



Churches and Industry Group
Birmingham & Solihull



Annual Report
2013

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

I am very happy again to present this year's report from Churches Industrial Group Birmingham. In a range of workplaces throughout the City of Birmingham and the Borough of Solihull our chaplains have continued to be present, visible, active and welcomed by host businesses and organisations, and by management and workforce alike. They are there pointing to the presence of God in the context of our daily work. They are part of the Church's witness to the care and compassion of Christ, as they offer a pastoral ministry to those who seek it. They provide a listening ear entirely independent of the employment structures, and are able to respond in conversation to those weighing up deeper questions on their personal lives, beliefs and future.

It is this non-interfering but willing availability by people of faith which more and more is recognised as valuable in a work environment. It is also a prime contact point for those who otherwise might not be in touch with the ministry of the Church.

So we are pleased that our teams of chaplains, drawn from different Christian traditions, together with some from other faiths, are present in an increasing number of locations. They are there to meet everyone who wishes to engage with them, regardless of faith background or commitment.

Our programme of training new chaplains continues, and we connect also with the extensive network of volunteer chaplains working in healthcare and in the emergency services.

We are grateful to the churches and employers who help resource our work, with finance or with personnel. We applaud the leadership of Peter Sellick, our Development Director, who coordinates and encourages the work our various teams. And we look to growing further, by recruiting additional chaplains - most of whom are entirely voluntary - and exploring new places where this ministry can be received.

Hayward Osborne, Archdeacon of Birmingham
Chair of CIGB Management Council

Development Director's Report 2012

This year CIGB commissioned 13 new people into chaplaincies across Birmingham and Solihull. Ten of the 13 new chaplains were lay volunteers, who said that they were motivated by a desire to see their faith reaching people outside the church, and to grow their own understanding and experience of God.

Our Worship in that service drew on those intentions: to Engage with new people and to grow in our own Faithfulness.

- The Lord Mayor of Birmingham spoke warmly of how helpful he had found chaplaincy in his working life. We prayed for the encounters the new chaplains will discover.
- Carol Parkes, Director of Social Responsibility & Sustainability at Aston University Business School, (and a member of CIGB Council) spoke about the 'Purposes of Business'. "Would it not be good were businesses to be celebrated for their contribution to society?"
- We were worshipping as an ecumenical gathering and church friends joined us as we learnt from each others stories.

A key feature of Chaplaincy is honouring people into faith, through our support and witness. As Birmingham still tops of lists of unemployment levels, Matt 20:1-16 reminds us of workers being rewarded for their worth, rather than just on the number of hours worked. That needs to be remembered in places of success (eg JaguarLandRover) as much as in sites of struggle.

In Birmingham Cathedral in October, Mark Greene, from the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity, encouraged 80 local Church leaders to celebrate the faith dimensions of their working congregations.

He reported that stirring up this area of faith brought dividends into church communities as lay leaders grew their skills, and relationships in church deepened. Over the year chaplains have preached in churches to make greater connections with Christian workers. We have worked with church leaders on the economic context of Birmingham.

Within the volunteer team of chaplains there is great enthusiasm. We have new members in our retail teams in Birmingham and Solihull. We have started completely new chaplaincy teams with National Express buses, with Bournville FE college and with Inland Waterways Chaplaincy. Revd David Butterworth joined us with his chaplaincy ministry at the NEC Group, and he brings experience of commercial life and multi-ethnic communities. We are liaising closer with sister organisations like Chaplaincy Plus and Agape.

When Lords debated the Parliamentary response to the Banking Crisis, they noted Barbara Hayes' (previous CIGB Team Leader) work with leaders from the banking industry in Birmingham: bringing them together to share experiences in confidence. The Bishop of Birmingham continues to make timely interventions into economic debates. CIGB has been involved in raising the profile of alternative financial services – particularly Credit Unions - and



highlighting the dangers of high-cost loans in a time of destabilising welfare reform. We hosted a passionate and lively debate around the Living Wage and precarious working at our Annual Meeting in May.

Peter Sellick

Birmingham City Centre Retail

It's been an exciting year! The city has been under construction for what feels like an eternity, but it's beginning to feel like the end is in sight. All this construction has been a nightmare for retailers as it has huge impact on retail outlets and footfall.

The German Markets seem like a distant memory and plans are on the way for Christmas 2014. We are hoping to set up chaplaincy to the German Markets for Christmas 2014.

The Chaplaincy seems to be undergoing its own construction and there seems to be new interest which is affirming and encouraging. The Bullring celebrated its 10th anniversary and seems to be growing from strength to strength but it has gone through its own difficulties: the economic climate has affected the entire retail sector. The Bullring has not been exempt from store closures and empty outlets and even though they are few, they are an indication of the current situation and are cause for concern.

The Pallasades is now a long narrow corridor connection to New Street Station and as I walk through I can't help remembering all the retailers, past conversations and past relationships: a time of joy and one of loss. I'm reminded of Graham Wigley (chaplain to Kings Heath High Street) expressing the sense of bereavement that chaplains experience when stores close or retailers move on. I feel a sense of loss as I walk through the Pallasades narrow long corridor.

But I'm looking forward to all the new relationships with the staff of John Lewis and the other new stores which will be opening soon—a challenge, but very exciting!

I am delighted to be able to welcome two new volunteer chaplains to the team, each with very different skills and giftings: Alan Hemus will support those who work and shop in the Indoor Markets and Joan Byrne will be offering Chaplaincy services to the Bullring Shopping Centre. Please pray for them in their new roles.

I would like to end by thanking the amazing team of volunteers for their continued commitment to the retail chaplaincy and without them; none of this wonderful ministry of Chaplaincy would be possible.



Elaine and some members of the team

Elaine Hutchinson, Team Leader

Great Western Arcade

Over the past year my Monday morning visits have seen frequent changes; some staff I knew well have moved on, and outlets closed, some at short notice. I still wonder what has happened to the staff. These events underline the fragile situation of retailers, and the uncertainties staff face on a daily basis.

However, pleasingly some empty outlets re-opened, and there were new people to meet. Most were very welcoming, and surprised when I explained that (if they were not serving customers) I would come in as a be.friend volunteer, to see how they were and offer support, if and when they needed it.

Two years on I am still learning, occasionally dealing with unexpected questions and situations. I feel particularly privileged to be able to offer to pray at home for those with problems.



It has been encouraging to meet other chaplains, at CIGB meetings and events at Hall Green, Solihull and Longbridge. Retail chaplaincy relies on ongoing prayer support and encouragement, which I have been well blessed with, from our be.friend team, CIGB staff, my family and church fellowship.

Peggy Baker

Bullring Shopping Centre

I am delighted to be part of the City Centre Retail Team and have been offering retail chaplaincy to those who use the Bullring Shopping Centre since July 2013.

I am getting to know the people in the shops and they are getting to know me. I visit around 26 shops regularly. Sometimes they are busy so there's no time to talk; but of late there has been time to have a good chat with some of the staff. I know I am working for the Lord as He is always with me when I go into the shops. I know that He has gone in before me and has prepared the people. I feel really blessed to be serving the Lord in this way and I am enjoying it very much.



Joan Byrne

Open Air Markets

I visit the City Centre Open Air Market most Tuesdays. The main part of the Market lies alongside the Rag Market Building: with two sections dealing with materials and household items, and alongside the fruit and vegetable stalls. Other stalls including baby clothes and toys continue past the Rag building and between the Rag and Meat/Fish buildings. I stroll through these areas wearing my yellow jacket with “Market Chaplain” on the back.

The stall holders know who I am, some ignore me although they may respond to a cheery greeting, but most acknowledge my presence and a surprising number ask when will I be back with these nice mince pies which we give them each Christmas! A good number are pleased to see me and a gratifying number are Christians, most being involved in an Evangelical church. Sometimes we discuss what was in the sermon on the previous Sunday. There are many Muslims and a few Hindus among the stall holders and most are happy to see and chat to me. Sometimes they discuss worries about the future.

Although the Market has existed for around 800 years and is a major bit of Birmingham's heritage, it is under threat, since the City Council finds that the cost of keeping everything in good condition is too high at a time when “cut, cut, cut,” is demanded by Central Government. Many older traders will simply retire if the Market has to close but some younger traders are proudly the umpteenth generation of their family with a stall, and their future is uncertain.

I was surprised when I was first spoken to by some of the customers. A few mistake me for a Council official and complain about local services, while to others I am a source of help when they are seeking a particular road or building. Until recently a good city centre map existed at an

adjacent bus stop but now there's a new shelter and no map – progress I suppose!

I am asked about topical matters such as “Do I believe that women can be Bishops?”, “How can we attract teenagers to the church?”, “Do I believe in the virgin birth?”. Sometimes these result in a lively discussion! Occasionally I meet someone who is distressed about a personal matter and I can take them to adjacent St Martin's church where we can find a quiet spot.

There are some lively moments too ... Last year a gang dispute resulted in shots being fired right across the stalls but thankfully nobody was hit. In mid-February the Market was invaded by a large number of police and seven apparently illegal immigrants were arrested in a dramatic episode that left many people quite shocked – all a little piece of everyday life in the Market!

I think I can honestly conclude that “All human life is there!”

Rag Market

I continue to visit on a regular basis and in many ways not much has changed on the surface but there are more concerns about the long term future. Issues relating to the probable move of the wholesale market; and where or when it might go continue to be a cloud over all proceedings, with little hard information from anywhere.

Sales levels have continued to be poor throughout the year and the hoped-for extra Christmas sales were almost non-existent, despite a milder snow-free December. To make matters more difficult, the markets' manager moved on in the early part of the year – the third change in as many years – and has not been replaced. Two council managers from other departments appear to have been told to oversee market operations on a part-time basis, even though they have no knowledge or expertise of such matters. I do sympathise with the City Council who are in great difficulties due to the financial cutbacks from central government.

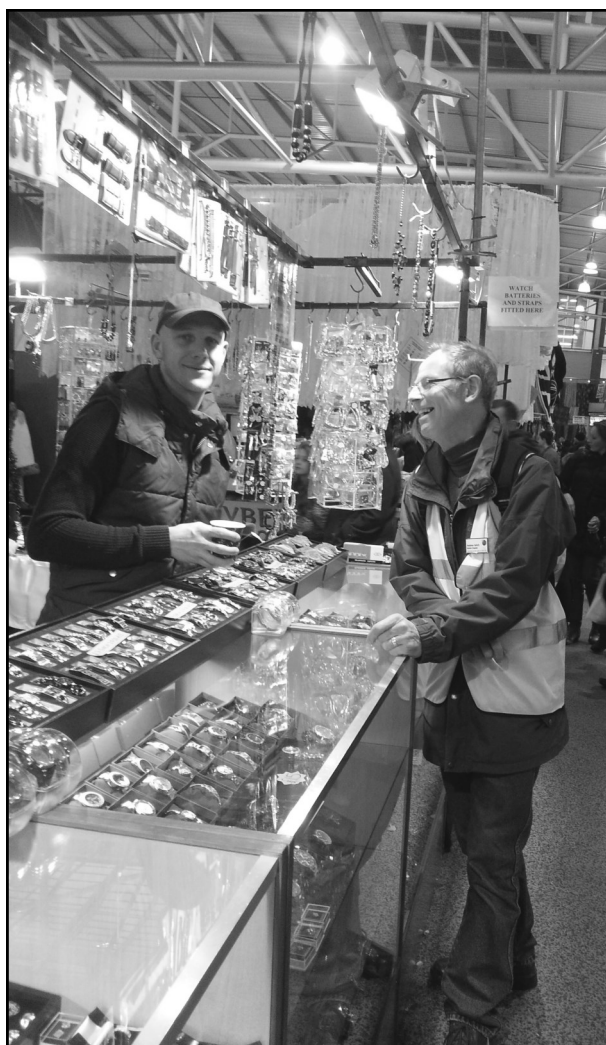
Sadly, no liaison meetings between the council managers and traders' representatives have been held since late summer so it is very difficult for all concerned to know what is going on.

Having said that, I continue to develop relationships with many of the traders, so apart from the background hassle I enjoy my visits which are often interspersed with interesting conversations with people of various faiths about current issues and the occasional joke or humorous story from some traders.

There is always a strong community spirit amongst the older traders, which is good to feel part of! Unfortunately many of the new traders who appear on empty stalls do not last very long – it may look from the

outside that good money can be made, but when you take into account the rent, cost of stock, transport etc., there are few that make a good living these days.

There continue to be a number of traders who share concerns about family and health issues and they are always thankful to have someone to talk to – and the offer of bringing them to prayers at Carrs Lane are never refused. The spiced apple punch and mince pies which were distributed at Christmas were very much appreciated again, but they would prefer to have them on a monthly basis!



Andrew Veitch

Solihull Town Centre Retail

Solihull town centre still seems to buck the trend by definitely not being a town centre in decline, despite the current economic climate; though there is still a tendency for shoppers to be 'browsers' rather than 'spenders'. Yes, there are a few empty shops but no more than would be expected at any time, and the town continues to be a 'destination' shopping centre.

We continue to flourish as a team, slowly increasing in size. We said good bye to one member of the team, but have two in training so hope to cover more of the town centre shops on a regular basis. I am, as ever, grateful to all the team who regularly give of their time and commitment to this very valuable and much appreciated ministry.

As ever, 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 shopkeepers whom we call on rather infrequently during the year. It is also a chance for us to assess on a wider basis the economic situation of the traders as a whole.

Again with financial help from the Touchwood management we distributed mince pies to all those who work in the retail outlets in Touchwood but this year we were very pleased that we were able to extend to other streets in the town centre and were ably assisted in this task by members of one of the local churches.

As I write the 'Quiet area' in the Touchwood centre, at present located close to the management offices, is moving to a new location on the ground floor. This will mean that it will be open and available all the time the centre is open whereas before access was only available during

office hours and it was closed at weekends.

In November we were very pleased to host the Industrial Mission Association National Retail Chaplaincy meeting. Andy Cole, the General Manager of Touchwood, and Melanie Palmer, the manager of the Solihull Business Improvement District were our visiting speakers. Both affirmed the role of chaplains in the town and expressed a desire to help promote the chaplaincy in whatever ways were appropriate. I hope that in the future closer relationships will be established between the chaplaincy and the BID group and, in practical terms, with the 'town hosts'.

During the last year research has been carried out into the Church of England's involvement in chaplaincy, seeking to establish numerical data and also the connections between chaplains and the established church. Being a team totally made up of lay volunteer chaplains we were very pleased to be among those interviewed, and affirmed by the report.



Beryl Moppett, Team Leader

Kings Heath Retail Chaplaincy

Exodus 33 records Moses asking the Lord to teach him His ways and requesting His presence to go with him. This is so that as the people of Israel moved among the people of many nations they would know the Lord's favour by being recognized and distinguished as God's people.

This so resonates with our work in Kings Heath. Customers, Reps and people from numerous agencies of multi-national, ethnic and various social backgrounds move among the shops along the High Street. As Chaplains surrounded by this multitude, it is essential for us to know the assurance of the Lord's Presence with us, and that this is recognized and distinguishes us from all others. That this is so, is indicated by the warmth of welcome we continually receive and the conversations shared with the shopkeepers (and occasionally with shoppers). The precise timing and fruitfulness of our visit to any particular person is constantly evidenced, and reassurance that our talking with the Lord at the start of each session proves that His Presence has gone before us as well as with us.

Like Moses, there are times when we've been overburdened. This year it took the form of much extra work and responsibility. We have much valued the support and prayers of our Church as well as fellow Chaplains through the organisations of CIGB, IMA and the Retail Chaplains Network. Early in January 2014 we were able to be released from this additional work and focus more directly upon our Chaplaincy role.

God is good: all the time. We consider ourselves privileged to be working with Him as we share with people in their delights and difficulties, their celebrations and calamities; recognizing their God-given qualities, encouraging and bringing each person's nature and needs to the Lord in prayer.

Graham & Pat Wigley

Jaguar Land Rover

JLR Solihull

As I continue to visit weekly, the feeling around the site is very positive. There is still a lot of building work, which includes multi-storey car parks to alleviate the employees parking on local roads, I have been able to attend several Diversity Days, which are excellent opportunities for talking to employees 'off the track'. At present planning for Multi-Faith rooms around the site is in progress and I am pleased that the intention is very much that these will be truly multi-faith for all to use. The company is buoyant at the moment and this is reflected in the positive attitude of the employees who I speak to.

Linda Granner

JLR Castle Bromwich

It is a great privilege to try to provide confidential support to Jaguar Land Rover's Castle Bromwich factory for half a day a week. The media is full of stories of the success of the company and the building works and signage at the factory reflect the investment in new models and facilities. The difficulty in finding anywhere to park reflects this too! The pressures on what is still a relatively small company, to build on and consolidate the success of recent products is very great. During the year we have seen the introduction of the F-Type, returning to Jaguar's traditional market of the two-seater sports car. A new smaller Jaguar model is to be introduced, using both West Midlands manufacturing sites. The plant Diversity Council has continued its work in literacy and communication issues, and supported the work of food banks. The influx of new people, and the demands of expansion and investment, has put great pressure on functions such as HR. The two brands still have their strong identities and the coming together into one company still arouses issues of allegiance, so there is work to be done in appropriate integration. It is fascinating to try to find ways to support a company riding a tide of success.

Colin Corke

NEC Group

The NEC Group greatly encourages Interfaith Chaplaincy across all platforms of the business. New staff are brought to Chaplaincy during their induction programme and from the very word 'go', Chaplaincy is introduced as an intrinsic part of the NEC Group portfolio of employee relations and venue client experience. The Prayer Room sits in a prime spot within the main NEC Piazza and at the ICC (also serving the NIA).

Since the last CIGB report there has been the continual round of shows, events, conferences, parties, star-studded concerts and sporting events etc. The NEC Group continues to perform well and often exceeds the expectation of those who choose the venues for their events. The ICC is frequently used for blue-chip corporate events alongside lavish wedding receptions and prestigious degree ceremonies. The business continues to grow and develop as does the NIA with its refurbishment and sporting events bookings such as Trampoline and Tumbling World Championships, and hosting the likes of the Aviva Grand Prix Athletics and Disney on Ice. Recent Amadeus catering business wins include the new Library in Birmingham, Cadbury World and Coventry Cathedral.

While the NEC Group recognises it is a world-player in the events industry and out-performs many similar operations it also has a heart for community focus with several local schools and charities such as Help Harry Help Others. Many staff are voluntarily involved in community help programmes, eg Ladywood Community Centre. Other are involved with programmes such as Child Bereavement Support at Walsall 'Swing' and work experience for young people. Support is offered overseas too: Namuwongo is an innovative partnership of individuals from the wider Events Industry who have come together to support this Ugandan community and give its inhabitants a brighter future with a special focus on water.

So... while the NEC Group continues to succeed, the competition continues and a fierce market has developed with many conference facilities springing up. Therefore the work at all levels, to keep us as a venue of choice, has to ramp up and maintain ever higher standards of both employee and customer wellbeing. Interfaith Chaplaincy is a significant part of this.

Recent Press highlighted the potential sale of the NEC Group. Transparent pastoral communication from executives has helped understanding by highlighting the increasing order book and the massive £120 million current investment in Resorts World at the NEC with casino, shopping complex and cinema developments.

The NEC continues to be a place of 'goose-bumps' where people do their best to help others without reward; which all adds to the NEC experience. The Event Halls can be full of 100,000 visitors over 3 days and then strikingly empty, as reverent as Cathedral cloisters, where a 1:1 encounter can manifest 'just at the right time'. Thank God.

I follow in the footsteps of Revds. Willey and Lockwood. We are supported by Juliet Bakker - Lay Reader, Revd Alison Geary – Methodist, Elaine Hutchinson -Student Minister URC, Revd Kevin Kavanagh - Catholic, Rabbi Yehuda Pink, Conan Chitham – Ordinand, and Shazim Husayn—Muslim. We have embarked on a series of 'Chaplaincy Taster mornings' to promote Chaplaincy at the NEC Group 'to see what colour it might be' for others.

A significant part of my Chaplaincy role is also to encourage "Chaplaincy-Everywhere" for the Methodist Church Britain - Birmingham District, and its 150 local Churches, alongside our ecumenical and interfaith partners. This forms some of the background to CIGB's Chaplaincy Fortnight in 2014. It is good that we are in a very warm partnership with CIGB and IMA.

David Butterworth

Birmingham Airport

It's been a year of slow development at the airport: not only in the infrastructure (by the time you read this, the new runway expansion should be completed and much of the interior of the airport will have been redesigned and rebuilt) and in the size of the operation (the number of passengers exceeded 9 million for the first time this year, and new routes have been announced to the Far East and North America) but also in the ways by which we in the chaplaincy serve the people and organisation.

Bryan, Alive, Neil and I continue to offer around 10 days chaplaincy each week to the airport, and hope soon to be joined by another colleague who will offer another day. One of our chaplains, Hazel, has taken up a full-time chaplaincy post at the University, but hopefully we will see her again in 2014 – we miss her and she has achieved so much over the years. Bryan and Alive have actually been here at the airport for ten years – a remarkable achievement and a sign of their steadfast loyalty and commitment to chaplaincy.

The chaplaincy does pretty much what you might expect: we're here for the passengers and the workers, celebrating with people in the joys, and comforting them in the depths. The chaplaincy also has a statutory role: in the case of an emergency being declared (the chaplaincy is on 24-hour call) we are first on the scene with our multi-faith care team (Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and Humanists) offering support and backup to those affected, to the staff and particularly the Police. In the past year we had two fairly major emergency exercises where we could practice our skills, and fortunately only one actual alert – which in the end proved to be a false alarm!

We are also there to support the border agency, particularly in the case of

unaccompanied (that is, under the age of 16) asylum seekers where we take the role of 'responsible adult' and ensure that the best possible care is offered to the person concerned – we acted as responsible adult on four occasions this year. We are also involved in the repatriation of British nationals who want to return home but, for a variety of reasons, need assistance. On three occasions this year we were called upon by foreign embassies to assist. We also assist the Police in the efforts to combat human trafficking.



Working at the airport continues to be a fascinating, and, for the church, I believe a very worthwhile endeavour. Very few can claim to have a 'parish' of 9 million people – we feel very fortunate to be able to work in such a varied and exciting environment.

Duncan Ballard

Birmingham City Council

This chaplaincy is now in its second full year of support to two of the largest City Council offices: at Lancaster Circus and Woodcock Street, either side of the University of Aston. The Chaplaincy is provided for half a day each week by David Harrison and Peter Sellick. We have also developed a local staff team of volunteers to assist with leading the 'Mindfulness Meditation' sessions we run at lunchtime.

The Council is consolidating its building space and has relocated many staff over recent years into these two buildings – and the 5000 staff that the offices accommodate are frequently reshuffled! Recently we have started to visit the 'Social Services' office in Lifford Lane, Stirchley, which is smaller but also a new office. This expansion of our service was a request from staff: this is an area of particular strain at the moment - both by the nature of the work and because of the criticisms aimed at the department in recent government and press reports.

Sir Albert Bore, Leader of the Council, described the budgetary situation facing the council as the "Jaws of doom" in a business breakfast run by the Chamber of Commerce. This describes an ever widening gap between projected income and expenditure. The Council will have no choice but to withdraw from some activities and find new ways of doing things - eg in partnership with the business community and third sector. Reductions in public sector funding will continue for many years regardless of how the overall economy recovers.

This has continuing consequences for council staff. Reductions in staff through both Voluntary and Compulsory Redundancy continue apace. How delicate situations like these are handled has a significant impact on people. Good managers are able to help teams and individuals come to terms with the situations they face. We hear of good and poor

practice in this area. For teams like HR, who play a major role in managing this change, they reduced by 1/3 last summer and are reducing by a similar amount again this year - at a time when their work is increasing! So it is a very challenging working environment for those who have to make redundancy decisions; for those who are left behind; and for those who leave.

The weekly Mindfulness Meditation sessions continue to grow, with a group of regulars that we are getting to know well. Meditation is one of the new things that we are now offering at Lifford Lane too. Feedback is very positive and the sessions seem to answer a need, and in a small way contribute to the wellbeing of staff. Some use the technique in their home lives too. Using the 'Colleague Community Wellbeing network', we ran a 4-week training course for people to lead meditations in order to improve sustainability and spread availability away from the limited time chaplains are available. The training programme worked well, although the practicalities of staff being able to commit to lead meditations regularly are of course difficult, given their main work commitments. The 'Colleague Community' programme, of which we are a part, won a prestigious in-house 'Chamberlain Award' for its novel approaches to staff wellbeing.

We continued to staff a stall at health and wellbeing days, and social events, which gives us the opportunity to meet more people and start conversations more easily than in the very large open-plan work floors. Amongst the groups with whom we network, there are active Bible study and prayer meetings. In response to a request we have also just recently initiated a prayer request scheme in one of the offices. We will be interested to see how this develops.

David Harrison

Longbridge construction

The Longbridge Development continues to grow. Initially there was Bournville College and then 'The Factory' youth centre. Now phase 1 of the new town centre is complete and many of the buildings occupied. A new Sainsburys, a Premier Inn hotel, two pubs with restaurants, Greggs, Costa Coffee, a hairdressers, a charity shop, a fish and chip shop, an American Diner and an independent coffee shop. The 3-acre Austin Park is open with the river Rea flowing through it. Life is returning to the site of the redundant car plant.

New housing continues to be built on Lickey Road and Lowhill lane, opposite Cofton Park and also adjacent to Parsonage Drive. These are a mixture of private, affordable and social housing. Sales are brisk and the majority of people moving in have moved from the local area.

2014 will see the beginning of construction on phase 2 of the town centre with the building of a 150,000 square foot flagship Marks and Spencer's store, due to open before Christmas 2015, and more large retail units. St Modwen, the developers, have put in planning permission for 400 residential units near the top of the town centre site reflecting the Council policy of mixed economy developments. Building of the Bournville Construction College has begun behind the youth centre. This is set to open in September 2014.

The Churches of the area continue to work closely together and have formed an association called 'Gods Heart for Longbridge': GHfL. The name reflects the desire of the churches to work together and discover what Gods Heart is for the Longbridge Development.

GHfL is working with local community groups, St Modwen, and Birmingham City Council to determine the needs of the community and

to develop the provision of services such as work clubs, debt advice etc.

As the construction phase moves forward more chaplains are required to support the retail phase. If you are interested please contact CIGB.

Working as Chaplain to the development continues to be rewarding and interesting. Opportunities for questions and discussion frequently arise, sometimes unexpectedly—such as the time when a group of surveyors looked up from their plans, saw my Hi-Vis, and remarked , “ ‘Chaplains’, are they the designers?” My immediate response was, “Yes, my boss designs everything !” A good humoured and lively debate followed.



Stephen Plant

Waterways Chaplaincy

The National Waterways Chaplaincy started in 2009 following a report by the Salvation Army on poverty and its effect on people's lives. Part of that report identified a number of areas, one of which was the waterways and people who live on the boats. Subsequently a chaplaincy was set up hosted by Workplace Matters in St Albans, a similar organisation to CIGB. I joined the chaplaincy team, responsible for the Midlands area, in August 2013 and was fully commissioned in October.

The work is varied and different because a good number of boat owners are 'continuous cruisers' who have to move every 14 days, whilst a number have a permanent mooring in a marina or basin. In the current economic climate a number of people have turned to the canals as a cheaper way of living.

A lot of the work is assisting people to obtain benefits; sometimes to enable them to be able to pay the licence fee from the Canal & River Trust (in 2012 British Waterways became a trust— CRT); or things such as the boat safety certificate and insurance. If they are continuous cruisers then they do not have a post code which leads to difficulties in accessing things such as benefits, doctors and even voting in elections.

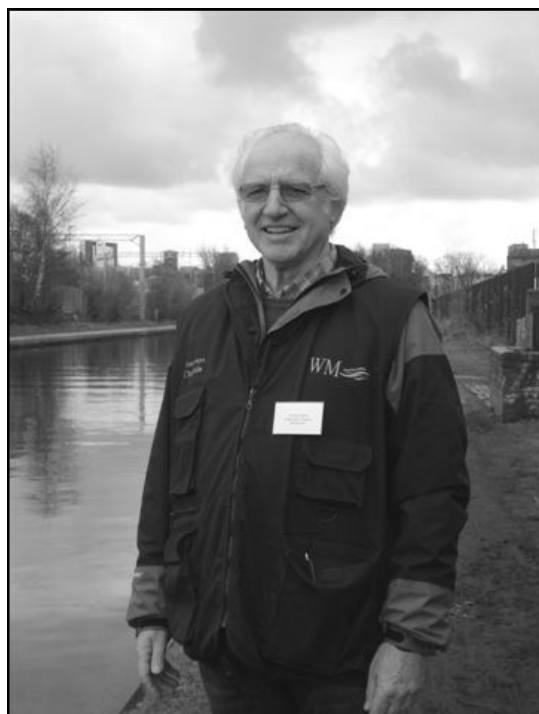
The CRT Enforcement Officers pass on information about boaters they think need a hand. However, as I am the only Waterways Chaplain north of Braunston, that means I can get phone calls from other places. The furthest north so far is Derbyshire. Most of the time a simple phone call, or sending information is sufficient, but I am willing to go if needed.

Every week I walk along the towpath in the centre of Birmingham and go as far along the various canals that radiate out as I feel I have to go, and as God directs me. I also walk the towpath at Lapworth where the Grand

Union and Stratford Canals meet. This enables me to be a face to the Boaters, although sometimes people think I am part of CRT and moan about the state of the locks or the towpath. I pass on these complaints to CRT.

As well as the boaters, I act as chaplain to the staff and volunteers of CRT and in fact to anyone who is connected in any way to the canal system— be they boaters, CRT staff, walkers, people who fish or people who work near to the canals, as many of them take their lunch breaks sitting by the canal.

The Waterways Chaplains are there to be a listening ear, to assist if needed; in fact to be flexible to deal with what is required.



My hope and dream is that others will take on this work as the Birmingham canal network is said to be bigger than Venice, and to adopt an area in which they can assist those who use the canals.

Richard Alford

National Express Buses

This Chaplaincy is new to Birmingham, building on the pioneering work of Andrew Mann-Ray who is based in the Black Country bus garages. Andrew has done such a good job that National Express management were delighted to have CIGB provide a team of Chaplains for the Birmingham garages.

Three of us – Chrissy McAteer, John Bradley and Peter Seeney - have been working since Autumn 2013. This is our first chaplaincy for each of us, and we are ‘learning as we go’. The general experience is good and most people welcome us – even though in some cases there was initial bemusement!

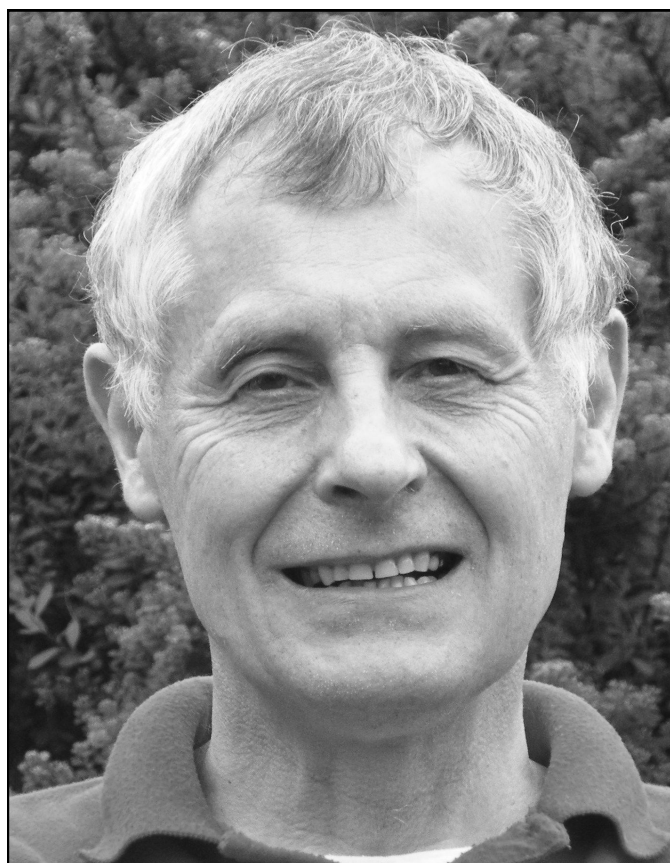
We cover four main garages and the 547 buses based there – around 1600 drivers plus other staff. Also the head office in Bordesley, Travel Centres in Birmingham and Solihull, and a workshop in Newtown. We hope to recruit a chaplain for the garage at Perry Barr in the future. We have also made contact with the chaplain in Dundee – the only place outside the West Midlands that National Express Buses (as opposed to coaches) operate.

Whilst we go into the rest rooms in the garages, we also walk through the offices saying “hello” to those we meet. Drivers also invite us to join them on their routes so that we can see first-hand what driving a bus is all about, and it’s here, usually at the ‘change over’ stops or the turn-around at the end of a route that we have the most fruitful conversations, talking to drivers, inspectors, cleaners and even passengers.

It is clear that whilst most drivers enjoy their job there are considerable stresses involved. Firstly, a split-shift system operates, which may mean

being out for twelve hours, which includes a few hours of rest time - but often not enough time to go home and back.

Secondly, whilst most passengers are polite, there is a small minority who cause trouble and several drivers have been assaulted. Thirdly there is the stress of trying to make-up time when there are delays. But equally buses must not run early. As chaplains, who are independent of both management and union, we find people welcome the opportunity of sharing these types of concern on a confidential basis.



All of us find our chaplaincy days – usually one day a week - rewarding, and are very much aware of prayers being answered particularly when people share crucial things with us. Please continue praying for us.

And when you get on a bus remember to smile and say “hello” to the driver and say “thank you” when you leave – we are pleased to say most passengers do!

John Bradley

West Midlands Fire Service

Cuts continue to have their impact. Morale is quite shaky as firefighters and officers come to terms with new conditions of service (eg raising of the retirement age). The Fire Service Chief has retired and some station commanders may have to go. One reason for this is that the number of emergency “call outs” has, to quote one staff member, ‘dropped through the floor’ because of better building regulations and community information. But there was an astonishing number of applicants for a few new posts for fire fighters.

Administration staff have gone from each separate station, to a central hub at HQ in Vauxhall Road. This can make chaplaincy work more difficult since it is common to turn up to visit but to find no one in, and crews out. When there was a person in the office, one could leave messages. It is proving challenging to organise central training meetings for chaplains. I worry about maintaining cohesion of the chaplaincy team, and about our position within the organisation when it is hard to liaise with management. This line of mission work can veer towards institutional invisibility.

The biggest event of the year was the massive fire at Smethwick in June 2013. The site was 300 metres long; I live half a mile away, yet I could see the flames leaping high into the air. One of my watches was first at the scene and it became clear to them that this was a major incident. Forty fire vehicles were involved, including 13 from 3 neighbouring brigades. It was said that at one time there was a single fire engine available for the rest of the area. News media from around the world also wanted their piece of the action. As one fire fighter later remarked to me, “It was a bit bad.”

Downplaying concerns like that is typical of fire officers. Yet when I

emailed the station commander to say that many people in the area were praying for their safety and success, he emailed back straight away. Obviously I had touched a nerve. Underneath the calm professional exterior there is something of the spirit of a child in an adventure: an excitement about beating the problem; part of the famous can-do ethic of the fire service.

And that is exactly what makes this work so rewarding.

Meanwhile I am doing a Master's degree and needed some research participants. The goodwill with which staff volunteered was humbling: even some I had never met. WMFS personnel typify the Fire Service's readiness to co-operate and to assist. Thanks, folks.



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 2013

Income	2013	2012
Subscriptions/supporting congregations	115.00	125.00
Donations: Birmingham Airport	2,765.00	2,750.00
Donations: JLR (Cov & Warwick Mission)	7,000.00	7,000.00
Donations: Touchwood	3,000.00	3,000.00
Donations: Birmingham City Council	2,000.00	2,000.00
Donations: National Express	2,000.00	0.00
Donations: Others	178.08	351.86
URC Synod	5,000.00	5,000.00
Anglican Diocese	25,000.00	19,000.00
Salvation Army	200.00	200.00
Methodist District	1,060.00	1,000.00
Methodist Central Circuit	3,000.00	3,000.00
Heart of England Baptist Association	0.00	1,000.00
Roman Catholic Archdiocese	0.00	1,000.00
Sundry income - training contributions; bursaries; collections	1,603.17	0.00
Interest received	115.71	195.89
Total	53,036.96	45,622.75
Expenditure		
Subscriptions	739.58	639.00
Conference Fees & Chaplains' expenses	1,591.54	1,702.95
Office Expenses	1,386.60	796.84
Facilities Charge	3,000.00	5,250.00
Dev. Director employment costs & expenses	35,294.03	20,897.00
Other staff costs	7,511.80	7,270.00
Dev. Director Recruitment costs	0.00	1,778.70
Miscellaneous (incl. Insurance Premium)	784.00	547.83
Total	50,307.55	38,882.32
Surplus of Income over Expenditure	2,729.41	6,740.43
Balance of accumulated funds at year end	38,772.76	36,043.35

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

- *Support us financially but also through prayer*
- *Invite a chaplain to preach or lead a study group*
- *Think about your relationship with local business: CIGB can train chaplains to work locally and help you make links with business to support social and other projects.*

Business and other organisations

- *Think about having a chaplain. It shows your commitment to staff.*
- *Faith as an aspect of diversity may be an issue for you. CIGB has expertise to share.*
- *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