

Your Kingdom Come

Every time we pray the Lord's Prayer, we ask that God's kingdom may come and that his will may be done on earth as it is in heaven. We easily lose sight of the fact that this is a revolutionary and subversive prayer: we seek God's reign and his authority in the affairs of this world. To pray for God's kingdom to come may be to say that there is a better way of ordering the affairs of the world.

The Church is intended to be a sign and foretaste of that kingdom, a working model of the principles and values of God's kingdom being lived out by ordinary people in their daily lives. The kingdom is extended as people come to faith in Christ, but the vision is a far wider one than just saved souls going to heaven, or making people more religious. If we are to be true to the Lord's Prayer, it must include transforming society into the shape of the kingdom. As David Brown writes in "Leaven" (a word he uses interchangeably with "culture"), we must ask "... how kingdom leaven can be streamed into the lostness and fragmentation of 21st century life." He urges the church to "... consider putting Jesus' big ideas about the kingdom back at the centre of its mission. This would require a massive readjustment of priorities away from "cultivation" of religious activity and towards ethical and political engagement."

Chaplains of all disciplines will share people's positive and encouraging experiences, which can be affirmed when they correspond to kingdom values, when people are doing God's will, whatever faith or motive may have prompted them. Work itself, with its creativity and opportunities for fulfilment, is part of God's purposes for humanity in his world. But chaplains also find themselves venturing, as representatives of the kingdom, into the lostness and fragmentation that is all too often destructive of people's lives. It is then that a listening ear, and the readiness to show the love, patience and kindness which are the fruit of the Holy Spirit, will be signs of that kingdom drawing near to the people they meet. Every conversation that we have with people can be an occasion for God's grace to flow.

Chaplaincy is a vital part of the mission of the church as it prays for and works for the coming of God's kingdom, and BCUIM seeks to enable and assist the local church in its mission. We will select, train, introduce, connect and support workplace chaplains, praying that God's kingdom may come and his will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Contact: enquiries@bcuim.co.uk 01902 710407

The BCUIM Team has:

- Maintained chaplaincy visits to around 36 locations, including fire stations.
- Introduced new chaplaincies for Learn Play Foundation , PayCare, Wolverhampton College, Walsall Bus Garage and Adullam Homes.
- Offered informed comments to managers about general working conditions.
- Organised and facilitated a successful meeting for church leaders and MPs.
- Played a full part in Black Country Chamber of Commerce, Business Breakfasts and other events, maintaining and encouraging a Christian presence.
- Supported staff at a Sainsbury's and British Home Stores shops in the period before closure.
- Developed the work of the Ethical Money Churches project, leading its new Bible study course for a church.
- Led the "Chaplaincy Everywhere" Course as part of Lichfield training programme.
- Run the annual Black Country Induction Course for Clergy.
- Supported & encouraged the work of "Bluefish Chaplaincy" by Wolverhampton Pioneer Ministries for young people in Wolverhampton.
- Delivered basic budget training for 49 people.
- Supervised two student placements in workplace chaplaincy.
- Coordinated Wolverhampton City Centre Churches Engaged Group.
- Contributed to annual Workers' Memorial Day observances.
- Fulfilled numerous preaching and speaking engagements, offering a "Mission in the Economy" emphasis.
- Hosted visit by Bishop of Lichfield to Marston's Brewery.
- Organised the Wolverhampton Shoppers' Carol Service, together with workplace Remembrance and Christmas services.
- Prepared for the placement of a chaplain in Willenhall town centre.
- Linked with existing chaplaincy in Walsall town centre.
- Organised a seminar on domestic abuse.
- Trained new chaplains.
- Worked with LICC through Lichfield Diocese to draw up "Faith on the Front Line" materials.
- Organised study day for West Midlands Industrial Mission Association.
- Used social media constructively to promote BCUIM's work.

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Chaplains:

Ivor Anderson - *Aldridge Industrial Areas, including Shaylor Group plc*

Mike Batchelor – *Basic Budgeting Training*

Steve Bentham - *The Metal Centre & Wednesbury Automotive Park*

Allen Bower – *Walsall Bus Garage*

Cath Brumfitt – *Wolverhampton Bus Garage (Student Placement)*

Peter Carmody-Heaton - *Brockhouse Forge, West Bromwich YMCA,
Sandwell College, Health Futures UTC (Sandwell)*

Louise Clark - *Marks and Spencer, Wolverhampton (and BHS before closure)*

Gennie Evans - *Wolverhampton Science Park*

Matthew Gordon – *Learn Play Foundation & Walsall & Dudley Mental Health
Services NHS Trust “Man Up” Project*

Vanetta Griffith - *West Midlands Ambulance Service, Waterfront*

Anthony Harris – *Walsall Town Centre*

Ian Host - *JLR Engine Manufacturing Centre*

Shaun Kelly - *National Express Buses, West Bromwich*

Bill Mash - *Marston’s Brewery, Merry Hill Shopping Centre, Chamber of
Commerce, Excalibur Engineering & Adullam Homes*

Roberta Maxfield - *Grand Theatre Wolverhampton, The Royal School &
PayCare Wolverhampton*

Millie O’Connor - *Sandwell Council*

Jeremy Parkes - *Leader of Dudley Town Centre Team*

Ruth Reynolds-Tyson – *Wolverhampton College & Beatties*

Melissa Rose – *Merry Hill Shopping Centre (Student Placement)*

Tony Stone - *ASDA, Brierley Hill*

Sue Watson - *Wolverhampton Courts*

John Welsby - *National Express Buses, Wolverhampton Bus Garage*

Awaiting Introduction:

Annah Magutta – *Willenhall Town Centre*

Ian Hancock – *Pensnett Bus Garage*

Chaplains at 11 Black Country Fire Stations

Close links with Vitalise (Wolverhampton Pioneer Ministries) Chaplains, and with

Wednesfield and Shifnal Town Centres



Summary Annual Report 2016 – 17



The Black Country Urban Industrial Mission is a partnership between:
The Anglican Dioceses of Lichfield and Worcester, The Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District, The Birmingham Methodist District, The United Reformed Church West Midlands Synod & The Heart of England Baptist Association.

Supported by:
The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham, Central England Quakers & The Apostolic Church

The picture is of the Bilston Cross – Cooker parts and a wiring loom remind us of God’s transformation of the ordinary