in one of the offices. The photograph shows Elaine together with John Hanks, the Fire Manager, and Ruth York, Methodist Deacon at Carrs Lane church. Ruth got in touch with several charities to make sure that the crockery all went to places where it could be used.

From the outside the Pavilions now looks like a building site rather than a shopping mall. Elaine has been in touch with the area manager of MACE, the building company, who was very impressed to hear about Construction Chaplaincy and suggested that Elaine could go into the staff 'wellbeing area' (like a staff canteen) to

.. In Construction

chat to people. (Elaine could not go onto the construction site due to health and safety regulations.)

Elaine acted on this wonderful opportunity and has met and had conversations with a great many people from the construction site including managers and lots of different tradespeople. Furthermore, the area manager is interested to see how things work out with a view to including Construction Chaplaincy as part of company policy.



One of the Mace Construction Staff



Birmingham as Corporate Responsibility City

Theresa May spoke at the Conservative Party Conference in Birmingham about the need for "a fair economy", "where we succeed or fail together".



Peter Sellick writes ...

Birmingham business leaders have been encouraging the city for a number of years to become a leading 'Corporate Social Responsibility City': a beacon in the UK that demonstrates 'an economy that works for all'. CIGB leaders set up, a few years ago, the 'Birmingham Centre for Business Ethics.'

QUOTABLE QUOTE

“Business cannot succeed in societies that fail. Likewise, where and when business is stifled, societies fail to thrive.”

Bjorn Stigson, former President of World Business Council for Sustainable Development

A survey into existing CSR programmes in Solihull and Birmingham show that many businesses engage with issues like poverty, health and education: through employee volunteering, fundraising and sponsorship.

As well as being socially beneficial, this activity brings reward back to the business through increased employee engagement, improved skills, new ideas and better reputation. For instance Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC) allows its staff 6 paid days of volunteering a year, and over 60% of staff take up the opportunity.

Through a West Midlands programme called ‘Make the Grade’ a number of companies are offering opportunities for school children to have ‘meaningful engagement’ in businesses. For those students who come from more deprived backgrounds, these contacts can have major impact on their aspirations.

Research shows that young people who have experienced employer engagement activities such as work experience, are five times less likely to end up outside education, training or employment.

But in general, businesses are not keen to engage with ‘less comfortable’ social issues like criminal justice and rehabilitation – **or faith...** Chaplaincy provides an opportunity to show businesses that faith is not something to be scared about! Chaplains provides business people with a perspective on faith that is healthy, rather than a problem.

Businesses that have Chaplains often use them as part of their CSR strategy and their connectivity with the community. NXBuses have appreciated Chaplains’ linking their depots up with with local needs (eg Foodbanks); MACE Builders have been asking their Chaplain about local charities that they can support.



Staff from KPMG and school children

Annual Commissioning Service 20/11/16

This annual service gives everyone connected with CIGB an opportunity to worship together and to publicly commission new Chaplains. Existing Chaplains have the chance to look back at the year’s Chaplaincy work and to rededicate themselves to this ministry.

This year we will commission five new Chaplains: Tina Hands, Paul Herring, Samuel Edgar and Jason Horner who are all Retail Chaplains to various areas; and Val Benjamin who will be joining the team of Chaplains to Birmingham City Council.



Solihull Methodist Church



We are delighted that Rev’d Ken Howcroft of Solihull Methodist church has agreed to host this service for us and that Revd Sarah Hayes, formerly of Anthony Collins Solicitors, has agreed to be the guest speaker at our service. The title of her talk will be “Passing through ... the impact of ministry” and will explore the missionary opportunities for chaplains being at the intersection between ‘church’ and ‘economy’. Other guests will include church and civic leaders together with business-people from Birmingham and Solihull, CIGB Trustees and, of course, our Chaplains.

The service will start at 3.00pm and will last for around an hour to be followed by coffee and delicious home-made cakes, and a chance to chat. [Please join us if you are able!](#)

There is a large car park at the church- entered from Station Approach and also 3 hours free parking at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre in Blossomfield Road if our car park is full (although you still need to have a ticket displayed). Cross the road at the pelican crossing and under the railway bridge to the church .

The church is next door to the Solihull Station - turn right as you exit and walk 200 yards.

The buses all stop at Solihull Station—the 6 or 37 are the best routes from central Birmingham but there are others from different areas which may be helpful.

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 ☆ In a nutshell ... ☆
 ☆ Venue: Solihull Methodist Church ☆
 ☆ Blossomfield Road, Solihull, B91 1LG ☆
 ☆ Date: Sunday 20th November at 3 pm ☆
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QUOTABLE- QUOTE

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” Luke 6:38

Meet the Chaplain: Paul Herring

I hope that this is the beginning of a series which will introduce you to our Chaplains. Paul Herring will be commissioned in November, but has already started work in Birmingham’s indoor market. Here’s his story:

I can’t write of my experience of Market Chaplaincy without first giving an account of my past.

Being from Birmingham I’ve always experienced a great sense of excitement and freedom when arriving at New St Station. Then walking the streets and alleyways of the city, talking with people of all classes and faiths.



I owe much of what I am, to a lady Methodist neighbour who brought me to Faith in Christ, and my father. He was loving and caring. A hard working, hard drinking Trade Union man with strong Socialist principles. Proud to be called ‘A Brummie’. After working a long night shift in a factory, he would walk or carry me on a Saturday morning 12 miles to the Bull Ring, to listen, in the open air, to Cannon Bryan Green, (St Martins Church 1948–1969). A man much loved and respected by the people of Birmingham and the Bull Ring Market traders equally.

It left a deep impression on me and a lasting fondness for the Markets.

How did you start thinking about Chaplaincy?

In 2015 I saw a flyer in St Martins by Rev Elaine Hutchinson asking, “Could this be you?” Then the CIGB course answered: “Yes!”

What is it like?

It’s a privilege to work amongst the traders, stand with them and give them support. Often extremely draining but with moments of great reward.



What qualities do you need? A robust faith. A tough skin. A lively sense of humour. A strong sense of fairness.

Around the Chaplaincies ...

You’ve already seen the story about the Pavilions—here are a few more little snapshots of Chaplains at Work.

NEX buses

A vital aspect of Workplace Chaplaincy is getting to know people and being able to draw alongside them, particularly at those times in their lives where circumstances are difficult or even traumatic.

Earlier this year one of the Chaplains to National Express West Midlands heard about a fatal accident that had taken place. A terrible situation for everyone involved – particularly the drivers of the two buses involved. The Bus Chaplain was able to spend time with one of these, listening to what had happened and offering friendship and comfort. Later the same Chaplain was also able to spend time with another member of staff who had to view the video footage of this awful accident, and who related other occasions where, as part of his job, he has to view videos of distressing incidents involving death and serious injuries.



Birmingham Airport

Some time ago I had the pleasure of greeting and meeting the first Syrian refugee family to be settled in Solihull. After a long flight from Egypt to Frankfurt, then Frankfurt to Birmingham, I met the family (mum, dad and three children under the age of ten) off their flight. I then accompanied them through security and we reclaimed their baggage: the entire family’s possessions were packed up in three battered suitcases.

The family spoke only one English word - ‘thank you’ - and I only speak one Arabic word - ‘shukran’ (thank you!) - so conversation was limited, but polite! Fortunately one member of the Hampton church congregation knew of a Syrian bakery, and so we’d brought along a huge quantity of sweet pastries, which the children devoured with gusto.

Upon delivering the family landside, I passed them on to a Solihull family officer who ensured that they were settled into their new home. The family was incredibly grateful, and the children look forward to starting school.

More families are due to be settled in the next few months, and I’m looking forward to being part of their welcome to our country and borough. The churches of Solihull are preparing to offer practical help in any way they can, but we await to see what’s required.

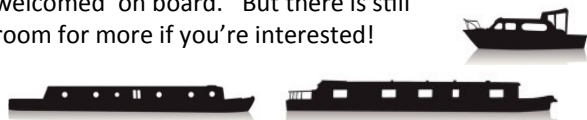


QUOTABLE QUOTE

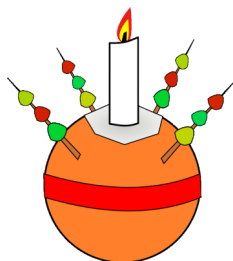
A hero is someone who understands the responsibility that comes with his freedom.
Noble Laureate Bob Dylan



Richard Alford has been looking for recruits for the Waterways Chaplaincy in the West Midlands and is really pleased to report that, following the initiative to raise awareness of the Chaplaincy back in June, two new Chaplains have been welcomed 'on board.' But there is still room for more if you're interested!



God's Heart for Longbridge, Longbridge Retail Chaplains, and Bournville FE College Chaplains



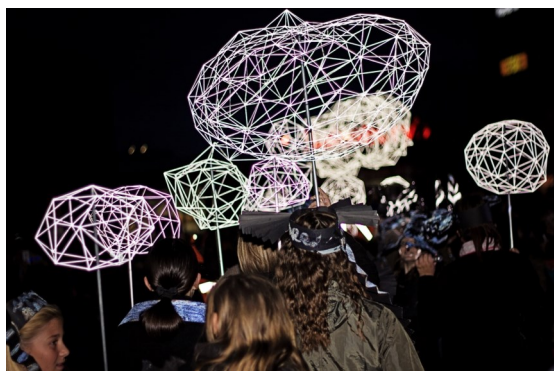
Longbridge Light Festival Presents THE SHADOW FACTORY IN Longbridge Town Centre B31 2TW ON THE 22 OCTOBER 2016 ART, PERFORMANCES, WORKSHOPS, MARKET STALLS AND FREE ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES 6PM TO 10PM

Longbridge will be holding a Light Festival again this year, (22nd Oct 6-10pm).

Chaplains and local churches will be involved both in the procession and in the making of Christingles.

Do pray about this and come along if you are able.

Find out more: www.longbridgelightfestival.co.uk



CIGB Training

The Autumn Chaplaincy Training Course is fully booked. If you feel that Workplace Chaplaincy might be for you, or you would like to find out about the Spring course, please get in touch with Peter Sellick : peter.sellick@cigb.org.uk or visit www.cigb.org.uk.

FREEDOM SUNDAY



Human trafficking is the world's fastest growing global economic crime. In the EU every victim earns the abuser an average profit of £30,000.

Freedom Sunday (Oct 16th or 23rd) is being marked around the world as a day for Prayer, Reflection and Action. Churches are making a stand about this crime that involves over 30 million men, women and children around the world today.

The Most Reverend Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury writes: "Human trafficking is a grave crime against humanity. It is a form of modern slavery and a profound violation of the intrinsic dignity of human beings. If we are to combat this evil then we must work together to prevent the crime, support the survivors and prosecute the criminals."

The knowledge that churches have of their local communities puts them on the frontline in this campaign. Freedom Sunday provides churches with an opportunity to join together with others around the world in a day of worship, prayer and action on human trafficking. Freedom Sunday challenges us, and resources us to take action to prevent the crime of human trafficking.

In the West Midlands several Christian charities are working to help people who have been trafficked, and to prevent it from happening in the first place. Eg Adavu – aftercare support (www.adavu.org.uk); the salvation army (<http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/human-trafficking>); Jericho foundation (www.jericho.org.uk).

Worship Ideas: www.freedomundayglobal.org

For example, a bowl of water can be used to symbolise the tears of those who are being trafficked.

Pebbles, or flowers can be dropped into the water, as a sign of our empathy and our hope, as well as our commitment to make a difference.



QUOTABLE QUOTE

Without work, all life goes rotten. But when work is soulless, life stifles and dies.
Albert Camus

MONEY FOR A HEALTHIER ECONOMY: Ethical Money Churches



We must out-compete exploitative lenders—like Wonga—was Justin Welby's call a couple of years ago. We can also invest in a healthier economy.

The CoFE has supported a network 'Church Credit Champions' who can advise on issues of lending and credit and encourage the development of mutual, ethical credit unions for local savings and loans.

A new Ecumenical programme 'Ethical Money Churches' will be helping churches to study and act, so that money can be used to grow a West Midlands economy that is different from the usual story.

We all have some resources: it's a question of how we use them? Ethical Money Churches can help churches think about what 'ethics' means in terms of the Bible and Money; how to apply values to use of resources.

Churches might want to link up with co-operatives, invest in Green Energy or change banks. Or buy their supplies from social enterprises, which are forms of businesses that reinvest their profits for social benefit. Or link up with a local credit union. Or...

Churches could use social enterprises for

- Church Flowers and garden needs (eg from Park Lane Garden Centre in Aston, which gives employment for people with mental health needs www.parklanegardencentre.net)
- Printing needs (eg from Jericho Foundation in Balsall Heath which provides employment support for disadvantaged young people www.jericho.org.uk)
- Cleaning and Maintenance needs (eg from Argonaut community enterprises which provides employment for deaf and disabled people www.argonautenterprises.co.uk)

EMC is organised by Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility (eccr.org.uk), working with CIGB. ECCR is supported by the main denominations of the Church, and has been advocating economic sustainability for over 20 years.

Contact Abi Nicholls for more info (abigail.nicholls@eccr.org.uk).



CELEBRATE GOD'S HARVEST: Bring your Minister to Work to witness to your Harvest.

Your minister knows you... but do they know about your work?...

Traditional Harvest Festivals celebrations may be over by now but the harvest of your life—particularly at work—continues.

Why not invite your Church Minister to visit you at work this Autumn?

During the visit you might like to talk about:

- How have experiences at work changed your life.. and your faith?
- How have you discovered moments of God's love in the workplace?
- How do you handle regrets and grief at work?
- How you manage life goals alongside what you are striving for at work?
- What do you need prayer for at work?

Pope Francis says that work (in all forms) is an essential part of what it is to be a Child of God: "Work is part of God's loving plan, we are called to cultivate and care for all the goods of creation and in this way participate in the work of creation! Work is fundamental to the dignity of a person."

Genesis (1:26; 2:5; 2:15) describes God's call to us to work and to contribute to God's creative purposes – even though our work often falls short of the ideal. Work is a spiritual activity. At Harvest let's rejoice in the fruit of our work together with God.

"Let us Sing of God's Love At Work"



QUOTABLE QUOTE

Jesus said "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me ... truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of my brethren you did it to me."

Matthew 35: 35 & 40

And finally ...

The last thing—but definitely not the least! You've probably noticed that Christmas cards and 'gift ideas' - not to mention shiny decorations in this season's colours, are already filling the shops. In Birmingham, the German Market has become a bit of a tradition. Elaine and the Be.friend team have been concerned about the wellbeing of the stallholders for some years, and this year they are asking for your help:



We are looking for existing CIGB Chaplains who may be willing to help with a couple of hours a week extra Chaplaincy for the 5 weeks of the Market.

Previous conversations with the staff in the Market have suggested that many feel quite isolated and unsupported while they are in Birmingham, as well as having to deal with some stressful trading situations. The be.friend team thought it would be good to offer them chaplaincy support, and raise their profile at this famous event.

We are looking for existing volunteer Chaplains who are comfortable speaking with people whose first language may not be English: any Chaplains who can speak German or Polish, would be especially welcome!



Contact Elaine Hutchinson at chaplain@carrslane.co.uk to volunteer or find out more.

Our vision is that the chaplains would visit the Market during a quiet time (eg mornings) and could chat to stall holders, and carry a leaflet explaining the programme and giving sources of further support, and local churches.

Your travel expenses into the city centre can be reimbursed.

Would you be able to help with this? Do let Elaine know sooner rather than later if you can help. The German Market will be open from 17th November until 29th December: this means that the stallholders will not be 'home for Christmas' as in previous years.



The 'magical' sight that everyone loves



Stallholders can feel isolated

LAST WORD

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

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

STAY IN TOUCH

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