



To Plan or Not to Plan?

DREAMS

You wouldn't think dreams could have much to do with economics. Some bad dreams might be nightmares about world recession or global warming, both of which, if ignored, threaten to do really nasty things to economic growth in the months and years to come. There might



Randell Moll, Team Leader to end December 2007

also be good economic dreams (or are they just pipe-dreams?). Maybe Fair Trade for all is not just pie in the sky. Maybe the rich and greedy countries will finally decide to share the earth's resources with the poorest. It may even be that nations will act together to save the planet from carbon emission catastrophe

Joseph (of the Technicolor® Dreamcoat) found himself having to interpret the Pharaoh's dream. It was all about economics. Seven fat cows and seven thin cows became seven years of prosperity followed by seven years of economic disaster. Having the priceless advantage of a glimpse into the future, the prudent course was to save in the good years to avoid famine when the bad times came.

Chancellor Alistair Darling and his boss would dearly love a reliable dream just now, to provide a glimpse or two of the future. Are we entering the lean years? Will there be some hand-ringing about profligate spending – by individuals and the state – during the past decade of economic growth, when maybe we should have been putting by a bit more for rainy days? And what about house prices? Will you see the meteoric rise in the value of your house – if you own one – plunge back to something like a sane level? And if you have been struggling to

reach the bottom rung of the property ladder, are you hoping that this year will see both interest rates and prices tumbling together? Whatever economic surprises are on their way, there are few who won't be affected or won't care what happens.

Or are we being far too mercenary – at least those of us who claim that our lives are

subject to the claims of faith? As Christians (and this also goes for Muslims) we are taught to trust, not in our own strength, but in the mercy of God. Should we be saying "Don't worry about tomorrow, for God will look after you"? Or should we be using our God-given brains to plan prudently for the future? Turn to the inside pages and you will find some good Christian common-sense and guidance!

For the time has come when all people of faith, goodwill and integrity need to consider the legacy that we, in our times, will leave for our children and grandchildren. Not just a house, if we are lucky (or prudent?) enough to have one. But a world in which they too can have the chance to live safely, with enough of this world's goods to be free of starvation, to flourish and to grow - not nest-eggs of greed and gain at the expense of others, but spiritual power-houses of integrity, generosity, justice and compassion.

If this is to be anything other than a pipe-dream in our country, then people of faith cannot afford to sit around waiting for economists and politicians to make it happen. We need to take a leaf out of Joseph's book, and concentrate our efforts, collectively, on interpreting the

(continued on page 3)

Appointment of the new Core Team Leader of Workplace Ministry in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire The Revd Michael Shaw

Some time ago, after the announcement by Revd Randall Moll of his retirement as Core Team Leader, we began the search for a successor. I am delighted to say that I can now confirm that the new Core Team Leader of WMHB is to be the Revd Mike Shaw. Mike will be taking up his full-time post officially on 1 April 2008, but will start making a contribution early in the New Year. His first task will be to meet as many of you as possible and carry out a review of our strategy on behalf of the Ecumenical Board.

Mike has a wide and varied experience in the priesthood, having been ordained as an Anglican Priest in 1971. He was a curate in Dewsbury, and a Team Vicar in Redcar (an industrial area in the North East, (he was working there at a similar time to when I was building North Sea Oil Rigs.) He is a former Diocesan Youth Officer for St Albans (where Di and I first met him), and most recently was the CEO of John Grooms a national Christian charity working with disabled people. He has past experience of a variety of chaplaincies including industrial (British Steel), prison, a drug and rehabilitation centre and Mission to Seamen (UK & Holland).

We welcome Mike to this new role for him and wish him every success with the challenges facing him and WMHB. We also welcome those who support him. Mike has a wife, Eileen, who is a secretary in the Diocesan Office at St Albans, and two sons, Jeremy and Mathew, living in Hitchin and Stevenage, respectively.

I ask for your prayerful support of Mike and the whole team including the Board as we continue to build on what already exists and move into a new era with both its possibilities and challenges. My thanks to Randall as he retires and I have written a fond farewell on the back page of this issue. I have asked Mike to tell you a little about himself and how he sees the role (see page 2)

Alan Harpham
Chairman of the Ecumenical Board



MIKE SHAW

As I start this new chapter in my ministry, I am incredibly impressed with the innovative and pioneering work that Workplace Ministry does. Far too often the importance of this essential and remarkable ecumenical aspect of the Church's ministry only comes into focus when we experience major incidents such as the rail tragedy at Hatfield, the explosion at the Buncefield Oil depot in Hemel

Hempstead and the fire at Harrow Court in Stevenage where sadly two Hertfordshire firefighters recently lost their lives. We can only imagine the traumatic effect that such horrendous events have on individual lives and how much those left need our prayers and support required over time. The role played by our Workplace chaplains is crucial.

Workplace ministry (a bit like the Heineken adverts says – reaching the bits others do not reach) touches every aspect of people's lives and I am excited and looking forward to working within the wider ecumenical context of work place ministry in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire and the opportunities and challenges that this represents.

There are new initiatives in development to provide chaplaincy support in major retail outlets in towns such as Harpenden, Leighton Buzzard and Watford. Developing a strong and creative relationship between

ministry in the local setting and workplace ministry is crucial and alongside of this is a regeneration of interest in spirituality and religion in the workplace. There is a need for sensitive and experienced Christians of all ages to look at workplace chaplaincy and ministry as part of their stewardship of their time and talents.

At Luton Airport, the chaplaincy is increasingly involved with the Border Immigration Agency which immediately throws into relief the importance of good networking and communication between officers working for different boards within our respective denominations and agencies such as the Chaplain at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre.

On the bigger picture the increasingly global nature of our society is obvious. It is seen in the way that we are bombarded with information from across the world. We buy coffee from 'Starbucks' or a similar chain and any discussion of workplace closures will be based on why a company in another country is making decisions about the UK workforce. Given the changing context of both church and society it is pretty fundamental that in the context of mission and ministry to and with people in the workplace that new ideas and fresh expressions of ministry are explored in relation to issues related to justice and equality, to our carbon footprint and the reduction of poverty.

At a personal level my passion is and always has been to help those with whom I come in to contact to experience where God can make sense and be real for them within their own experience. Workplace ministry is a crucible where we have the opportunity to witness to our faith with integrity and respect.

Revd Mike Shaw
Core Team Leader

TO TRUST OR TO PLAN IN CIVIL AVIATION

Well, it depends whether we are talking about airport/airline operation or airport chaplaincy. In fact, both can only function through planning - but it is probably not so vital for chaplaincy. And there's always the extra faith, trust, and "readiness for anything" angles to consider.

But for those with civil aviation *responsibilities* - whether pilots, cabin crew, ATC officers, fire station crews, security staff, airline engineers, passenger terminal managers, customer service staff, emergency planners, company directors, surface transport drivers, car park attendants and many more - the daily operation of an airfield, its airspace, and its terminal building(s) would not happen without meticulous planning.

But that doesn't rule out trust! Far from it! Very often, those in responsibility trust that many of the things that could go wrong will not do so that day, or during that particularly busy period, or while some piece of equipment is offline. Airport management, in winter, hopes and trusts for little or no snow - to close the runway for hours. Airline managers hope for safe and on-time departures and arrivals, to please their passengers, their directors, and their financial stakeholders.

Of course, such hopes do not require a trust in God - except for those who do their work with a strong personal faith to support and strengthen them. But it is to say that planning in itself is never enough. In aviation, what a day or week brings forth may test even the best of planning.

But how good it is when the trust that is in the equation is a focussed trust in our God of love, who cares about, and is active within, all the events of daily life at our workplace.

For an airport chaplain, there is far deeper significance here - in that God is perceived to be at work on the airport day by day. The chaplain seeks to understand what that means in terms of Christian presence and mission. The *trust*, therefore, is that the Chaplain will make an adequate response to the unknown opportunities to meet and assist passengers in need that each day brings.

The *planning* is for the ongoing delivery of regular chaplaincy visiting to 10,000 staff (in our case) on the airport site, the provision of Christian services in the Airport Chapel, and the arrangements for the Chaplaincy to play its part in the airport's emergency plans.

Trust versus planning? Not in aviation, nor in aviation chaplaincy! Rather, a delicate and always-varying blend of the two. With both together, there is real strength and measurable progress.



Michael Banfield
Senior Chaplain, London Luton Airport

PLAN AND TRUST

It seems to me that planning and trusting are as essential to our daily lives as breathing. From the time we wake in the morning our life depends on making plans and on exercising trust. We plan what we will wear, the route that we will take to work, what task we will start the day with, how we will navigate between the meetings that have been planned for the day. To do this we trust that cars will start, people will turn up to drive trains and that they will depart and arrive when the timetable say they will. We rely on mobile phones, computers, and sundry other gadgets that we don't understand, to help us fulfil our plans. It would be fair to say that we cannot plan without exercising an element of trust in all kinds of areas of our lives – planning on a daily basis is dependent on our capacity to trust.

Planning our journey through life seems to me to be a slightly different matter, perhaps more especially for the Christian. Since the message of the Gospel is to give purpose and meaning to our lives we 'begin with the end in mind', as Stephen Covey would say. This 'end' might be some quite specific call to ministry as we claim God's promise in Jeremiah 29 v 11:

'For I know the plans I have for you...plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'.

It may be that the end we have in mind is to be holy and Christ-like. We start, then, with the destination clear to the eye of faith as we trust God's Word, and trust the Holy Spirit's prompting.

We then take out the map and intentionally plan the route to our destination. We need to act responsibly. God has given us the ability to think ahead, to reason. He expects us to do our part to fulfil His call on our lives. We plan the qualifications we will need, how we'll provide for our families, where we will live, and with our 'SMART' plans in place we start the journey. We feel comfortable; we feel confident, in short, we are cruising along feeling in control.

It's usually at this point, to continue the journeying analogy, that we meet some kind of road block. Something unexpected happens which reminds us that, not only is our ultimate destination determined by our faith and trust in God, but the journey itself requires us to trust Him to help us

navigate the unknown perils on the way. We suddenly realise that whilst we have planned the route, we are not ultimately in control of the journey, we are, in fact at best only the map reader. We become aware that we need to hand over the controls to God, put Him in the 'driving seat', so to speak, which is, after all, what trust is really all about.

It ain't easy, but I would suggest that once we reach the exquisite balance where we 'plan to trust' rather than 'trust our plans' the journey becomes much richer. We can relax and enjoy the ride; we find that, to quote a Taoist proverb 'the journey is the reward'. We can know the excitement of 'free wheeling' and following the wind of the Spirit. Where there are unexpected hindrances to our planned route we find ourselves led along delightfully picturesque detours (the 'road less travelled' perhaps?) which enrich our lives in ways we could never have anticipated. In short, we find we have the freedom to be flexible, to 'sit lightly' not only to our plans but to our possessions too, and not be enslaved by them. Achieving this partnership between planning and trusting helps us to truly live in the moment and to enjoy the worry-free, stress-free life that Jesus describes and intended for us to live as outlined in the Sermon on the Mount, when he said:

'Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.'

Matthew 6 'The Message'

I'll let Proverbs have the last word:

'In his heart a man plans his course,
But the Lord determines his steps'

Proverbs 16 v 9 NIV

Major Christine Bailey
Divisional Commander

The Salvation Army Central South Division



(continued from page 1)

economic dreams of today in the light of the faith-values of eternity.

This is prophetic work. It is on the agenda of Workplace Ministry. If all goes to plan, it will also be on the agenda of the Church of England's General Synod in July, when members of the Church of England's 'parliament' will be asked to agree a motion to be proposed by St Albans' members, which claims that daily work is essentially spiritual, seeks to promote Christian values within economic life and calls for an assessment of the engagement of the Church within the economic sector. If accepted, this will be one small but significant step in the right direction.

As Team Leader of Workplace Ministry, I retired at the turn of the year. It has been an honour to lead the ministry of chaplains in workplaces and I give my best wishes to my successor, who must now take the work forward into its next phase of development.

Most chaplains are volunteers, representing several Christian denominations and indeed (in one team) three

world faiths. I thank them most warmly for their dedication and faithful service during my time and for the support I have received from them, from our Chairman and Board members, from the staff of Holywell Lodge, from the Bishop of St Albans and all the Church Leaders and especially from my colleagues and the volunteer administrators in the Core Team who have shared the leadership with me.

My wife and I are grateful for all these friendships and those we have made in the workplaces and amongst church folk, and we look forward to carrying out a project in retirement, which will make a contribution both to preparation for July's General Synod and to the work of the church nationally in the area of its engagement with the economic sector.

May God's blessing rest upon the workplaces of Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire and on all those who work in them and in the mission of the church in economic life: and may all of us on this planet work to redeem the past, in order to bequeath a future in which the dreams of our children and grandchildren may come true.

Randell Moll

A FAREWELL TO REVD RANDELL MOLL CORE TEAM LEADER

I am writing to thank Randell Moll for a lifetime's work given to supporting others on behalf of the Church – either in their place of work or their education. Supporting others in their personal growth and development – intellectually and spiritually - has few equals in value terms when it comes to assessing an individual's work and career. Randell has spent most of his working life doing one or other or both and as a result can take great credit for his career. There is little that surpasses the influence one can have when working through others and not for one's own ends to misquote a former Governor of the Bank of England. Randell has also undoubtedly become a very knowledgeable and experienced theologian when it comes to practical applied theology.

A war baby, he was educated at London University and Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. His first curacy was at Drypool St Columba with St Andrew and St Peter – what a great collection of saints to start with! He was assistant chaplain at Hull Prison, and assistant master at Hull Grammar School. A second curacy at Netherton and Sefton in Liverpool led to a first stint as an industrial chaplain. After a brief spell in Belgium he was Priest-in-Charge of Brockmoor in Lichfield before becoming Team Leader for the Black Country Urban Industrial Mission his first major industrial chaplaincy role.

He spent some time as a director of Chilworth Home Services and as assistant master at Reindorp School in Guildford. From there he spent some time overseas in France and Iraq. He spent some time as school chaplain at Sedburgh before



*Randell and Elizabeth Moll
Presentation at Chaplains' Day*

becoming senior chaplain for Mission in the Economy on Merseyside where he was made an honorary Canon of the Cathedral. From there he became Team Leader for Group 4's detention centres leading a multi-faith team across multiple sites and is where my wife and I first came to know him. When the fire took place at Yarl's Wood in 2001 and many changes took place in Group 4, he led his team through some difficult and traumatic times. Randell left Group 4 and was chosen to lead the core team for Workplace Ministry in Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire where he has been since 2001 up to his retirement at end of December 2007. He has once again in a

lifetime of change been involved in the re-awakening of Workplace Ministry locally.

As he said during a presentation made to him at the Chaplains' Day at St Albans on Saturday 3 November, whilst looking forward to his retirement he would still be around in his national role for the Industrial Mission Association. He has also retired as the most recent chairman of LASER – the London and South East Region of the IMA, and I was there for his last official role running LASER's AGM after a wonderful tour of the National Theatre led by an old friend of his who is chaplain to the NT. Running LASER was never an easy task and it has taken all his tenacity to hold it together when it seems increasingly clear not many of its potential members can easily find the time to attend its functions.

We wish him and his hugely supportive wife, Elizabeth, a long and very happy retirement together. Elizabeth has also been an active chaplain and tremendous support to Randell and the team during his time here.

Alan Harpham
Chairman of the Ecumenical Board

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Spring/Summer — **COMMISSIONING OF MIKE SHAW**
as new Team Leader — Service and Social
23-25 September — Fire Chaplains Conference
Late September — Barbara Johnson to be ordained priest
Tuesday 7 October — Hertfordshire Police Chaplains Conference
Saturday 11 October — **CHAPLAINS CONFERENCE**

CONGRATULATIONS

The Airport Chaplaincy at London Luton Airport
was 21 years old on 4 February 2008

WE WELCOME

New Appointments

Team Leader from 1 April 2008 — Mike Shaw
Ambulance and Paramedic Service
Geoff Follett (already Chaplain to both Police and Fire)
Simon Manley-Cooper (already a Hospital Chaplain)

WE WILL MISS

Leavers

Team Leader to end December 2007 — Randell Moll
Ambulance and Paramedic Service
Elizabeth Moll and Phil Osborne
Fire Chaplains — Julia Dowding and Harry Worsnip
Retail Chaplaincy — Margaret Blake
Care Homes — Annie Hogg

CONTACT DETAILS

ECUMENICAL BOARD (EB)

Chairman Alan Harpham
01234-823222 or alan@harpham.com
Treasurer Keith Williams
07921 902366 or keith@energize-solutions.co.uk

CORE TEAM

Leader The Revd Mike Shaw
Contact via the Office (*details below*)
Core Team Members
The Revd Michael Banfield
London Luton Airport
07710 932198 or michael.banfield@ltn.aero
Captain Brian Griffin
Bedfordshire Police — General Motors
07817747745 or brian.griffin@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk
The Revd Barbara Johnson
Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue
07889 138419 or barbara.johnson@bedsfire.com
The Revd Tony Ruffell
*Hertfordshire Police — Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue
Ambulance and Paramedic Service*
07870 533954 or tonyruffell@msn.com

Workplace Ministry in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire
website www.workplaceministry.org.uk/herts&beds

Further copies of Update can be downloaded from the website

41 Holywell Hill St Albans Herts AL1 1HE Telephone 01727 818144

The best way to contact us is by e-mail workplace.ministry@stalban.anglican.org

Donations to help fund our work welcome. Please make cheque payable to *St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance*