

*Serving the
heart of Luton*

Luton Town Centre Chaplaincy

July 2009
Issue 1

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Contact us

Luton Town Centre
Chaplaincy (LTCC)
c/o St Mary's Parish Church
Church Street
Luton LU1 3JF
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Trustees

Canon Nick Bell
Yemi Adedeji
John Archer
Ashraf Farahat
Steve Jones
Gerry McGrogan
Yasmin Milligan
Paula Morrison

Charitable status applied for

Welcome ...



Canon Nick Bell

We have embarked upon a project in the centre of Luton which is so exciting that I want to tell everyone about it. In the midst of all the troubles that have hit the town recently I firmly believe that God is raising up a new work—that of a Luton Town Centre Chaplaincy. Plans and preparations are well underway with so much positive support from leaders of the Council and other local organisations, and a remarkable unity for the idea across the denominations of the town make it all very positive. We are setting ourselves targets and any ways that you can help will be very welcome and much appreciated. This initiative is a Christian project which will care for all within the community as a whole.

Making progress

The Luton Town Centre Chaplaincy had its initial launch at the end of April when a good number of church leaders and other interested parties came together to hear an outline of the plans for the Chaplaincy, and also to be inspired by Richard Chewter, as he spoke of his work as Town Centre Chaplain in Watford. Since then there have been considerable steps forward—both in practical and financial support. In addition, we are in the process of registering the Chaplaincy (LTCC) as a charity, and appointing a Board of Trustees. We hope that this Newsletter will bring you up to date with what else has been happening, and inspire you to get involved.

Good News!

Since the initial launch of LTCC in April, in addition to financial contributions from individual supporters and churches in the town we have received £1000 from the Luton Anglican Deanery, and £20 000 from the Luton Methodist Circuit—a great start!

Breakfast

Since November talks have been going on with many of the leaders in our town—in the Council, the police and in business. It's

"Luton Council of Faiths supports the Town Centre Chaplaincy initiative.

Luton is a diverse place with many challenges and opportunities. A town centre initiative such as this will provide a focus and opportunity for all of us from different faiths and cultural backgrounds to reflect and appreciate positively the diversity of our communities.

Based in the commercial heart of the town - The Arndale Shopping Mall - this centre will reinforce the common bounds of the town as a community of communities."

**Zafar Khan
Luton Council of Faiths**

been exciting to hear the support given to the Chaplaincy initiative. This month these leaders were invited to a business breakfast meeting to hear about the progress that has been made, and what the next steps are to seeing a Chaplain being appointed in the Summer of 2010.

Business launch

Plans are underway to invite many other business leaders in the town centre to an event in the Autumn when the project will be launched to the wider commercial community—watch this space for more details

Who's Who?

The Luton Town Centre Chaplaincy will be run as a non-profit making organisation and will be governed under the rules of the Charities Act. This means that a Board of Trustees will oversee the running of the Chaplaincy and a good group has already been formed to do this. The Trustees will initially be ...

Canon Nick Bell

....Vicar of St Mary's Parish Church for 18 years, a Past President and current member of the Rotary Club of Luton. Nick will chair the Board.

Yemi Adedeji....

.... 14 years of retail experience at a senior level, and now involved full-time in cross-cultural mission

John Archer ...

... the first head boy of Ashcroft High School, apprenticed to Vauxhall, and now a senior figure in the international automotive industry

Ashraf Farahat ...

... originally from Egypt but now living in Luton with his wife and 3 children, Ashraf is an Elder of Stopsley Baptist Church

Steve Jones

... a Methodist lay preacher and Clerk to the Magistrates Courts

Gerry McGrogan

... a member of Our Lady Help of Christians Roman Catholic Church and with a real heart for the town centre.

Yasmin Milligan

.... Bursar at Lady Zia Werner School and the Treasurer for LTCC

Paula Morrison ...

... Community Safety Co-ordinator for Luton Borough Council and on the Management Committee of the new Street Pastors initiative

Helen Roche will continue to provide administrative support.

Premises

A Chaplain needs a base, and he or she needs back-up. We have had tentative offers of two locations—one for the public-facing office where the Chaplain will meet with those who want to talk, and one for administrative support. This is excellent news since both these locations are ideally situated and we hope to firm up the plans soon.

"Luton Town Centre is often the focus for many of the highs and lows of life in Luton. To have a Chaplaincy operating on its streets and in its businesses and retail outlets would be a real bonus. It will provide opportunities for the people of Luton to receive support"

**Hazel Simmons
Councillor
Luton Borough Council**

organisations, including the Bedfordshire and Luton Community Fund and the Diocese of St Albans. However, we will also be relying on individual contributions—both one-off gifts and some regular giving—from churches, individuals, local businesses, and others who are excited about the project and want to see a difference made in our town centre.

Get involved

If you would like to know more about the Luton Town Centre Chaplaincy, then please contact Nick Bell and he will be happy to talk to you. If you would like to make a financial contribution, then please complete the form below.

Please be praying for this important initiative—especially that grant applications would be successful.

Money Matters

Our priority at the moment is to secure funding for the next three years so that we can appoint a full-time Chaplain—by the end of next Summer. The estimated costs of the project over this time are around £150K so we are working hard applying to various charitable trusts and other

If you would like to support this exciting new initiative by making a financial contribution please complete this form and return it to Yasmin Milligan, LTCC, c/o St Mary's Parish Church, Church Street, Luton LU1 3JF. If you are an individual and you or your spouse pays tax, we may be able to claim Gift Aid, which will increase your donation by 25%. Please tick the box below if this is you.

Your name.....

Church/organisation (if applicable)

Address

.....Postcode

'Phone number

Email

I/We would like to support the LTCC financially by making a one-off donation of (Cheques payable to Luton Town Centre Chaplaincy)

I/We would like to support the LTCC by making a regular financial contribution and agree to set up a monthly standing order for

£..... starting on (date)
(Standing orders should be paid to Luton Town Centre Chaplaincy, HSBC, account number 12307375, sort code 403032)

I or my spouse pays tax and we would like to claim Gift Aid on our donation (Please tick if appropriate)

Signed Date