

## The Town Centre Chaplaincy – an update and a request!

During the last year the Chaplaincy has successfully been transferred from Major Ian Payne to Rev David Morgan who is based at Trinity URC in Freelands Road. Ian is now Bromley Town Centre Manager and is using his skills to develop Bromley Town Centre based on his knowledge and contacts made during his time as Town Centre Chaplain.

David's first task was to review the priorities of the Chaplaincy and to shape its future in the second phase of its development and the following plan was agreed:

- To seek God's will for the Chaplaincy (through a day of prayer)
- Nurture, support and affirm the existing associate chaplains
- Shadow/visit with each of the chaplains
- Engage with the Bromley Area Action Plan (AAP) and use this document as a vehicle for shaping the vision of Bromley and as a means of making relationships with the businesses and other interested parties in Bromley
- Recruit (and if necessary train) new chaplains
- Replace the chaplain in Marks and Spencer.

The Chaplaincy Team are pleased to report that response to the day of prayer was encouraging with a number of people who had not been involved with the Chaplaincy coming forward to pray for its success. As a result of this we have been able to replace the Chaplaincy vacancy in Marks and Spencer made vacant by the move of Alison Newman to St Mary's Shortlands. The team now has seven active chaplains with an additional three people in the wings who are considering whether they have a calling in this direction.



In common with other 'voluntary support services' demand outstrips our ability to supply. The original need identified by CTCB several years ago has been reconfirmed. We record that the health and success of the employer is directly proportional to the health and success of the workforce. People often cannot be natural and tend to put on a 'work face' or a 'home face' or a 'mates face' (or a church face) and therefore may not be able to talk about what really matters to them or what their immediate concerns are. This is where the independent, impartial, non-questioning face of the Chaplain is of great value. He or she is able to build trust and to facilitate resolution of problems and concerns by helping to put things back into proportion.

Chaplains visit businesses in the town centre on a regular basis (roughly a half day every fortnight). These visits are made with the full consent of the business management and staff but are completely independent of business. Those businesses currently being covered are Marks and Spencer, The Police Station, The Churchill Theatre, The Plaistow Lane Shopping Parade, The Glades concourse and The Civic Centre. The aim of the Chaplaincy is to target its efforts towards Shop workers, Shoppers and 'Coffee Shop Chaplaincy'

We are looking for more lay volunteers who feel they could spare some time for this valuable work. The sort of person we need is the person who says 'I couldn't possibly do that!' They need to be a member of a local faith community with some experience of business – a bridge builder between faith and business and someone with some time to give.

If you feel you would like to know more please contact David Morgan (0208 460 4679) or email him at [townchaplain@btinternet.com](mailto:townchaplain@btinternet.com) This is an ideal opportunity to show the Church actively engaging with the workplace and forms part of our outreach to the immediate community around The Parish Church.

**David Rycroft**