

COMMENTS FROM OUR ACTING VICE CHAIR

The New Season of ChaplaincyPlus

Over the last 6 months, the Board of Trustees of ChaplaincyPlus has been through a thorough and prayerful review period in which we have considered how ChaplaincyPlus can best support the thriving Network to grow and develop even further.

We have taken into account various changes in relation to our working environments, the way people want to engage with activities, and the resources available to us. We have also considered various options as to what we deliver and how we can do this, but we came back to our original purpose and mission to *"maintain and grow the supportive network of Christians in the business community of Birmingham."*

Our vision remains that *"Christians of all ages working in Birmingham would have spaces and places to come together and support each other to live out their faith as Christians in the workplace."*

We surveyed the Network and learnt that our core activities are highly valued and should be continued; our core activities being: 1:1 meetings, network groups, and the network-wide events. The main change we have implemented is the way in which those activities are delivered. We agreed on a "facilitator approach", rather than a "lead from the front" approach. What we mean by that is, we recognised that the Network itself is best placed to identify and respond to what the Christian business community needs and our desire is to support and empower the Network to do just that. Simply put, we are *"letting the network lead in meeting the need"*.

What that looks like is currently best seen within the network groups. For several of them now, we have a number of network members coming together as a steering group who are running their network groups, supported by the ChaplaincyPlus staff.

In the same way, we will be growing our 1:1 provision by recruiting people from the Network to be part of a team to deliver this vital part of the support ChaplaincyPlus provides.

Having agreed this model, to let the "Network lead on meeting the need", we recognise the importance of continuing to have a central team within ChaplaincyPlus so that each strand of activity and each steering group that is established feels enabled and supported to continue to deliver and expand on these activities.

With that in mind, I am pleased to share that we have recently welcomed three new trustees to the board. We have also recruited a new Network Support Manager who will be leading the team to take forward the new approach for this new season of growth.

This is an exciting time for ChaplaincyPlus as we respond to and support the Network as it identifies and responds to encountered need. Please pray for the team and the trustees as they carry the vision forward, and for each individual currently engaged with the Network activities. To close, I would like to thank you for your engagement with the Network thus far, and I encourage you to continue to be an active part of the Network; to take up opportunities to serve each other through the Network activities as we move forward together into this new season of ChaplaincyPlus.

Amy Tabari
ChaplaincyPlus Acting Vice Chair of Trustees