

Putting faith to work



Churches for Work
and Social Justice
www.ccisr.org.uk

signposts to engaging with the world

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Police Chaplaincy in Swindon and Wiltshire



Revd Dr Richard Armitage

Richard Armitage was the first chaplain to be appointed to Wiltshire Police and commenced his work in December 2005. He is supported by the Police Force and ISR, with the aid of Bristol Diocese.

As a Church of England minister, Richard works as Senior Chaplain to the Force at Headquarters. At the same time he oversees a team of 15 voluntary chaplains from different faith traditions. They serve locally throughout Bristol and Salisbury Dioceses, including Chippenham, North Wiltshire and Swindon Deaneries. Team members include Simon Tatton-Brown at Chippenham, Ruth Gillings at Corsham and Shirley Danby at Cricklade and Malmesbury.

Richard also supports churches in Swindon Deanery through leading worship and in mission.

As with other forms of mission, it is important for each chaplain to understand the work and culture of the police service, and the pressures under which officers and staff work. Richard guides their training so that the chaplaincy gains the trust of the Force while affirming the contribution it makes to the life of the community. The team is committed to working alongside management yet retains its independence within the

organisational structure of the Force.

The role of the chaplains is to be available to support officers, staff and their families as they encounter situations in which support can be offered. These can vary enormously but might include bereavement, stress related situations, work and family relationships.

As Richard says, "Religion and spirituality are not separate components of life; and those people who do not regard themselves as "religious", may experience something of a spiritual identity, which permeates into and influences other areas of their lives." Chaplaincy to Wiltshire Police offers a service to the whole Force, which includes care and support for people of any or no faith/religious tradition.

If you would like to know more about becoming a police chaplain in Swindon and Wiltshire, please contact Revd Dr Richard Armitage, at richard.armitage@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk



Mrs Farzana Saker

Chaplain to Trowbridge
Police Station



Revd David Gray

Chaplain to Gablecross and
Highworth Police Stations
and the Roads Policing
Unit



Being a an ISR Police Chaplain



Revd Simon Tatton - Brown

Having previously worked as a probation officer for seven years, in 1982 I was invited to serve as Chaplain to the Greater Manchester Police training college (which was in my then parish). A chance conversation with the Wiltshire Police Chaplain revived my interest, and I have been Chaplain at Chippenham Police Station since 2008.

Being a chaplain is one of the ways in which the church can get out of its comfort zone and into the places where people lead their lives. The police are at the sharp end of this. Officers like being able to talk frankly with an outsider who is at the same time 'one of them', knowing they won't be judged and what they say goes no further. The public too like to see the church visibly out and about; and I get to meet parishioners whom I rarely see in church!

Come and celebrate



[Bristol Cathedral](#)

on 19th October

10.30am to 2pm

All welcome!

Campaign for a Living Wage in Swindon

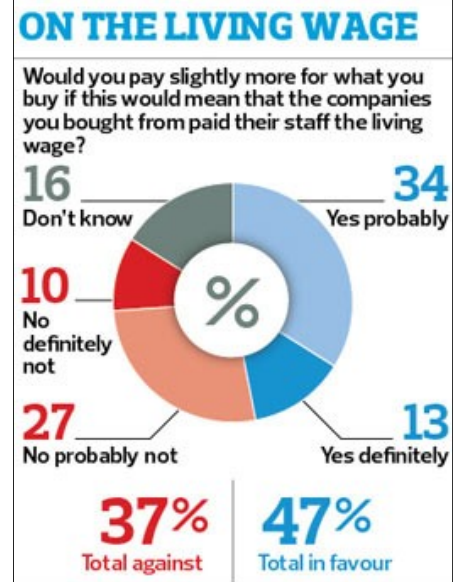
The newly formed Swindon group of The Equalities Trust met in The Harbour Project at St Luke's Church on 26 July. The main issue was the introduction of the Living Wage across Swindon. Participants in Swindon Churches Social Economic Group (SCSEG) joined in the conversations.

The Archbishop of York, John Sentamu, had previously challenged the nation's employers about paying the Living Wage. Quoted in last Sunday's Observer newspaper (21 July 13) he raised the issue of social justice and low rates of hourly pay. One aim was to see York become a Living Wage city.

Citizens UK and the Living Wage Foundation propose that rather than people receiving the statutory minimum of £6.19, a higher level is needed if they are going to survive: £8.45 in London and £7.45 in the rest of England and Wales. Even this is not going to make them rich but at least they will be better able to provide for their homes and families.

The Archbishop's voice is not alone with Ed Miliband saying, "The Living Wage is an important idea." and Boris Johnson maintaining "Paying the London Living Wage is not only morally right, but makes good business sense too." Political, Union and Church Leaders are uniting behind the campaign.

284 businesses and 45,000 people have already benefited from the introduction of the Living Wage which helps lift people out of poverty by



offering practical recognition of the contribution made by employees. Over 80 councils across England and Wales have agreed to take it up, including Bristol and South Gloucestershire. Some councils have scrapped their lowest pay bands to achieve this. Swindon Council is considering the Living Wage and is willing to meet with local representatives of The Equalities Trust. But there is no news of a response yet from Wiltshire.

Revd Gordon Hindmarch, Social Justice and Environment Officer, says, "While the church welcomes this national campaign to address the injustice of low rates of pay, the challenge is to ensure that all church employees are receiving at least the Living Wage. We need to ensure that our own house is in order."

Further details may be found on <http://www.livingwage.org.uk> and <http://www.equalitytrust.org.uk>

which also has a Bristol Group. Gordon may be contacted at the ISR Office on 0117 955 7430 or gordon@ccisr.org.uk

Tackling Illegal Money Lending in Swindon

The problem

One Swindon Partnership reports that illegal money lending is a crime affecting around 310,000 households across the country. These lenders, often known as loan sharks, target vulnerable people within society and have a hugely damaging effect.

A typical loan shark traps victims into a never-ending spiral of debt, with exorbitant rates of interest and extra charges. Many will resort to extreme methods to enforce repayment such as threats of violence or intimidation.

One person who took out a £250 car loan was forced to repay £90,000 until he contacted the England Illegal Money Lending Team. This Team of enforcement officers and community-based LIAISE* officers works alongside partner agencies to identify offenders. It has secured over 255 prosecutions, leading to more than 165 years worth of custodial sentences, written off illegal debt to the tune of £40.3 million and helped over 20,000 victims.

A victim helped by the Team said, *"Life is absolutely fantastic now - we don't have to worry about money anymore and I'm happier than I've ever been. Were going on holiday as a family for the first time in 17 years - I can't imagine ever being able to do this before. Contacting the Team is the best thing I could ever have done. I'm living the life I should be living."*

How can we help?

Removing illegal money lenders can positively impact on communities and dramatically change the lives of individuals, who no longer have to live in fear.

One Swindon Partnership involves the main public service organisations as well as JobCentre Plus, Great Western Hospital, Community and local Church groups. It is promoting a week of action in Swindon focused on the issue of illegal money lending from the 7th October 2013. For details see http://www.oneswindon.org.uk/ssp-index/partnershipnewsletters/august_2013.htm

To get involved or for more information about how the Illegal Money Lending Team can work with you, please contact LIAISE manager Catherine Wohlers: catherine.wohlers@birmingham.gov.uk

To report a loan shark call the England Illegal Money Lending Team in confidence on 0300 555 2222, lines are open 24/7. Text 'loan shark + your message' to 60003. Email reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.gov.uk

For more information log on to www.direct.gov.uk/stoploansharks

LIAISE* = Leads in Awareness, Intelligence, Support and Education



Myths about Poverty

Myth 4

'They're on the fiddle'

Nearly 60% of the UK population agrees that the poor could cope if only they handled their money properly. The experience of living on a low income is one of constant struggle to manage limited resources, with small events having serious consequences. Statistics show that the poorest spend their money carefully, limiting themselves to the essentials.

Make Your Money Count, Ethical Finance Conference

Saturday 12th October

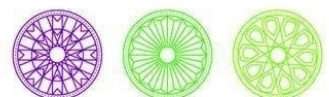
10am-3.30pm,

Broadmead Baptist Church

Bristol

A one day Conference to explore the ethical issues around money with experts in the field, and how we can use our money to make a difference in the world. Banks, 'ethical' investment, tax havens and more.

Book your place here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/7819539453>



ETHICAL FINANCE
Conference 2013
Sponsored by ethex

Renewable Energy at Windmill Hill

Windmill Hill, Bedminster takes its name from an early system for generating renewable energy - the medieval mill which used to grind corn using wind power. Today, at St Michael's Church, it is the site of two innovative technologies which utilise solar power for producing heat and light.

In early 2009 a number of solar photo-voltaic cells were installed on the church roof as part of an on-going project to reduce the Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) profile. Instead of using electricity entirely from the mains supply, which depends largely on fossil fuels, this was significantly replaced with electricity produced by harnessing the sun's energy. As well as saving on costs, it raised public concern throughout Windmill Hill for the way God's creation is treated.

St Michael's Church was granted Planning Permission by Bristol City Council and a Faculty Approval by the Diocesan Advisory Committee to allow this to happen. Initial costs were met by grants from the Low Carbon Building Programme and EDF Energy in addition to donations from members and supporters of the church. Energy savings and the Feed In Tariff (FiT) paid for by the Government are adding to the church's precious income.

In 2012 St Michael's took a further step forward with renewable energy by installing a solar thermal system. An additional panel was fitted on the church roof which generates hot water from the sun's heat. This is stored in an insulated

tank and is used in the kitchen and washrooms.



St Michael's is one of the first churches in the UK to use solar panels for both heat and electricity generation. It has been featured in the short film *Nurture in His Name—Solar Power* which is introduced by the Archbishops of both Canterbury and Westminster. It contains an interview with Revd David Moss, Vicar at St Michael's who tells the amazing story of how the church stepped out in faith in using solar energy. <http://www.youtube.com/user/NurtureInHisName>

St Michael's is clearly a "Good News" church which takes its green credentials very seriously and promotes environmental initiatives throughout the community. The use of renewable energy supports the church's vision for *Making Christ known in presence and action* by using its building seven days each week for worship, arts and music, various children's groups and community engagement. For more details see www.stmichaelandallangels.info



Revd David Moss

Going Deeper with the Lord Mayor and Gromit



Lois Emm (ISR Volunteer), Hugh Webber (Transform Work UK) Councillor Faruk Choudhury, Revd Gordon Hindmarch

More than 500 participants from all parts of Bristol took part in the Going Deeper – Festival of Life at the Colston Hall. Following on from the 2012 Spectrum event held in Bristol Cathedral, it was an opportunity for the wider public to discover more about the work of 57 Christian groups who are active in the wider community. This took place through stalls, seminars, the arts and music. Visitors included the Lord Mayor of Bristol, Councillor Faruk Choudhury and Gromit, who was unleashed to raise funds for Bristol Children's Hospital.

ISR took a leading part in arranging the Going Deeper event using it to promoting workplace chaplaincy, b.friend and social justice issues. It was a busy day for the staff team who met many new and old friends, including the ISR network voluntary chaplains.



Revd Andy Sewell (Chaplain to Broadmead & Canon Angela Overton Benge (Senior Workplace Chaplain Swindon)

Food Poverty: What Does the Evidence Tell Us? – a new report from Bristol.

Food poverty is hitting the headlines, but what does it mean - surely in a wealthy place like the United Kingdom everyone has enough to eat?

A new report for Bristol's Food Policy Council provides a valuable summary. It looks at evidence from reputable studies like the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's 'Minimum Income Research Programme' and the government's 'Family Food Survey'. The report, produced by the Public Health team of Bristol City Council, summarises what the research tells us, as well as including some information for Bristol.

The take home message is that whichever way we look at it, around four million people in the UK cannot afford a healthy diet. This is partly because the price of healthy nutritious food has been rising, meaning those on low incomes resort to choosing cheaper processed foods high in sugar and saturated fat but low in nutrients. The UK Low Income Diet and Nutrition Survey, commissioned by the Food Standards Agency, found that people on low incomes were more likely to have:

- Lower than recommended consumption of fruit and vegetables
- Higher than recommended consumption of sugar and saturated fatty acids
- Low intakes of dietary fibre
- Diets poor in iron, folate and vitamin D
- Over a third of low income households said they could not afford balanced meals

This is particularly worrying for the health of children, and the data show that between 2007 and 2011 the price of healthy food rose and nutrition got worse. One quarter of children in Bristol are growing up in households unable to afford, or to have access to, food to make up a healthy diet. Food poverty is not just about hunger, but about being appropriately nourished to attain and maintain health.

A growing number of community groups and charities are working to improve our food. Many local food co-operatives are buying healthy ingredients in bulk so members receive them at cost price, there are local food growing projects like Avon Wildlife Trust's Feed Bristol, Severn Project, Sims Hill, The Community Farm and The Matthew Tree Project, as well as numerous community kitchens and cooking projects. Charities like FareShare and FoodCycle redistribute food that would otherwise be wasted and provide it to those in need. Centres run by non-profit organisations where donated food is redistributed to people in need are seeing a significant increase in clients. These include food banks run by the Trussell Trust and other local organisations as well as The Matthew Tree Project's fighting food poverty centres. The Bristol Food Policy Council is working to bring about change in our whole approach to food. They see 'Good Food' as being not just tasty, healthy and affordable. It also needs to be good for nature, good for workers, good for local businesses, and good for animal welfare. Their 2012 Food Charter sets out their aims.

Further Information can be found in;

The Food Poverty report, appendix, and the Food Charter:

<http://bristolfoodpolicycouncil.org/>

The 'Who Feeds Bristol' report:

<http://bristolgreencapital.org/latest/2011/09/who-feeds-bristol/>

Information from the Bristol Food Network:

<http://www.bristolfoodnetwork.org/>



Book Now!

"More than food – expressing compassion, expecting justice!"

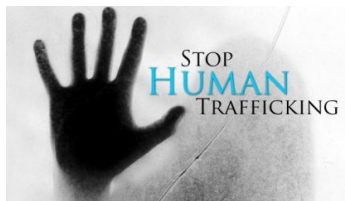
**South West Churches event
(with the Bishop of Salisbury)**

When: Tuesday 22nd October
10.30am to 3.30pm

Where: St Michaels,
Stoke Gifford, Bristol.
BS34 8PD

To book your place contact ISR
on 0117 955 7430 or
admin@ccisr.org.uk

at the Bristol Anti-Trafficking Partnership Conference



Over the past year b.friend has seen an increase in referrals from Unseen, a charity who along with their campaigning work, have been commissioned to support survivors of human trafficking by providing a package of care in their safe house in the Bristol area. These women are entitled to housing, advice and support for a given period of time whilst they recover from their ordeal and reflect on what to do next. All of the women currently being befriended have left the safe house, claimed asylum and are now in receipt of asylum housing and support or have been granted refugee status and are living in homeless hostels. It has been eye opening for me to meet these women, hear some of their stories and realise afresh the horror of modern day slavery that is becoming a feature of every town and city.

Bristol has formed an Anti-Trafficking Partnership (ATP) the mission of which is to support and enable the discovery of and response to incidents of human trafficking and exploitation through a victim-centred, multi-disciplinary, and collaborative community effort. It was interesting to attend the recent ATP conference which was organised by Unseen, Bristol City Council and Avon and Somerset Police. The delegates were representatives from the

Council, Law practices, the NHS and voluntary sector charities. Sue Mountstevens, Avon & Bristol PCC gave a galvanising opening address encouraging us to be champions for the cause and raise awareness with those that we work with. It's reassuring to know that Bristol is forging ahead with a united approach and that the work of b.friend is part of this.

If you want to learn more about this ISR project, contact Sam Sayer at b.friend.

sam@b-friend.org.uk

From the ISR Chairman



The unusually glorious summer sadly also brought to reality the need for Jon Doble to pursue his personal calling and mission back within the Methodist ministry. He has moved to pastor a group of congregations in Devon and we wish him happiness and success.

Jon gave so much more than we could have reasonably expected. He diligently and steadfastly worked at the most challenging task of engineering essential change in the structure and purpose of ISR and he has left us with a clearer basis for continuing our own mission. We are all immensely grateful to him for his work, his perseverance and his unfailing kindness.

In offering time to hold the reins for a period I am acutely conscious that the Board and the working team still have much work to do to give a clearer view of our calling and mission and how, within the testing financial climate, we can deliver

sustainably.

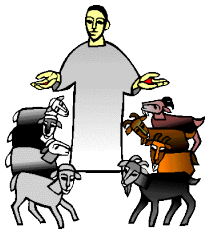
We need most of all to understand and perfect the means of support to encourage growth in personal commitment that we must offer to Christians within congregations but also to those who remain as believers but currently fail to engage successfully with established churches. To this end I will arrange a series of discussions between board members and staff during the autumn and ensure that, in spite of change, we will not lose our momentum.

We have an obligation to be optimistic about our intent. A favourite quote from a chap called David Landes rather sums it up for me; 'In this world, the optimists have it, not because they are always right, but because they are positive. Even when they're wrong, they are positive, and that is the way of achievement, correction, improvement, and success. Educated, eyes-open optimism pays. Pessimism can only offer the empty consolation of being right.' *Dr John Savage*

"Putting faith to work" is at the heart of what ISR is about, as we work to make a difference in the community, in the workplace and in the church.

We are here to raise issues of social responsibility and social justice, and to support churches in their mission and ministry, so we hope you will find this information useful and an encouragement to get involved. There is much more information on our website www.ccisr.org.uk and we would love to hear from you.

Please note: all web links in this publication are 'active'. If you read this online, hovering over the links will enable you to visit the web site.



The Chaplain's Charter

What is being a chaplain all about? One answer is, "Go out and share the Gospel by your life and, if necessary, use words."

Jesus's words to his disciples offer a personal charter to chaplains, who go out into a variety of situations to meet people where they are.

'I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes, I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in prison and you came to me.'

'What are you talking about?' they replied. 'When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?'

'Believe me: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.'

Based on Jesus's Parable of the Sheep and the Goats in Matthew 25: 31-46



Training Opportunities

Avon & Somerset Faith Communities

Major Emergency Plan

A Multi-Faith Response to a Major Emergency or Disaster

An ISR volunteering project in conjunction with the

Avon & Somerset Constabulary

If you were a victim in a major emergency –

who would help you?

When a major incident occurs, the statutory services respond swiftly. However, the victims of major emergencies often need the sort of pastoral support these services are not equipped to provide. Faith communities can play an important part - but only if we are ready to respond in an effective, coordinated and appropriate way. To this end a Faith Communities' Major Emergency Plan was set up in the 1980s and now provides support for the entire Avon and Somerset Constabulary area.

Although we regularly recruit new volunteers, each year some of our team members retire or move away. Right now more volunteers are needed if we are to provide adequate cover on a rota basis, bearing in mind that in the event of a major emergency a proportion of our team may not be available for a variety of reasons.

There are a couple of things you can do to help:

- If you are not already a volunteer please consider joining us.
- Please publicise this opportunity among members of your congregation who would be willing to provide help and support to all victims of major emergencies – those of any faith or none.

The next days for potential volunteers will take place on

Friday 18th October and Friday 15th November

at the Avon & Somerset Police HQ, Portishead

If you or any of your colleagues or members of your congregation are interested, please contact Andy Paget, Senior Police Chaplain for Avon & Somerset Constabulary for more details, by email at andy@ccisr.org.uk or by phone on 0117 9557430.



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