

Easter Hope at Work

Wednesday April 27th saw the launch of our new network, the **Supporters of Faith at Work in Worcestershire (SFWW)**, as part of a speaker event, 'Re-engaging with the Economy'. This was the first face to face event FWW has held for more than two years. It was good to get back together, and discuss some very contemporary aspects of our changed economic context.

The SFWW initiative aims to promote workplace chaplaincy in the county, seeking support through prayer and giving. We want to expand our work but are faced with a £15,000 budget deficit for this year alone.

But whilst addressing our needs as a charity we also were able to use the evening to focus on what was happening in the economy and remind ourselves why Faith at Work in Worcestershire exists in the first place. We were fortunate to welcome, as our keynote speaker, Sharon Smith, CEO of Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce. From surveys of the Chamber's 1300 member businesses Sharon was able to give an up-to-date summary of the current challenges and opportunities they face. It was a sobering picture, in the light of which, **FWW Development Officer, Dick Johnson, here reflects on FWW's response.**

On the morning of the launch event for SFWW, when Sharon Smith gave us such a clear and thought-provoking presentation on the state of our local and regional economy, I was with our team of chaplains in Redditch at the Kingfisher Shopping Centre. Though each team member has their assigned section of the Centre, and visit as their diaries allow, once a fortnight the team meet for chaplaincy at an agreed time, praying together before going out separately, and then returning for a coffee and debrief together. This approach brings a sense of teamwork, and mutual support to a task which otherwise can be a lonely one. It also promotes reflection and sharing, within the constraints of confidentiality.

On this day, when the team met, they were joined by Justin, a BBC Hereford & Worcester radio reporter, who was responding to our press release about the evening event. Justin recorded short features with our chaplains for use in the morning show, and interviewed some of those they visited. He was also able to interview Ken Williams, General Manager of the Kingfisher Centre, who was on hand to give his take on the state of the economy and the valuable contribution the chaplains bring to those who trade in the Kingfisher.

Ken is a great supporter of chaplaincy and Faith at Work in Worcestershire, understanding as he does, from years of experience in the industry, the challenges of working in this sector.

Article continues at [Easter Hope at Work - \(faithatwork.org.uk\)](https://faithatwork.org.uk)



Business Challenges

So what is all this data telling us?



EU EXIT



COVID-19



FINANCE



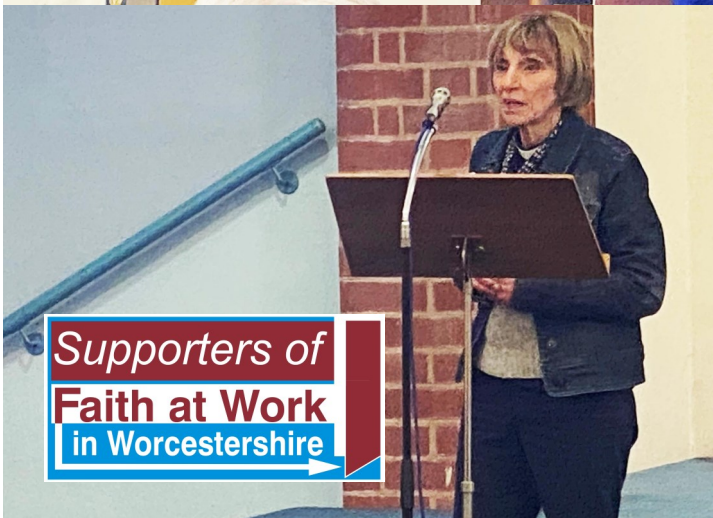
PEOPLE



SUPPLY CHAIN



WAR ON UKRAINE



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