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28th October 2020

Christian care in the economy

Faith at Work in Worcestershire

LAUNCH OF APPEAL FOR SUPPORTERS

NEWSLETTER

Looking to the future, FWW is launching an appeal to help us respond to the great opportunities of these challenging times. In this edition we focus on our three key priorities – for churches and individuals to contribute through prayer for the economy of Worcestershire and our work within it; for more people to volunteer and train as chaplains; and for financial support to make all this possible. We want as many people as possible to be part of a new initiative we are calling 'Supporters of FWW' – SFWW - where all contribute as volunteers – as prayers, chaplains, trustees, ambassadors, financial donors, fundraisers, and much else besides.

PRAYER

One unexpected consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic is the rediscovery of prayer. More people are joining services online than went regularly to church prepandemic. We should not be surprised. And though chaplaincy had to stop - for a while at least prayer has not; for those still at work, those on furlough and facing redundancy, for wisdom, and compassion, healing and peace. It is a reminder that prayer is not only a last resort in times of crisis, but a key part of our relationship with God and with each other. As we launch our autumn appeal we aim to make Prayer our first priority. We will be producing prayer resources for personal use; for use in services online and in church; and for sharing with others facing difficult times.

Above all we need people to commit to pray – by themselves and with others, so that everything else we do is grounded and built upon prayer. Would you be prepared to commit to that? Do tell us, and we will make sure you get the resources and regular updates.

If you have any questions or wish to respond to our appeal, please contact us by email at <u>enquiries@faithatwork.org.uk</u> or speak to Dick on 07946 655450.

CHAPLAINS

When we went into lockdown, and all face to face chaplaincy had to stop, we immediately began planning for a safe return of our chaplains, when it became possible. This resumption has progressed slowly, and chaplaincy continues, despite more recent restrictions. The need is great, and chaplains who have been able to get back to visiting have been warmly welcomed by those who are still working and who are anxious for their future. There is much to talk about.

Inevitably some chaplains have not been able to return yet, and with increased need we are focussing on seeking out new volunteer chaplains, from our current partner churches, and through new links. So, as you read this, would you please consider – if you are not a chaplain, would you be able to volunteer in your local economy? Can you think of people in your church who would be a good chaplain? Please approach them and see if they would like to find out more through an online taster session, 'Discovering Chaplaincy'. Are there other churches locally you might introduce to FWW?

Our aim is to run a 'Discovering Chaplaincy' session before the end of the year and run an online training course early in 2021. The need is great. Please help us reach out, in the love of God, to those struggling in our economy.

CONTACT US www.faithatwork.org.uk enquiries@faithatwork.org.uk 07946 655 450 Facebook & Twitter @faithatworkworc

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

We are well aware that many charities and churches are making special appeals for financial support at this time. In the current climate of economic uncertainty, business collapses, job losses and increased burdens on business owners, we consider it is vital that our outreach work continues and if possible, even extended.

It cost FWW just over £30,000 to run our small charity in 2019. We are generously supported by grants from denominations, local church partners and also by Kidderminster Industrial Chaplaincy.

To further enable our work, would you consider making a one-off or a regular donation in order to support FWW? You can support us financially by making a donation by cheque, BACS transfer, or via the give.net secure online portal. See <u>www.faithatwork.org.uk/donate/</u> for more details.



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