

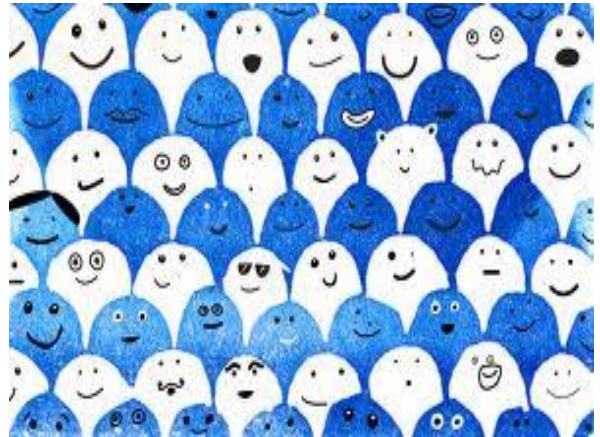
Chaplaincy and the Methodist Church:

The Methodist Church has a long history of chaplaincy work going back to the time of the Wesleys and you will find Methodist Chaplains in some quite surprising places. Chaplaincy schemes may be supported and run by the local Church, the Circuit, the District or the Connexion, but there is always some sense in which the chaplain is "sent" by the Church. Chaplains always work with the support of the Church - they are never alone.

What kind of people are chaplains? There are many different kinds of Methodist chaplains. Most are generous hearted Lay Volunteers - ordained ministers working full time as chaplains are very much in the minority.

A Chaplain...

- offers Ministry **beyond the walls** - to where people are
- is an invited **guest** and not the host
- is **vulnerable** - not powerful
- is **commissioned by the Church** and accredited by the host
- is an **intentional presence** - rather than gathering
- is an **authentic expression of Christian Mission** - sharing in what God is doing in the world



Chaplaincy

"Chaplains are... the church that has left the building... We can all be involved in chaplaincy."

Martyn Atkins - General Secretary - Methodist Church in Britain

Chaplains are lay & ordained people who are appointed by the Church to work in all kinds of places outside the normal life of the congregation. There are chaplains in hospitals and hospices, workplaces, prisons, the armed forces, shopping centres, rural areas, colleges, universities and schools, bus companies, waterways – even casinos - to name but a few. In all these places chaplains try to show God's love through offering care and support, and by representing Christian values and beliefs.

Chaplains share the great privilege of discovering what God is doing out there – already - beyond the Church. In our diverse society chaplaincy has to show the greatest sensitivity and respect. Christian chaplains now often work in ecumenical teams or alongside colleagues from other faiths and often with people expressing no or lapsed faith perspectives.

Birmingham District Chaplaincy

For many years the Birmingham District has been involved in the ministry of Chaplaincy. But as I travel around the District people often ask '...what is Chaplaincy'? Or they say, very happily: 'I didn't know we did that!' Well the good news is, 'we do'.

And.... while most often Chaplaincy is to be found in hospitals and care environs, airports and educational contexts, Chaplaincy is now readily found in retail markets, shopping centres, military bases, exhibition and conference centres, mental health trusts, businesses and industry, canals and river waterways trusts, bus & rail companies, police and fire stations, car manufacturing and even casinos and many more places.

Wherever it is possible we offer this ministry with partners. So, with the Birmingham District of the Methodist Church in Britain being so wide it dovetails with several diocesan and ecumenical areas and we are in good relations with four local Chaplaincy bodies:

BCUIM; Birmingham and Black Country Urban Industrial Mission

Faith & Work Worcestershire

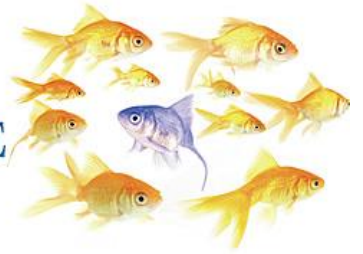
'Workcare' Coventry & Warwickshire

and **CIGB** Churches in Industry in Group Birmingham

and nationally with **Chaplaincy & Mission Associations**.

The Birmingham District is keen to support Chaplaincy, identify where Chaplaincy is already taking place and also where it could take place – please let us know. 😊

CHAPLAINCY
EVERYWHERE



Many opportunities exist but Often, Chaplaincy can find itself on the edge of the church and while there is good support in some arenas, it is not 'the common place'.

So, what can we do? Do please chat with your staff team about chaplaincy – raise it as a **Mission** agenda item - placing emphasis upon innovative forms of chaplaincy that respond to specific local opportunities and offer an intentional presence. Learn more about the Districts **Chaplaincy Fortnight** on our District web pages. Invite a District based Chaplain to come and lead Sunday Worship or speak about their experiences. Why not take a look at the Connexional video on **Chaplaincy Everywhere** and **Mission Matters?** (www.opensourcechaplaincy.org).

Importantly, include Chaplaincy in your personal and corporate prayers. If there is a Chaplain in your church or circuit do invite them to raise awareness with you.

Recently, I spoke at Birmingham St. Phillips Cathedral regarding Chaplaincy and I welcome the opportunity to listen & speak at circuit/team ministry, lay-leadership meetings and church councils.

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