

This year BCUIM team members have...

- Maintained and developed a programme of workplace chaplaincy visits
- Hosted the Black Country Induction Course for clergy and lay workers
- Contributed to Methodist Chaplaincy Roadshows
- Coordinated Wolverhampton City Centre Churches Engaged Group
- Organised and facilitated two Chaplaincy Conferences: 'Facing the Storm', and a Chaplains Forum, with Chaplains of all disciplines
- Been part of the annual Workers' Memorial Day observances
- Participated in Mesothelioma Day in Birmingham
- Shared in Black Country Chamber of Commerce and other business networking events
- Been part of the Chamber Transport Planning Group
- Organised the Wolverhampton Shoppers' Carol Service
- Contributed to Lichfield Diocesan Lay Ministry Training Programme, with a "Faith on the Front Line" module
- Encouraged the "Blue Fish" youth chaplaincy project in Wolverhampton
- Organised Mental Health First Aid training for clergy and church workers
- Drawn together a meeting with Black Country MPs
- Fulfilled numerous preaching and speaking engagements, offering a "Mission in the Economy" emphasis.
- Attended an ACAS "Workplace Stress" seminar day
- Organised 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.

Would your workplace benefit from a chaplain?

Is this a ministry you might be interested in?

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ANNUAL REPORT 2014–15 Summary



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 "Christ at the Rubbish Dump: A Black Country Altarpiece" by George Warner Allen, and used with the permission of Paul Delaney, trustee of his estate.

Why Chaplaincy?

Workplace chaplaincy is a pioneering ministry, operating on the frontier between the church and the world. It gives the church an opportunity to engage with people with whom it would otherwise have little contact.

The task of the church in every age is to represent and reveal God's presence in Christ, sharing in the advance of His kingdom through proclamation and service. Local churches are no longer the centre of community life. People find their identity and form networks where they work or spend their leisure, where they shop or are educated and, for all too many, in a shared experience of worklessness. People rarely come uninvited to our churches. Effective engagement with the de-churched or un-churched majority therefore requires that Christians are authentically embedded in the places where people are.

Development of chaplaincy must never be isolated from equipping Christians to embody Christ wherever they are. Indeed chaplains can be a valuable resource to enable the church to do this. The way Christians do their jobs, how they react in adversity or how they deal with people around them will often open opportunities to give the reason for the hope that is in them. (1 Peter 3: 15)

However, there is a sense in which the representative role of the local minister has fallen to the chaplain, both ordained and lay people. Folk religion remains persistent, and many find reassurance in the presence of a recognised minister, especially where he or she has proved accessible, simply offering a listening ear. This is an implicit sharing of God's love and care, unconditionally and without demanding any response.

Chaplains gain insights to offer to the churches. They enjoy privileged access to many areas of society, generally secular and sometimes even hostile. If their faith and ministry can flourish in those places, facing contemporary issues before the churches do, then they have a vital part to play in shaping the church as it moves into an increasingly secular future.

Where chaplains have been visiting an organisation for several years, they find that their views and comments are valued when decisions which affect the lives of staff are to be made. It can be lonely at the top of an organisation, and the chaplain is there for the manager as well as her or his staff.

If we believe that the growth of the Kingdom of God includes, but is not limited to, personal salvation, then chaplaincy has a vital part to play. It brings the values

of that Kingdom into everyday life, sometimes reinforcing and sometimes challenging the value systems at work in the many different places where chaplains are found.

“Chaplaincy is a way of living out the incarnational principle of all ministry, not in a way that is qualitatively different to parish ministry but in a way that enables that vision of a universal ministry of service to all people to be lived out more comprehensively than is possible in a purely geographical system... Chaplaincy should be viewed as a normative and valuable part of the mission of the church.” (from “Chaplaincy and the Parish” – Miranda Threlfall-Holmes & Mark Newitt, “Crucible” October—December 2011, from which I have drawn much of the substance of this piece.)

Chaplains associated with BCUIM

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

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

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

Peter Carmody Heaton – *Brockhouse Forge, The Public, West Bromwich YMCA, the Learn Play Foundation and Sandwell College*

Karen Duncan – *Victoria Halls*

Chris Green – *Wolverhampton Science Park*

Ian Host – *JLR Engine Manufacturing Centre*

Bill Mash – *Marston's Brewery, Black Country Chamber of Commerce and Merry Hill Shopping Centre*

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

Jeremy Parkes – *Leader of Dudley Town Centre Team*

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

Tony Stone – *West Midlands Ambulance and Asda, Brierley Hill*

Joy Wells – *Marks and Spencer, Wolverhampton*

John Welsby – *Wolverhampton Bus Garage*

Sandra Woodall – *Sandwell Council*

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.