

Offering care and concern for people in work

PRAYER

As our economy emerges from lockdown many people will be facing changes to the way they work. And so we pray . . .

Almighty God;

Give wisdom to those who have to take hard decisions in the weeks ahead that will affect the lives of others, in government, corporations and in local businesses;

Give hope to those who remain uncertain about their future;

Give resilience to those who are searching for new work;

And to you church, in congregations and through chaplaincy, give a renewed vision for our mission in the economy; help us find new ways of sharing your love and working for your justice.

Amen.

Shaping the New Economy

The COVID-19 crisis has been a great shock to our economy but also presents an opportunity to rethink our financial priorities. As the economy picks up speed, our choices will have an impact on many things. One project which aims at guiding us through these economic choices we face – as individuals, families and churches – is **'Money Makes Change'**, a programme of the Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility (ECCR). This charity, of which Dick Johnson is a trustee, provides study materials, video workshops and other resources designed to help all of us make decisions about money that take into account the impact on the climate, sustainability in the use of resources, and justice for the poorest. Have a look at their website at www.eccr.org.uk



Adopt a Shop Initiative in Upton-upon-Severn

The new minister of the Baptist Church in the small riverside town of Upton-upon-Severn, Revd Amy Wearing, began an exciting new initiative just before Christmas. Amy asked the whole of her congregation to each adopt a shop, pub, business or restaurant.

The idea for adopt shop came from the church following the Faith on the Front Line series devised by the LICC (The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity). The purpose was to encourage the congregation to think about how they bring their faith into the work they do and their concern for the prosperity of the town in which they live. Each member of the regular Sunday congregation were given two names of local businesses drawn from a hat. They were then encouraged to send a Christmas card and make a personal contact with the business.

At the same time Amy began a partnership with Faith at Work in Worcestershire (FWW) and a few members of her congregation signed up for the training course An Introduction to Workplace Chaplaincy, led by Revd Dick Johnson.

After Christmas, the congregation were encouraged

to stay in contact and to befriend the shopkeepers/café owners and develop a knowledge about the business. Some have sent further cards or have been in contact again during the lockdown period. A few businesses have asked for prayers on a Sunday.

Just before the re-opening of non-essential shops Amy and her husband visited the shops in the town centre, taking them welcome back chocolates, which had been donated, and a welcome back card. A few shops have been open throughout the lockdown, of course. Amy offered to pray with the shopkeepers. She reported that her visits were very well received.

Looking forward, the hope is to continue to encourage a chaplaincy team to visit the shops and other businesses and to spend time in prayer for the town and its economy. The training with FWW, which had to be postponed due to flooding and lockdown, will be completed in early July.

Read the full article here.

<https://www.faithatwork.org.uk/adopt-a-shop-in-upton/>

Resuming Chaplaincy Training Video

Have you seen it yet? [Watch it here.](#)

Please watch it before you go back to visiting your usual workplaces, for your own safety and the safety of those you will be visiting. We recognise that several of our chaplains will be unable to resume face to face chaplaincy visits at this time, and it is vital that we do not overlook the power of prayer and encourage you to continue your mission through prayer.



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