

SUPPORTING BIRMINGHAM'S BUSINESS  
COMMUNITY BY HELPING PEOPLE TO

**THRIVE**

ChaplaincyPlus  
Annual Report

**2020 - 2021**



# COMMUNITY

CITY VIBES

## OUR PURPOSE

is to **support and inspire** the Birmingham business community to **live life to the full**.

## OUR VALUES



The business community in Birmingham matters.



The intellectual, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing of all people matters.



Caring for the welfare of people in the business community enhances the welfare of Birmingham.

## OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

### BIRMINGHAM WELLBEING ALLIANCE

To offer the business community thought leadership and practical support in the area of employee wellbeing.

### CHRISTIAN BUSINESS NETWORK

To maintain and grow the supportive network of Christians in the business community.



## UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEES & TEAM

As we look back on what has been a year like no other in living memory, we stand amazed that the work of ChaplaincyPlus has continued to flourish, through periods of lock-down and isolation for many. It's been a tough year and we've seen people on our network suffer losses of both loved ones and employment, but our God has been the one constant thing and we give him thanks even when in the midst of adversity.

We still have a small team of talented, dedicated staff together with faithful volunteers who help us in different ways and we are truly thankful for each and every one of them. Steve and the team have adapted well to a new environment of one to one meetings, and annual events being held online, but keeping connected with the network has been challenging.

As restrictions ease and hybrid working becomes possible, we are glad to be arranging some meetings in-person, alongside continuing online connections – and we look forward to the day we can meet again as a whole ChaplaincyPlus network, opening the doors for an in person event!

As the year has progressed, we have been delighted to launch the Birmingham Wellbeing Alliance. We have been more aware than ever, over the past year, how much this responds to the needs of businesses and their employees in the city. Mental Health and Wellbeing is such a major issue at the moment: as a board, we felt God telling us we need to respond. We value your continuing prayers, as we journey together in the adventure of this major step of faith.

Finally thank you to each and every one of you for your on-going support, we could not do what we do without you by our side.

**Mark Jowett**

*Chair of ChaplaincyPlus Trustees*

We are so grateful for our good friends who have volunteered their time or partnered with us at ChaplaincyPlus over the year including; Nathanael Fittro, Tim Roberts, Sue Noyes, Carol Wilson, Chris Whittington, Sue Iqbal, Valerie Sahonta, Terry Wilbanks and John & Maria Price with the Manresa Link Prayer Guides. Our current trustees are listed on the back page.

TOGETHER

## CHRISTIAN BUSINESS NETWORK

ChaplaincyPlus has continued serving Christians in the business community in a variety of ways during the year, finding online alternatives to enable our support to continue. The team carried on with one to one meetings, supporting workplace Christian groups, and running events large and small. These included an online Carols Service, and 'A Very Birmingham Advent' – a short online thought, carol or reading daily through December.

## GROUPS

### City Women

Supporting each other through both the opportunities and the challenges of working life, our City Women network of over 200 gets together for regular lunchtime events, online or in person, responding to the heart and soul of our work.

### City Men

Offering an opportunity for men to come together over Zoom for lunch, City Men has thrived with a theme of 'My Journey, My Faith' – with testimonies from different 'City Men'. Speakers included a paramedic and an entrepreneur who survived the pandemic by providing a much-needed coffee from the back of a van!

### City Legal

Providing a forum for over 200 people from the legal profession to explore Christian faith and legal practice, our weekly breakfast on Friday mornings on Zoom replaced the monthly in-person breakfast, and included a 'City Legal Leaders' series – inviting senior leaders to speak about the impact of the pandemic on their area of law.

### City Vibes

Supporting and encouraging young adults from all backgrounds with their working lives, the group offers fun events, conversations around different topics, and a flourishing and growing online community. A new monthly film club was trialled which has become a regular event and members are now organising their own in-person socials to continue building community.

### City Sustainability

Providing the opportunity to talk and pray around environmental topics, this monthly group launched during lockdown to discuss how we can each care for our planet. Each session has a short talk, discussion and prayer.

### Contemplation and Prayer

Offering online Christian meditation every Saturday morning to give people space to slow down, we are offering prayer practices that have stood the test of the centuries; we have also organised our annual Retreat in Daily Working Life for the 10th year running.

## BIRMINGHAM WELLBEING ALLIANCE

*The past 18 months of the pandemic have not only increased the need for wellbeing support but created a necessary wake-up call to businesses actually to do something about it!*

The Birmingham Wellbeing Alliance (BWA) has been set up to meet this need and launched in Autumn 2021. The BWA is about the 3 Cs: Communication, Collaboration and Community. The powerful idea of an Alliance will strengthen relationships with fellow member businesses in promoting the wellbeing agenda throughout the city.

An Alliance empowers participants to strengthen relationships with fellow member businesses in promoting the wellbeing agenda across the city. This is the cornerstone of BWA's objective to support.

Going forward, we are looking to develop a wider offer to businesses in the city, including a user-friendly digital wellbeing platform to reach a larger number of workers to improve their wellbeing. Contact us if you would like to introduce your firm to the BWA.

### The Birmingham Wellbeing Forum

One outcome of the pandemic was the acceleration of the establishment of the Wellbeing Forum – an online meeting for people who support colleagues as Wellbeing Champions or Mental Health First Aiders. This had been planned for launch in 2021, but this was brought forward when we realised the impact of isolation and changes had made to individuals' mental health. This successful bi-monthly lunchtime group has trained and supported over 100 individuals in the last 12 months.

Wellbeing Forum: Supporting Wellbeing Champions presents...

SPRING  
STEPPING  
STONES

CITY WOMEN WALK

# ENCOURAGEMENT

ZOOM EVENT



"It is one of the wonderful strengths of your work at ChaplaincyPlus that you pay attention to individuals."

"I am particularly grateful, for the discussion we had when I was looking for direction, after my mother's death. May God Bless you for all you do, for those who are being salt and light in the world of work."

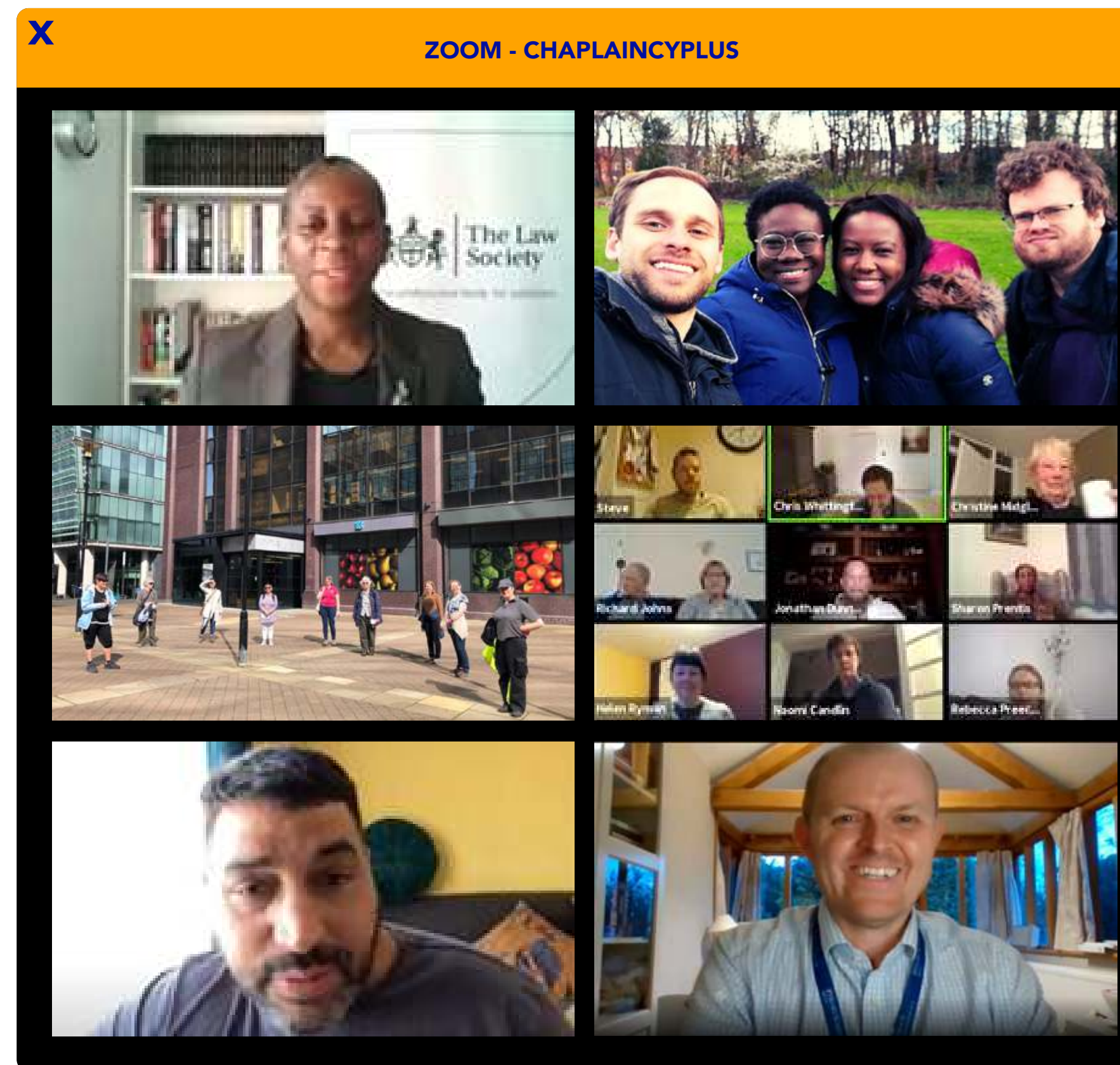
"I really want to thank you again for your prayers and support over the past few months as I faced redundancy and then with all that ensued as a result of losing my job, I am extremely grateful."

"ChaplaincyPlus is very personal, very supportive of my whole wellbeing not just my work. They're great!"

"Thank you for all the work you do to put these events on: they are encouraging."

"I'd like to thank you for your immense support earlier in the year. It's been a tough year hasn't it?"

"Your many hours of listening, your prayers, your hope and insight, your willingness to journey with me through my darkness has helped me to focus on the hope and light of the world."



TO WATCH OUR VIDEOS CLICK ON AN IMAGE OR SEARCH CHAPLAINCYPLUS ON YOUTUBE

# GRATITUDE



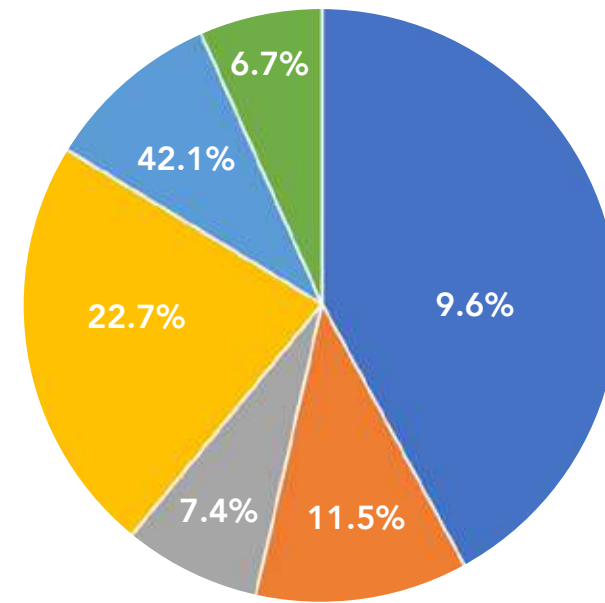
STEPHANIE BOYCE EVENT

Photo courtesy of law.ac.uk

## INCOME & EXPENDITURE

SEPTEMBER 2020 – AUGUST 2021

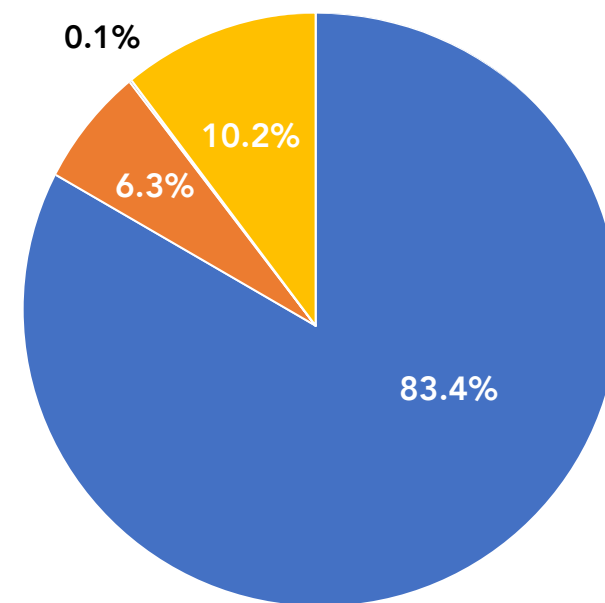
### INCOME



Total Income: £72,019

- Regular income - Individual
- Regular income - Trust
- One off - Individual
- One off - Trust
- Tax reclaimable & other
- Wellbeing & event income

### EXPENDITURE



Total Expenditure: £75,360

- Staff Costs
- Support & Admin
- Events & Groups
- Office & IT

This year has been another tight year financially, and through careful management of our finances and thanks to the generosity of all those who give we ended the financial year with a slight deficit in our accounts. Covid again played a part in some of the difficulty in fundraising, but also contributed to lower expenditure than expected, so we continue to be blessed.

Last year we had another successful one-off week of prayer and giving in March. This annual event is a helpful way to remind the network that we still need to raise individual giving in order to continue to support the Christian Business Network of Birmingham. These events are a wonderful way of mobilising our network, who are passionate about what we do, to stand with us at a key moment in our history.

## OUR SUPPORTERS

As all charities, we head into the new financial year with funding challenges, but we are grateful to our staff and volunteers who helped oversee the finances. We are also thankful to the trusts and organisations who contributed financially to the work over the last 12 months including:

- GJW Turner Charitable Trust
- Lady Tange Charitable Trust
- Limoges
- Roger & Douglas Turner Trust
- St Johns Church Harborne
- Olton Baptist Church
- Knowle Parochial Parish Church
- Riverside Church
- The Alastair & Rachael Norris Trust

ChaplaincyPlus would not exist without the generous support of those who choose to partner with us, through either a regular commitment or a one-off gift, and we are hugely thankful for this support. We hope and pray that this report will encourage you and also prompt others to be part of the journey with us.

# SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS

Day-to-day we support and encourage individuals, offering a neutral and confidential space for professionals to explore issues of life and work – regardless of background or beliefs.

ChaplaincyPlus provides regular wellbeing & listening support for The University of Law Birmingham and St Philips Chambers and we are looking to expand this service in to other business as we grow the work.

# CURRENT TRUSTEES

Mark Jowett (Chair)

Matt Williams

Chris Watson

Alan Holdsworth

Amy Tabari

Alexia Binns

Get Connected: [www.chaplaincyplus.org.uk/signup](http://www.chaplaincyplus.org.uk/signup)

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ChaplaincyPlus is registered in England as a Registered Charity: No 1100383 and a Company Limited by Guarantee No. 4863634

