

Chaplains:

Ivor Anderson	<i>Aldridge Industrial Areas, including Shaylor Group</i>
Mike Batchelor	<i>Basic Budgeting Training, "Bridging the Gap", Willenhall</i>
Steve Bentham	<i>The Metal Centre, Wednesbury Automotive Park & Lead Chaplain for Black Country Fire Stations</i>
Matt Brookes	<i>Netherton Town Centre</i>
Peter Carmody-Heaton	<i>Brockhouse Forge, West Bromwich YMCA, Sandwell College, Health Futures UTC (Sandwell)</i>
Louise Clark	<i>M&S & Beatties, Wolverhampton</i>
Mike Cronogue	<i>Walsall buses</i>
Gennie Evans	<i>Wolverhampton Science Park</i>
Alex French	<i>Pensnett buses</i>
Matthew Gordon	<i>Learn Play Foundation & Walsall & Dudley Mental Health Services NHS Trust "Grit" Project</i>
Vanetta Griffith	<i>West Midlands Ambulance Service, Waterfront</i>
Jeff Guest	<i>West Bromwich Missioner/Chaplain, including Brockhouse Forge, West Bromwich buses & Ferdotti's Motor Services</i>
Anthony Harris	<i>Walsall Town Centre (until September 2018)</i>
Emma Holton	<i>Walsall Town Centre (from September 2018)</i>
Stan Littleford	<i>Netherton Town Centre</i>
Annah Magutta	<i>Willenhall Town Centre</i>
Bill Mash	<i>Marston's Brewery, Merry Hill Shopping Centre, Chamber of Commerce, Excalibur Engineering, Paycare & Adullam Homes</i>
Roberta Maxfield	<i>The Royal School Wolverhampton</i>
Lynne Morris	<i>Wolverhampton College (until December 2018)</i>
Millie O'Connor	<i>Sandwell Council</i>
Angela Partoon	<i>Bloxwich Town Centre</i>
Jim Perry	<i>JLR Engine Manufacturing Centre</i>
Ron Shaw	<i>Brierley Hill Town Centre</i>
Tony Stone	<i>ASDA, Brierley Hill until March 2019</i>
Sue Watson	<i>Wolverhampton Courts</i>
John Welsby	<i>National Express Buses, Wolverhampton Bus Garage</i>
Lindi Winnerman	<i>Coseley centre</i>

BCUIM also provides Chaplains at 11 Black Country Fire Stations and supports Wolverhampton Pioneer Ministries Blue Fish Chaplains, Shifnal Town Centre Chaplaincy and Hope into Action housing charity.



Annual Review 2018 – 19



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

Discipleship, Vocation, Evangelism and Chaplaincy in the Workplace

John's Gospel tells of the risen Jesus meeting his disciples by the Sea of Galilee. They had returned to their old work, spending the night fishing, but not catching anything. Bible commentators generally pass over the working life of the disciples and put their failure down to an impulsive decision, made without careful consideration and prayer. But one writer offered a more realistic view of the disciples' situation and work: "These men needed to eat."

All too often the church has had a low view of the value of people's working lives. The impression grew that what really mattered was what people did for the church, and "vocation" came to be associated with becoming a minister. Industrial chaplaincy began after the Second World War as one way of correcting this with chaplains, usually clergy, visiting workplaces. Chaplains today are alongside people at work, supporting them in difficulties and encouraging Christians in their discipleship. They trace signs of God's presence in the workplace and can offer the insights and understanding gained there to the wider church. There may be opportunities to contribute a biblically formed perspective on issues that arise and on the value of the people who are employed.

Many churches are now taking the working lives of their members seriously, helped by materials such as the "Front Line" courses produced by the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity. God is as much in the workplace on a Monday morning as He is in the church on a Sunday. And this can prompt people to volunteer as chaplains. Church members, ideally local people, often with experience of the public sector, industry and commerce, are well placed to visit workplaces, to offer a listening ear, to learn, to encourage and to affirm. Chaplaincy which springs from a local church can be an effective part of its mission and ministry, helping to maintain and to develop relationships with the workplaces and community around them.

BCUIM and other chaplaincy organisations endeavour to facilitate this ministry with local churches. We encourage Christians to see their working lives as a place where their discipleship and vocation are expressed and may grow. We offer training in chaplaincy skills, introductions to businesses and ongoing connection and support for voluntary chaplains.

From the call of the first disciples onwards, fishing has been used as a metaphor for evangelism. Might a renewed focus on the working world, as a place of Christian discipleship and chaplaincy, be an effective form of outreach? It would be like casting our nets on the other side of the boat, as the disciples did they did that morning they met the risen Christ, and it resulted in an enormous catch.

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The BCUIM Team and associates have:

- Maintained chaplaincy visits to over 40 locations, including fire stations, drawing alongside people, providing opportunities for prayer, support and affirmation.
- Introduced new chaplaincies for Netherton and Coseley Town Centres
- Developed wide contacts with local businesses in West Bromwich
- Offered informed comments to managers about general working conditions
- Organised training sessions on the prophetic dimension of chaplaincy and caring for the bereaved
- Played a full part in Black Country Chamber of Commerce, Business Breakfasts and other events, maintaining and encouraging a Christian presence
- Supported staff at branches of Toys R Us and Maplin before their closure
- Worked alongside the Ethical Money Churches development officer
- Been elected to be a member of the new Ambulance National Peer Support Group
- Led the "Chaplaincy Everywhere" Course as part of Lichfield training programme
- Run the 30th annual Black Country Induction Course for Clergy & church workers new to the Black Country, from various denominations
- Supervised five student placements in workplace chaplaincy and related areas
- Contributed to annual Workers' Memorial Day observances
- Fulfilled numerous speaking and preaching engagements, offering a "Mission in the Economy" emphasis and led a training course in chaplaincy skills
- Planned "Doing Good Business", a meeting to be part of the May 2019 Black Country Festival of Business
- Contributed to "The Kingdom at Work" ongoing consultations promoted by St Peter's Saltley Trust
- Organised and shared in workplace Christmas services and Remembrance events, including dedication of a rediscovered Henry Hope & Sons plaque with WMFS Smethwick
- Two chaplains attended a chaplaincy training week at Cliff College
- Addressed West Midlands Ambulance Service Non-Executive Board Members and contributed to their academy's OFSTED inspection
- Organised study day for West Midlands Industrial Mission Association, "Building Resilience for Workplace Chaplains"
- Faith based support for field workers of "Hope Into Action" housing charity
- Worked with Dudley Interfaith Network to provide multifaith chaplaincy at Merry Hill Shopping Centre
- Attended a Mental Health First Aid course and participated in "A Time to Talk" Mental Health day event.
- Supported people in bereavement, participating in funeral and memorial services
- Attended national fire chaplains' conference
- Provided regular input for company new employee induction (Shaylors)