

Faith at Work in Worcestershire



Annual Review 2018

2018 has been a memorable year for Faith at Work in Worcestershire (FWW). In this first year of our current three year Development Plan we have seen significant organisational change but also growth in the support provided to congregations across the county in mission in their local economy, particularly through chaplaincy to those at work.



We registered a new constitution as a charity; took on two part-time staff; and moved into an office at Top Barn Business Centre in Holt Heath – all made possible by the generous financial backing of our partner churches and others. We have welcomed new trustees as we have given thanks for others who have retired after many years' service.



Both the numbers of churches we work in partnership with, and those volunteering as chaplains has grown. At the end of the year 42 people were active as chaplains – which means more people at work are being visited and contact is growing. See inside for some of the highlights, and news of our plans for the future of Workplace Mission across Worcestershire.



In 2019 we aim to continue to develop our links with local congregations and Churches Together Groups to develop ministry in their local workplaces. A further focus is working with churches to help their members connect their faith and work. We are grateful to our funding and workplace partners for their continued support.

Dick Johnson, Development Officer

Committed to connecting Christian faith and the workplaces and economy of Worcestershire.

NEW PERSHORE TEAM

Four local churches have come together to provide chaplaincy to businesses in the centre of Pershore. Twelve volunteers completed the FWW training in the autumn and the team was commissioned at the main service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January 2019.



FWW OFFICE & STAFF



FWW moved into its new office at the Top Barn Business Centre at the beginning of August. With donations of furniture and equipment it is an excellent base for the charity and its staff. Dick Johnson's connection with FWW goes back many years but he changed his role to part-time Development Officer in 2017, and has been employed directly by the charity from the beginning of 2018. He combines this with a similar role for West Mercia Police and Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service as their Joint Lead Chaplain.

For the first time FWW has a communications Officer, Alison Sandham. With a background in marketing and digital communications Alison will be working on Wednesdays bringing her considerable skills and a new clarity to all aspects of how we communicate with our partners in the churches and workplaces of the county. Alison is contactable by email at comms@faithatwork.org.uk



CHAPLAINS BRINGING CHRISTMAS CHEER!



THANK YOU

A summer Reception was held at Droitwich Methodist Church to mark the retirement of several chaplains and trustees. Rose Lawley had developed an extensive ministry over more than 10 years as a member of the clergy team in the Anglican Ismere Parish and chaplain in Wyre Forest, including at Brintons Carpets. Rose continues as a trustee. Other chaplains to have moved on to new ministry included Nancy Croft and Jackie Hartrey in Redditch, Alan Parry in Crabbs Cross and Phil Hoar in Stourport. For their significant contribution we are grateful to two other trustees – John Childlow (more than 30 years) and John Robertson (treasurer for 20 years).



At the end of the year we welcomed Siân Battle-Welch as a new FWW Trustee representing West Mercia Police. Siân is the Programme Manager for Citizens in Policing, which deals with all Police Support Volunteers, including the small team of local chaplains Dick works with.

CHAPLAINCY 2018



The sector where most FWW chaplains visit is retail which, through the year, has had to face significant challenges. Supporting those insecure about their jobs and businesses has been a notable part of ministry for chaplains in Redditch, Alvechurch, Worcester, Stourport and Kidderminster. These

local teams meet regularly to share and reflect on their experience, pray for one another and those they meet as chaplains and plan ahead. A key part of this is reading the Bible together to better connect the Gospel of Jesus Christ with their ministry as chaplains and the experiences of work they encounter. Continuing training is essential and this year two chaplains attended a course in LISTENING & MAKING CONNECTIONS at the Lyttleton Well centre attached to Malvern Priory. In March chaplains also attended the West Midlands Regional Chaplaincy Conference on the theme 'A fair day's pay, for a fair day's work', a reflection on the low wage economy which still persists in many sectors of the economy. 2018 also saw a national gathering of chaplains in Derbyshire, attended by several FWW chaplains.



NEW CHAPLAINS COMMISSIONED

In October Sally Bubbers, Helen Ayling and Sue Brotherton were commissioned as chaplains by their congregation at St Laurence's Alvechurch. Sally has joined the Redditch Town Centre team, whilst Helen and Sue, with vicar Richard Bubbers, are pioneering new work in the many small businesses of Alvechurch.

Barbara Pugh was also commissioned as a new chaplain in the Kidderminster market team.



FINANCES

2018, as the first year of our Development Plan, has seen a major shift in the scale of our finances. With a new office and paid staff our expenditure grew threefold. With support from all our partner denominations and Kidderminster Industrial Chaplaincy, (KIC) we were blessed with income of £30,600. All our partners have pledged continuing support at this level for the next two years. Expected greater expenditure (a full year of office rent and staff salaries) will be covered from our modest reserves.

KIC is an independent charity set up by leaders of the carpet industry in the 1960s. In recent years KIC has continued to support various initiatives in workplace mission, including local apprenticeships and the work of FWW.

EXPENDITURE 2018

Staff costs	£23,957
Office	£2,267
Chaplaincy support	£3,673
Other costs	£833
Total	£30,730

We would like to thank the following for their financial support:

Anglican Diocese of Worcester
Heart of England Baptist Association
Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service
The Methodist Church (Districts & Connexion)
Kidderminster Industrial Chaplaincy
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham
United Reformed Church

Thanks is due to our chaplains and trustees for their work this year - all volunteers and all passionate about reaching out into the workplaces of our county.

visit our website
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All contacts are handled in confidence

Faith at Work
in Worcestershire

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