

## Chaplains associated with BCUIM

Samson & Ellie Ake - *West Midlands Ambulance Service, Waterfront*  
Ivor Anderson - *Aldridge Industrial Areas, including Shaylor Group plc*  
Steve Bentham - *The Metal Centre & Wednesbury Automotive Park*  
Peter Carmody-Heaton - *Brockhouse Forge, West Bromwich YMCA,*  
*the Learn Play Foundation and Sandwell College*

Chris Green - *Wolverhampton Science Park*

Ian Host - *JLR Engine Manufacturing Centre*

Shaun Kelly - *National Express Buses, West Bromwich*

Bill Mash - *Marston's Brewery, Black Country Chamber of Commerce and*  
*Merry Hill Shopping Centre & Excalibur Engineering*

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

Millie O'Connor - *Sandwell Council*

Jeremy Parkes - *Leader of Dudley Town Centre Team*

Ruth Reynolds-Tyson - *Beatties and Asda, Wolverhampton*

Tony Stone - *ASDA, Brierley Hill*

Chris Watson - *ASDA, Wolverhampton (Student Placement)*

Sue Watson - *Wolverhampton Courts*

Joy Wells - *Marks and Spencer, Wolverhampton*

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

Full reports are available in our Annual Report, on our web site at [www.bcuim.co.uk/resources](http://www.bcuim.co.uk/resources), or call 01902 710407 for a copy.

A team of chaplains visit fire stations in the Black Country, and BCUIM is working with Wolverhampton Pioneer Ministries to develop chaplaincy by younger people amongst their peers, at Kicfm, Wolverhampton YMCA, Victoria Halls and "The Way" Youth Zone.

**Would your workplace benefit from a chaplain?**

**Is this a ministry you might be interested in?**

**Follow us on Twitter @bcuim & on Facebook**

**Email: [enquiries@bcuim.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bcuim.co.uk) 01902 710407**



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2015–16 Summary



*We are grateful to Noel Ford for preparing this picture for our use.*

### **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

**Workplace Chaplaincy - a ministry of the local church, by the local church for the local community.**

## Chaplaincy - Strength and Challenge for the Church

“Mostly, people are looking for someone to listen to them. Someone willing to grant them time, to listen to their dramas and difficulties” writes Pope Francis in “The Name of God is Mercy”. He has captured one of the key features of chaplaincy ministry (though this was not, I suspect, his intention). And, later in the book, we read that, “...to bring about an encounter with the visceral love of God's mercy ... it is necessary to go out: to go out from the churches, and the parishes, to go outside and look for people where they live, where they suffer, and where they hope.”

Chaplains go out and are present in many areas of society. In hospitals, prisons and the armed forces, they draw alongside people facing particular pressures. Workplaces have their own pressures and chaplaincy offers the opportunity both to support at times of need and to build relationships over prolonged periods, demonstrating the reality and importance of faith.

At a time when the church generally is losing its influence, and no longer has a privileged position in society, going out is vital. Availability and a readiness to listen means that we can engage with people, with their life experiences and with their spirituality, however it may be expressed. We discover faith that needs to be encouraged, and may result in a deepening encounter with God's love and mercy.

Chaplaincy, as a faith-based response to a rapidly changing world, is a growing and creative dimension of the church's life, but one that is not always recognized as such. This may be because it seldom fits into the agendas which guide the life of the church as an institution. The issues which surface in chaplaincy are rarely those discussed in the forums of the church, and its results cannot easily be measured in ways which are appropriate in a local church. As such, chaplaincy offers a strength and poses a challenge to the church. Our understanding of the mission, ministry, priority and purposes of the church may need to be rethought and developed.

Chaplaincy is a ministry for both lay and ordained people, one in which people can contribute their gifts and experience. BCUIIM is seeking to increase its number of volunteers and the places which they visit. Nationally a growing number of people are involved in chaplaincy, giving the church an extensive reach into many areas of society. It should no longer be thought of as marginal to the life of the church. A rapidly changing world calls for a shift of thinking which would see chaplaincy as a vital part of the church's mission and ministry, with appropriate resources devoted to it. The opportunities are there and the possibilities as we “go out from the churches... go outside and look for people where they live, where they suffer, and where they hope” are enormous.

*This piece is based on themes in Victoria Slater's book “Chaplaincy Ministry and the Mission of the Church”*

## The BCUIIM team has:

- Maintained chaplaincy visits to around 30 locations, including fire stations
- Introduced new chaplains to Sandwell Council and West Midlands Ambulance HQ
- Supported development of court chaplaincy in Wolverhampton
- Organised and facilitated a successful meeting for church leaders and MPs
- Met with the President of the Methodist Conference
- Promoted BCUIIM at “Lichfield Goodness of God” celebration
- Played a full part in Black Country Chamber of Commerce, Business Breakfasts and other events
- Commenced participation in Ethical Money Churches Initiative with the Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility
- Led courses on “Life on the Front Line”
- Run the annual Black Country Induction Course for Clergy
- Facilitated, supported & encouraged the development of “Bluefish Chaplaincy” by Wolverhampton Pioneer Ministries for young people in Wolverhampton.
- Led prayers at opening of a new factory, and providing a new chaplaincy
- Secured funding for a personal budget trainer to work as part of BCUIIM
- Hosted visit by German theological students
- Provided Christian ministry in the Calais migrant camps
- Supervised student placement of URC ordination candidate
- Contributed to Methodist Chaplaincy Roadshows
- Coordinated Wolverhampton City Centre Churches Engaged Group
- Contributed at the annual Workers' Memorial Day observances
- Fulfilled numerous preaching and speaking engagements, offering a “Mission in the Economy” emphasis
- Participated in the Chamber of Commerce Transport Planning Group
- Organised the Wolverhampton Shoppers' Carol Service, together with workplace Remembrance and Christmas services

## We will now...

- Recruit, train and introduce more volunteer chaplains
- Increase the number of businesses we visit
- Develop our web site as a resource for local churches seeking to engage with Mission in the Economy
- Encourage Christians to see their “Front Line” as a place for discipleship and mission
- Secure funding to enable the continuation of BCUIIM ministry in the longer term
- Develop the Ethical Money Churches initiative, seeking participating congregations across the Black Country
- Support and develop the work of the budget trainer