



# SOWNNEWS

*Seeds of Faith Hope Joy and  
Meaning in the World of Work*



CHURCHES TOGETHER  
IN DERBYSHIRE

Promoting Workplace Ministry in Derbyshire

Quarterly Review August 2007



## **FROM SYNAGOGUE TO AGORA AND AREOPAGUS**

*Around 51C.E, Paul arrived in Athens, and waiting for Silas and Timothy to join him, (Acts 17:15ff), he shared his time for mission between the synagogue and the market place. That sounds familiar to those of us engaged in workplace ministry. Our task is to set up a dialogue between faith and today's all-powerful market place. Many would doubt the validity of our mission. Some would say there is no possibility of common ground or mutual interest – or dialogue. Others would perhaps say that what we are about is simply supporting Christians at work. I would say that the latter is an essential part of workplace ministry, but only a part. I wonder if Paul, like the Derby City Centre Churches, would have been able to negotiate use, among others, of the Big Screen in the City's public space (see above). Sharing a medium with the other civic and retail enterprises of the city's modern agora is about dialogue and partnership in which we can engage with the live issues of our City.*

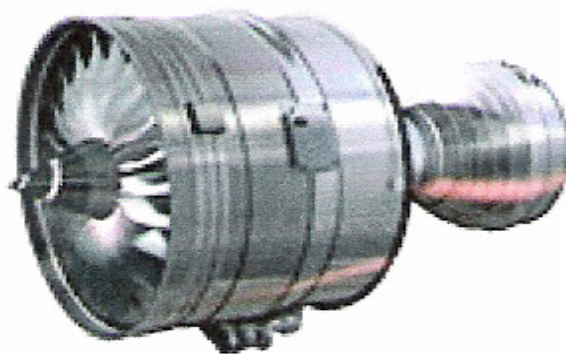
*It was while engaging with the citizens of Athens in the market place, amongst the statues of the city's gods, that what Paul had to say moved from Synagogue into public debate – into the court of the Areopagus. Here, the great issues of the day were meticulously examined, judgements made and public attitudes were formed which today would resource the media.*

*Today's market place is global. Mission used to be about sending men and women out in the exploration of foreign parts – to convert them. In our globalised Areopagus, 'them' are now 'us' in a diverse equality of culture and belief. A Christian presence and involvement in this complex changing world of continuous public opinion forming is still as vital, especially in the field of wealth and poverty creation. We must not isolate ourselves in synagogues of private thoughts and ready-to-wear theology. As with St. Paul, as he crossed commercial and intellectual cultures, our mission today must be a cycle continuously moving between church, agora and Areopagus, if we are serious in sharing the God in whom we live and move and have our being.*



# WORK IN WORSHIP

*“Go in peace to  
love and serve  
the Lord in the name  
of Christ”*



The Trent XWB engine

*‘For when one says, “I belong to Paul” and another, “I belong to Apollos” are you not merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose and each will receive wages according to the labour of each. For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building.*

*According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder, I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no-one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, hay, straw – the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. If the work is burned, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire’.*

*1 Corinthians 3: 5- 15 NRSV.*

St. Paul works with an analogy from the world of work. He writes of partnership, mutual recognition the cumulative effect of good work, quality outcomes – of continuous improvement and working together for a common purpose. We might use the Trent series of Rolls-Royce engines as an example. The XWB is the latest. It will be the most efficient, and the most environmentally friendly engine yet. Into its design and production will go years of shared accumulated knowledge, technical expertise and practical experience. The churches, following St. Paul, can learn much from industry, its adaptability and its rewards.

Many will not have heard of Kirtley, Johnson, Deeley and Fowler. These were the chief mechanical engineers of the Midland Railway in Derby between 1844 and 1923. They built on each other’s work. The Midland Railway, its locomotives and style were always recognisable wherever it went – like the churches founded by Paul along the roads of the empire – the railways of his time. The railway, like Paul, was not always well received. The most famous example was the city of Sheffield which the North Midland Railway bypassed because the good citizens refused to have it. Can the Churches read the signs of the times adapt, and employ all its accumulated wisdom and resources and avoid being bypassed as the world – and God – moves on?

Lord God, in whom all worlds,  
All life, all work began;  
Give us the faith to know  
We serve your master plan.  
How happy they who thus have found  
Contentment in the daily round

But when good work receives  
No adequate reward;  
When meaningless routines  
Leave willing workers bored;;  
When time is spent in needless strife:  
Make us ashamed, O Lord, of life.

So for tomorrow’s sake,  
Teach us new skills today,  
To do your perfect will  
In our imperfect way,  
And live as those whom you have called  
To be your workforce in the world.

*Fred Pratt Green*



# SPIRITUALITY OF WORK NETWORK

*Spirituality is the process of living out a set of deeply held personal values, of honouring forces or a presence greater than ourselves. It expresses our desire to find meaning in, and treat as an offering, what we do. (Peter block)*

*Work is the use of energy for a purpose (anon)*

*From the logo of an Austrian Industrial Mission:  
Hier arbeitet ein Mensch – It's a human being who works here.*

## ABOUT IMD'S SOWN NETWORK

### IMD's SOWN Discussion Forum

You will find this on the Derby Diocesan Website [www.derby.anglican.org](http://www.derby.anglican.org), click Grapevine and then Discussion Forums. However, you need to register first. You can do this by contacting **Phil Johnson** [imd01@queenshall.plus.com](mailto:imd01@queenshall.plus.com) or completing the form below and returning it to: **Industrial Mission in Derbyshire, Queens Hall Methodist Mission, 125, London Road, Derby DE1 2QQ.**

## REGISTRATION WITH SOWN

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Postcode.....Tel.....

E mail.....

Occupation.....

Any Church/Faith affiliation.....

.....

\* I understand that the above data is freely given and will not be used by IMD for any other than for SOWN purposes

Signed..... Date.....



*“Open for body and soul; Coffee and Cakes; vitamins for the soul; information about God and the World; conversation and a contact point. Sign outside the Ecumenical chapel and coffee bar at Centro near Oberhausen in the Ruhrgebiet.- Germany’s biggest shopping complex*

## The SOWN Objectives

- (1) *To promote the positive roles of religion and culture in Derbyshire in relation to the world of work.*
- (2) *To create the means for faith communities, industrial, commercial, public service, voluntary organisations and interested individuals to engage with spiritual issues in the world of work*
- (3) *To develop tools and know-how for churches to take part in initiatives to address the quality of work, the problems of unemployment and strategies for social inclusion through training and good work*

## The Programme

- *To create a network of individuals, faith groups, management and union organisations and others concerned with the quality of work and the conditions of working life*
- *To compose a prayer cycle for the use of MMA's, Circuits, Congregations and others for the welfare of the county's workplaces and those directing, managing and working in them.*

Please support IMD by registering with SOWN and sharing your ideas and experiences with each other in the Discussion Forum. The only posted message so far is from me, asking you to join in! *Ian Winterbottom.*



# IMD CHAPLAINCY NETWORK

*Creating opportunities for, and supporting Chaplaincy in the City and County in manufacturing, retail, public service, health, education, agriculture and leisure and tourism.*



*Sheena Bryden is to be chaplain on the Airfield Estate at Ashbourne. She will be commissioned during the morning service at St. Oswald's Church on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Sheena also helps in the IMD office at Queens Hall, and is an Anglican Reader.*

## **Courts Chaplaincy**

*The appointment of Courts Chaplains for HMCS in Notts and Derby is moving a step nearer.*

*Ian Winterbottom is a member of a Ministry of Justice group in London, and has recently met the local Courts Director for our two counties. The chaplaincy service planned will be multi-faith, and two meetings of faith leaders are planned in Derby and Nottingham for November. The plan is to advertise first for voluntary chaplains to the Magistrates' Courts in Chesterfield, Derby, Mansfield and Nottingham and the Combined Courts in the two cities. We are very grateful for the encouragement both of the local Courts Service, and of Revd John Stride, the full time chaplain to the South Yorkshire courts.*



## **The Diocesan Research Project**

*On 11<sup>th</sup> July Dr. Wendy Dackson from Ripon College Cuddesdon interviewed a group of chaplains from various contexts in industry, transport, retail and entertainment. It was a lively and engaging dialogue. The purpose of the Project is to help in planning the next stages on the life of Diocese. It was particularly useful to include non-Anglicans and lay chaplains. It gave us a chance to reflect with Wendy on our work in ways which will have a positive influence on Diocesan policy and practice in mission and ministry.*



*What is the Church doing in the City Centre? Derby's Central United Reformed Church is one of eight City Centre churches working together on the answer.*

**What are the Churches doing in the City Centre?**  
The question has a double meaning. First, why are they there, when very few people live there? Secondly, if it is there what is the content of its mission and ministry? Page 1 may give something of a biblical foundation. The Centre is the City's public place where the denominations have their iconic buildings amongst the other public buildings. From a chaplaincy perspective, it is probably the county's biggest daily workplace (and by night the largest entertainment venue). It is therefore a natural context for chaplaincy – being present alongside people in the strains and stresses of their daily work.

At the moment we have only one part-time voluntary lay chaplain in the city centre – George Seabury, who is doing a great job. We hope soon to commission another voluntary chaplain. However, IMD needs a team of at least 3 more chaplains to work with the City Centre church leaders as they develop their ecumenical ministry together in this fast-changing context.



*New opportunity for City centre Chaplaincy – The New Westfield Centre – getting ready for opening in October this year*