



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

November 2014 - Issue number 16

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

Welcome

We are delighted to welcome four new Volunteer Chaplains to the team Catherine is already in place at ASDA and will shortly be joined by Steve and David. Ian is now the Chaplain at Luton Rugby Club is also exploring the possibility of assisting the Chaplain at Vauxhall.



Steve Catherine David

We're always looking for new Chaplains to join our existing teams—and to help establish new placements. Do you know someone who is a member of a local church, is a good listener, loves people and can spare 2 or so hours each week? If so, please have a word with them and encourage them to contact us to arrange an informal chat. We hope to be running another Core Training Programme in the Spring, so now is a good time to think about it!



Ian



A special offer!

LocalGiving.com is an organisation committed to supporting local charities and community groups by providing fundraising advice. From time to time they make a pot of money available to local charities—matching every £10 donation with a further £10—'Grow Your Tenner'. Go to

www.localgiving/ltcc

to see how you can grab a bargain!

We were out on Friday evening when a Security Guard from The Mall Shopping Centre approached us and asked us to speak to a vulnerable lady - which was great. What was even better was that this Security Guard has always been wary of the Chaplains so it was a real breakthrough that he had confidence to bring the lady to us.

Street Chaplains

Thank you

..... To everyone who voted for us to receive a Lloyds Bank Community Fund Award. We came second with 31.3% of the vote and will receive an award of £2000.

Thank you also to the Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation's London Luton Airport Ltd Fund for a grant of £7500, and to a number of local churches and individuals who have made donations to the work of the Chaplaincy since our last newsletter.

Celebrating

Sunday 19th October saw the celebration of the 4th birthday of the Luton Town Centre Chaplaincy with a service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Parish Church. We were delighted to welcome the Mayor of Luton, Cllr Mohammed Farooq, to the service and also Alan West, Leader of Luton Christian Fellowship, who spoke about his experiences of chaplaincy over the years.



Mike Jones, the new Chair of Trustees, thanked John Archer for all his hard work as Chair over the last 3 years and there was also an opportunity for the Trustees to pray for all our chaplains—it was so encouraging to see such a big group of people up on the stage. It's amazing how things have grown over the last 4 years. We look forward to celebrating our 5th birthday next year!

Our Annual Report for 2013/2014 is now available to view on-line—go to the News section of our web-site



www.twitter.com/lutontcc

#lutontcc

Serving the nation

In March we told you about the role that the Luton Town Centre Chaplaincy is playing in supporting other groups across the UK who are developing town or city chaplaincies. Work is continuing to progress this project—the Alliance of Town and City Chaplaincies— with a 'Users' Guide to establishing a Town or City Chaplaincy nearly ready for publication, and a planned conference to be held in Luton next April to which all those involved in this type of chaplaincy across the country will be invited.

Michael is heading up a Steering Group to establish the Alliance, which will be a members' organisation for individuals, or groups of individuals in a single location where they can share best practice, network with others in their region, and gain support from others across the UK.



Christmas is coming

Prayer tree launch

For a good number of years now, there has been a 'Prayer tree' in The Mall Shopping Centre in the weeks leading up to Christmas—an opportunity for members of the public to write their prayers, attach them to baubles and hang them on the tree. This year, The Mall management team have asked if we can expand the launch event—1 pm on Sunday 7th December by Debenhams and M&S—and so we are inviting churches to bring down their congregations to join in a special carol service. Do come along if you can.

Christmas in the Town Hall

Our Town Hall chaplains will be inviting all the LBC staff from the Town Hall, Apex House and Clemitson House to join them at lunchtime on Tuesday 9th December for Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.

Christmas 'do'

The Chaplains, Trustees and staff will be getting together on 30th November for their annual 'Christmas bash'.



Chocolates

Our Town Hall Chaplains have a big job on their hands

They now serve the staff not only of the Town Hall, but also those in Apex House, Clemitson House and Unity House! Visiting the staff in their offices with a large tub of chocolates opens the door for many significant conversations. Could you contribute towards the cost of these—generally around £5 a tub? If so (or even better, if you want to make a regular donation to cover the cost of these) it would be very helpful! Cheques should be made payable to 'Luton Town Centre Chaplaincy' or our HSBC bank account details are

Sort Code: 403032

Account Number: 12307375

Account name: Luton Town Centre Chaplaincy

You can also donate on-line at www.localgiving.com/lccc, or by texting LTCC11 (+ the amount—£2/£5/£10) to 70070.



Michael's diary

ATCC

With my ATCC hat on, I was given the opportunity to attend the Elim and AOG Chaplaincy conference in September at their headquarters in West Malvern. It was a great opportunity to network with many chaplains from around the country, share about the Alliance, and particularly meet Nigel Tween, National Director for Elim

Chaplaincy, and his counterpart David Spademan from the Assemblies of God. It is really exciting to see that the Pentecostal churches have embraced chaplaincy 100% and now have Chaplains in some key positions in the Fire, Prison and Police service, our armed forces, hospitals and community chaplaincies around the country.

Training

On the 13th September a good number of Chaplains gathered at NOAH to hear Jim O'Connor give an overview of the services they offer to the homeless community. It was great to be on site in order that our chaplains know where NOAH is and can build good relationships between 'them and us'. We then gathered at St Mary's as a team to share stories, pray and communicate new developments in LTCC.

A father wanted our Chaplain to pass a message to his son who was in the cells—despite what he had done the father wanted him to know he still loved him and would never abandon him. Our Chaplain was able to reassure the son of his father's love.....

Court Chaplain

Alight Forum

Local leaders from Luton were invited to Moggerhanger Park to hear from Colin Urquhart from Kingdom Faith Ministries. The forum was essentially about asking the question, 'Where is Luton now?' after the events of 40 years ago when there was an incredible move of God which started when Colin was the Vicar at St Hugh's, Lewsey. It was really encouraging and interesting to reflect on the past, identify what has been achieved in terms of Christian work and ministries that have emerged in Luton, and through prayer, look forward to try and see how God will be working through the church of Luton in the future.

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