

## **FWW Development Plan 2018 – 21**

Faith at Work in Worcestershire (FWW) is the Ecumenical Partnership (Methodist, Anglican, URC, Roman Catholic, Baptist) that provides a focus for the churches' mission in the economy and workplaces of Worcestershire. Central to this work is promoting workplace chaplaincy as a tool to help congregations engage with their local economy. FWW now works with more than 30 volunteer chaplains from 23 churches across the county.

For chaplains, and the churches of which they are part, chaplaincy is a missionary task, reaching out into the experience of those they meet to share with them the love of God seen in Jesus Christ. By their care and concern, and willingness simply to listen, chaplains discover how God is at work in the work people do, and how God calls the Church – through people like them – to go and proclaim his Kingdom of justice, reconciliation, truth, peace and love.

As well as the volunteers there are four dual-role posts based in Anglican parishes and, until recently, the Diocese has also part-funded two central staff posts. With pressure on resources these two posts can no longer be sustained by the Diocese alone.

To address these changes, and sustain and further develop its work, the FWW trustees have adopted a three year development plan. Key priorities include:

- To continue to work with local churches in promoting volunteer workplace chaplains.
- To encourage Christians in the workplace in their discipleship of Jesus Christ.
- To sustain the work of FWW through securing funds to employ a part-time Development Officer, provide office space and administrative and chaplain support.
- To develop the charitable status of FWW as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and recruit more trustees from workplace partners.

**To implement this plan FWW is looking to the support of its partner denominations and local congregations to secure additional annual funding of £31,000 for the next three years.**

### **Sally's Story – one chaplain's experience of workplace chaplaincy**

*Sally is a workplace chaplain with the town centre team in Redditch.*

"I really enjoy workplace chaplaincy. I feel that many people have no contact with a church and that 'we' should not expect them to come to 'us'. Chaplaincy offers a wonderful opportunity to go out into the world and meet people in their place of work, in my case that means people working in shops. When I began I attended a short course, run over 6 evenings by Dick, the FWW development officer. He then supported me to pioneer the mission into three medium sized stores. I now visit these shops every month to chat, confidentially, with the staff about life, work, joys and stresses. When I first meet people I make it clear that I am a chaplain and I am proud to wear my badge. Staff are always busy, but it is amazing the conversations I have as people get to know me and seem pleased to be able to open up about their experience of work to someone who will listen, empathise and understand the pressures and problems they face.



The conversation often touches on those things of concern to God, for example, where people feel undervalued, isolated and are searching for meaning. There are joys to be celebrated; sorrows and fears to be faced; gospel connections to be made; prayers to be offered.

Our local team, of nine chaplains, meet once a month to reflect together on our chaplaincy, read the bible, encourage and pray for one other, as well as praying for those at work in the area we visit."

**This is a short summary of the FWW Development Plan 2018 – 2021. For more details please see the full text on our website, [www.faithatwork.org.uk](http://www.faithatwork.org.uk)**