



*Providing pastoral and spiritual support
to those who work in or visit
Luton Town Centre*

November 2012 - Issue number 10

Welcome to our newsletter. Please feel free to print out further copies, or email the electronic version to share with your friends and churches.

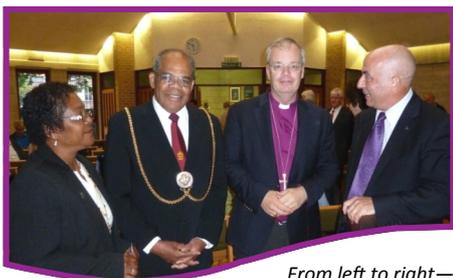
Celebrating two years ...

We had a wonderful time on Sunday 7th October celebrating what God has been doing in the Chaplaincy since it began 'active service' two years ago. Central Baptist Church hosted our Annual Service and led us in an inspiring time of worship. Steve Hollinghurst from the Church Army 'hit the nail on the head' as he spoke about getting out into our communities to share God's love.



*Steve Hollinghurst
with Michael Campbell*

We were delighted to welcome the Bishop of Bedford, The Rt Revd Richard Atkinson, as well as the Mayor of Luton, Cllr Sid Knight with his wife, the Mayoress, and Cllr Barry Neale, Chair of the Bench, as well as many church leaders and members.



*From left to right—
the Mayoress, The Mayor of Luton, The Bishop of Bedford and John Archer, Chair of Trustees*

The Trustees prayed for the Chaplains, and Michael reminded everyone that his vision last year was to double the number of chaplains—now achieved! His vision this is to double the numbers again.

Immediately before the service the Annual Report for 2011-12 was presented to the Annual General Meeting. To read this, go to www.lutontcc.org.uk/about-us/news.

What does it cost?

It costs around £100 to equip, train and CRB each of our chaplains.

Could you pay for one of the needs?

CRB	£12
Uniform	£25
ID badge, log book, etc	£13
Training	£50

Could it be you?

We are always looking to recruit new volunteer Chaplains—and with the exciting new developments in the Crown Courts and with the youth chaplaincy we need some now!!!

We are looking for 'ordinary' people from local churches who are committed Christians with a passion for God and the people of Luton—and the ability to commit to between 2-4 hours a week. All Chaplains are CRB checked, and undergo appropriate training. Michael will be happy to talk to anyone who is interested in joining the Chaplains or the Youth Team. For more information and a job description, visit our web-site.

Luton Crown Court ...



Following the agreement of judges and managers, the Chaplaincy has been invited to provide a team of Chaplains to Luton Crown Court. This is great news—we have seen how effective our chaplains have been in the Magistrates' Court and now they will be able to help people who are experiencing considerable distress (victims, defendants and their families) as well as staff members, in the Crown Court. Starting at the end of October we already have a team of 5 chaplains to cover each morning, but we hope to double the number to cover the whole week.

Barclays Bank ...

For the last 18 months Wendy Peck has been visiting Barclays Bank in George Street every week to provide pastoral support to both the staff and customers. She has done a great job and has built some significant relationships with a number of people. Wendy has now started a course of study at London School of Theology and so has sadly had to step down from the bank. Our thanks to go her for a job well done! This means that we now have a vacancy for a Chaplain Could it be you?

Thank you to everyone who supports us financially and in prayer.

Luton Borough Council ... Christmas is coming! ... and welcome to Anna

A big welcome to Anna Heathcote who joins the Town Hall team of Chaplains.

The team have now been given full access to all departments in the Town Hall—this is wonderful news and they are now visiting each department over the next few weeks to introduce themselves—they are even venturing out of the Town Hall itself to Unity House! They have had great support from Senior Management—and this is a testament to all the hard work they have put in on the ground floor over the last few months—building relationships as well as a good reputation.



The
Town Hall Team
from left to right—Emma,
Jean, Jessica (Team Leader) and Anna

More 'out' than 'in'

We are so grateful to all our funders for their support. However, to sustain and develop the Chaplaincy into the future we need the support of lots of individual donors and churches as many funding bodies make grants for the start up of a project, rather than its on-going development. At the current time, although we have money in the bank, we are spending more each month than we are receiving. The best way you can help us is by making a regular donation by setting up a standing order. Please contact us if you would like to know more about doing this or go to our web-site. We also welcome one-off donations and cheques should be made payable to 'Luton Town Centre Chaplaincy'. If you can gift aid your donation that's even better!

Last year we saw over 1000 people hanging their heartfelt prayers on the Christmas Prayer Tree in The Mall. With the support of The Mall management and St Mary's Church, we are again providing this opportunity for people to stop and think about their lives—and to pray—over the Christmas period. The Prayer Tree will be launched at lunchtime on Sunday 2nd December (outside Debenhams and M&S) with a short service led by Michael and Christmas songs led by the Bushmead Singers.

What else has Michael been doing?

Community Mediation

Luton Borough Council contacted us to see if we could join with other agencies and community workers to act as mediators in the Leagrave, Hockwell Ring and Marsh Farm following the murder of Delaney Brown. Tensions in the area were high and there was much confusion. Our brief was to talk to local people to inform them of the facts surrounding his death and to reassure them that everything possible was being done. A shrine set up by a large number of young people was causing problems for local residents who described the atmosphere in the area 'as an eerie silence' – people were afraid to come out at night.

Following a considerable build-up to Delaney's funeral, the various teams of mediators assisted on the day with managing the crowd of around 350 gathered in and around St Luke's Church, Leagrave – and also managing the traffic that was brought to a standstill as the procession left the church. Both the funeral and reception went off peacefully with respect for the family and friends of another young man taken in his prime.

Under these tragic circumstances the hope of local people is that something good will come out of it. This whole process was very beneficial for LTCC in terms of standing with the community, working with a wide range of people, and trying to understand the history of gang culture.



Community Clean up

At the beginning of September Michael, Jessica and Becky (with a fantastic team of young people) joined members of staff from The Mall in a 'clean up' day. They cut back bushes, picked up litter, cleaned walls and generally gave the outside of The Mall a 'spruce-up'. They made a real difference and their efforts were much appreciated by The Mall management .

The Cinnamon Network

It was exciting to be invited to Westminster Central Hall by Matt Bird, CEO of The Cinnamon Network, with around 200 CEOs of various Christian charities and organisations dedicated to transforming our communities through best practice and replication. Nick Hurd MP spoke for 15mins on the Big Society and the "impressive contribution of the church". He said "the other lot said we don't do God - I want to say our party do God and are very happy to support you in whatever way we can!"

Invite us

If you would like one of the team (Chaplains, Staff or Trustees) to come along to your Sunday service, PCC, Church Council or leadership team, men's group, etc to explain more about what the Chaplaincy does, then do get in touch.

"Spent some time with a lady in the Witness Service room who was very upset and shaking like a leaf. She had had a row with a defendant who had attempted to follow her into the restricted area but he was prevented from doing this and was later arrested. She asked me to sit with her for her court case and she was calmer then."

Court Chaplain