

SPORTS CHAPLAINCY UK SERVING SPORT THROUGH EXCELLENCE IN CHAPLAINCY

WORLD POLICE AND FIRE GAMES BELFAST – 26 JULY-10 AUGUST 2013

It was a great privilege to be able to be involved in providing chaplaincy cover for the World Police and Fire Games in Belfast last summer. The WPFGis a biennial event for serving and retired police, fire, prison and border security officers and, in terms of participation, it is the third largest international multi-sport event in the world. With over 7000 competitors from sixty seven countries descending on Northern Ireland, it was also the largest sporting event ever to take place in the Province. This was only the third time that the Games had been staged in Europe in their twenty eight year history and the first to take place anywhere in the British Isles.

As in London 2012, the chaplaincy team for WPFG2013 was recruited and trained under the umbrella of the overall Volunteer Programme for the Games and all of our chaplains were fully accredited volunteers who proudly wore the black and red team uniform. Our chaplains were drawn from a broad range of backgrounds - we had local Sports Chaplaincy UKchaplains who are working regularly on the ground in NIreland and these were supplemented by others involved in sports ministry, local prison and fire chaplains, together with representatives of Firefighters For Christ and the Christian Police Association from across the UK, as well as one or two North American chaplains.

Many significant contacts were made, many meaningful conversations took place with folk from right across the whole Games community and the love of Christ was demonstrated in a myriad of practical ways, perhaps best exemplified by a local prison chaplain who offered hospitality (at home not work!) to a stranded Russian competitor and by one of our chaplains who transported three competitors to their venue in his own car after they had missed their bus.

Chaplains were also invited to take part in the moving memorial service in St Anne's Cathedral in Belfast; this is a central part of the Games, commemorating officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty down through the years.

The chaplaincy service was warmly commended by organisers at the end of the Games.

Andrew Thompson
Chaplain to Ulster Rugby



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Admin address:

Sports Chaplaincy UK PO Box 123, Sale Cheshire M33 4ZA

admin@sportschaplaincy.org.uk 0800 181 4051

sportschaplaincy.org.uk

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2013 REVIEW

"We have grown to over 310 chaplains"

I can only describe 2013 as an incredible year, as we have grown to over 310 chaplains and made some new inroads into Paralympic sport and event sports chaplaincy. All this progress was made possible by the grace of God, bold decisions and the courage of people full of faith as they have stepped out and up, to take on the challenges before them. At this point I would like especially to thank all our trustees, pastoral directors and their families for the work and progress we have been able to make as a team. A massive thank you of course also to our many volunteers which we recognise is only made possible by the support of your families, churches and Christian organisations which we are truly grateful for, our unsung heroes.

2013 also saw some new opportunities

developing outside the UK as we have become to understand that the model of chaplaincy integrated with professional bodies here is globally unique and more and more countries are calling on our experience to help them replicate the success.

A key scripture for us has been Luke 10:1 as the disciples went two by two, it has prompted us not only to seek to develop chaplaincies in twos, but also on a macro level to find partners who will help to sustain the work. More news we hope on this in 2014.

I'd like to encourage you to read the articles inside and pray for all those involved that seek to serve, purely motivated by Jesus' compassion for all. Finally early in 2014 Rev John Boyers will be stepping down from Sports Chaplaincy UK, whilst continuing to be chaplain at Manchester United. No-one will know the sacrifices he has made over the years, but he has built a foundation of sports chaplaincy that leads the world and for that we praise God. I personally want to thank him for his unwavering support and kind advice he has provided to me behind the scenes this year.

Keep praying for all the chaplains, more than anything we need Jesus' strength and favour to go about our work.

Richard Gamble CEO

CEO

© sportschaplain













a five minute presentation that we had been able to give about the work of Sports Chaplaincy UK. After we had finished, Brian enthusiastically offered that impromptu endorsement. The invitation to attend the conference followed a similar opportunity to attend the Football Conference EGM in February 2013 which lan and Matt Baker had attended. This also led us to have a stand at the AGM in the 'market place' (alongside the new Ball sponsor for the 2013/14 season).

Back in May, we held the first day specifically for chaplains serving at clubs outside of the Football League; something we aim to make an annual event. These chaplains serve at all levels from the Conference Premier to local league Saturday afternoon teams.

Chaplaincy within football clubs in England and Wales below the ninety two member Football League structure is growing and becoming more accepted. Significant conversations happen almost weekly in the boardrooms with visiting officials that are open to chaplaincy and the opportunities to engage within these clubs are fantastic. This can mean anything from helping to develop and deliver the club's community work to involvement at board level - and all manner of things in-between.

We look forward to another exciting and busy year.

Ian Nicholoson **Pastoral Director** in Lower League Football **Stuart Wood**

Pastoral Support Director in Lower League Football



Professional FOOtball

2013 has seen chaplaincy continue to expand at all levels throughout English and Welsh Football. There are now approximately 120 chaplains working throughout the football pyramid from the Premier League to the Conference and lower leagues. It has been particularly encouraging to see more chaplaincy involvement in Academies with chaplains appointed specifically to support at youth level, as has been the case at Cardiff City, and the development of a chaplaincy team and mentoring to youth players as seen at Crystal Palace, both currently Premier League clubs.

There have been a number of new chaplaincy appointments from York City to Southend United but perhaps most pleasing has been that to Birmingham City. Some chaplaincy situations arise quite quickly but it has taken nearly four years to appoint at Birmingham which shows the importance of persistence and prayer.

This year has seen the role of the football chaplain get some positive reviews in The Times, The Readers' Digest and FC Business Magazine. We are also very grateful for the ongoing support of the Premier League, Football League Trust and the PFA as the post of Pastoral Support Director in English Football now enters its fifth year.

Looking to 2014 we expect to train more potential chaplains through the Sports Chaplaincy UK induction day, make more appointments within football and grow the partnership with the PFA and the Sporting Chance clinic in helping to address some of the pastoral issues around addictions and depression within the industry.

Matt Baker

Pastoral Support Director in English Football @gambettola68





Matt Baker and Chris Powell (former manager of

Horse

God has truly blessed us in the last year, providing many opportunities to share in the lives of many people, and it is through such occasions that we are able to share the love of God, both in word and action. The Christian gospel always has love at its heart, and is always relevant to the lives of all. We have to learn how to listen to those we seek to minister to, in order that we can speak an appropriate word to them.

The chaplaincy to horseracing is built upon relationships and getting to know people, being there where they live and work. This can not be done overnight but often takes months if not years to establish. People in racing, most of whom have no contact with the Church, have images in their minds of what a Christian minister is like, which hopefully bears no truth in reality; but nevertheless such images get in the way of trying to establish friendships, and a willingness to ask for or receive help.

Stable visits, visits to Stud Farms and visits with individuals continue to be the foundation of all our work. Some people welcome such visits and others are uncertain and it is always essential to be sensitive to each person's response. Sometimes giving people space is as much of a witness as talking to them, as it shows a respect for them. It's amazing though, how many people want to talk, look forward to the visits, and treat me as a trusted friend.





Ever since childhood, I have been a follower of motorcycle racing (and indeed, all forms of motorsport). This stems primarily from two things; motorsport-loving parents and the experience of watching the dices between Bill Ivy and Phil Read at the Ulster Grand Prix in the sixties. Marrying a relation of eleven times Isle of Man T.T. winner, Phillip McCallen has continued to keep the family interest alive and I keep tabs on the scene "back home" as well as being involved here on the mainland. Since 2005, I have acted as chaplain to the Aintree Motorcycle Racing Club in Liverpool. As the name suggests, the circuit (used in a longer form in past years for the British Grand Prix), is beside the Grand National course and hosts meetings on five Saturdays from May until September. For me, being a chaplain enables me both to put something back into a sport which has given me a lot of pleasure and to share my faith with others in a relaxed and informal way, through the medium of that sport. At each meeting, I go on my "walkabout," endeavouring to have a short chat with officials in their varying capacities, competitors and spectators. On one occasion, I was given the opportunity to be interviewed by the race commentator about my role, while, on a more sad note, I have led tributes to those from the racing world who have died and have officiated at the funeral of a competitor who had suffered a fatal accident at the circuit.

Over the years, it has been good to become "part of the furniture" at Aintree and to get to know many people connected to the club. I am thankful for the privilege of having the role of chaplain and for opportunities to discuss the world of racing and, when appropriate, to talk about matters of faith in a gentle way. My hope and prayer is that this will continue to be the case and also that we will have opportunities to bring further developments to the role of chaplaincy in the world of motorsport, on both two wheels and four.

Colin McIlwaine Chaplain to Aintree Motorcycle Racing Club



Christian sports chaplaincy in the disabled sporting world is growing. The second half of 2013 saw the signing of a formal engagement agreement between Sports Chaplaincy UK and Disability Sport Wales (DSW), the lead organisation in Wales for the development of sport for disabled people.

This was a historic development whereby Sports Chaplaincy UK now provide volunteer chaplaincy support to the athletes in their Academy and High Performance departments. Practically speaking this has meant two of Sports Chaplaincy UK's chaplains, Rev. Dave Hibbin of Ararat Baptist Church and Heather Lewis of Highfields Church, Cardiff both giving a day a week of their time to support the principality's disabled sports people at their bases in Sophia Gardens and the National Indoor Athletics Centre in Cardiff. It is intended that this model is replicated in North Wales (where DSW have another base) , and perhaps even further a field. Sports Chaplaincy UK's Chaplaincy Support Director for Scottish Sport, Neil Urquhart, has similarly entered into recent discussions with Scottish Disability Sport.

Building on the experience of serving at the London 2012 Paralympics, in July 2013, Steve Jones served as a Chaplain and Interpreter at the International Paralympic Committee's World Athletics Championships in Lyon, France where he was asked to dedicate his time to supporting Team GB.

Steve also formed part of group from the Swansea Organising Committee charged with the planning and delivery of the International Paralympic Committee's European Athletics Championships that will be taking place in Wales' second city from 17th to 24th August 2014. This has resulted in Sports Chaplaincy UK partnering with Swansea University's Chaplaincy Service to provide a comprehensive sports chaplaincy service to athletes, coaches and their families.

Steve Jones

Chaplaincy Support Director for Welsh Sport







February.

Progress has been made in developing

chaplaincy at the SPFL clubs, where we

now serve thirty nine out of the forty two

clubs through chaplaincy and I usually have

to replace on average six chaplains a year

as they move on to new churches. I am

currently piloting chaplaincy in the Scottish

Women's Premier League at Hibernian

Ladies FC, with a view to training up other

(probably women) chaplains for the other

clubs in the league. I have appointed our

first chaplain in the Highland League at

Nairn County FC and I hope to develop

chaplaincy throughout the rest of the

teams in this league. I have also appointed

a chaplain at East of Scotland League

team Edinburgh University FC and hope

to develop chaplaincy throughout the rest

of the teams in this league too. I have a

meeting coming up with representatives

of the sixty three clubs in the West Region

of the Scottish Junior Football Association

(this is further down the Scottish Football

Pyramid). I have the potential of training

and appointing chaplains at over two

hundred football clubs in Scotland over the

next few years. The Scottish Government, SFA and SPFL have been very supportive and has enabled me to go full time since

RUGLDY In 2011 I was privileged to work with the New Zealand churches as part of Engage NZ managing their chaplaincy programme for the Rugby World Cup. So successful was their work that, before the tournament was

ended, talks were already in process about the churches' involvement when England host Rugby World Cup 2015.

That has resulted in the emergence of Engage 2015 an organisation that aims to mobilise and resource the churches of the UK to seize the opportunity presented by the third largest international sporting event to engage with their local communities as they did around the

Chaplaincy will again be a key part of that programme, building not only on the achievements of 2011 but also on the successful chaplaincy programme delivered by Sports Chaplaincy UK at the Rugby League World Cup in 2013.

In addition there will be ways local churches can serve in the name of Christ as hosts for participants' families and volunteers, and opportunities to share the love of Christ through community festivals, screening games, quizzes and speakers and much

Such activities also offer an exciting possibility to build creative links with local rugby clubs, working together on community festivals around the live screening of matches and on touch rugby in schools and in church.

Relationships built through such partnerships create the potential for a legacy of many more chaplaincies in local Rugby Union clubs. Thus a global sporting event becomes the catalyst for ongoing local engagement.

For more information on how you can get involved visit the website at: www.engage2015.co.uk or contact david.chawner@engage2015.co.uk.

David Chawner

Rugby Union Support Director



2013 has been a really positive year for us involved in the great sport of Rugby League. We have seen continued growth and opportunities within the sport and have been able to place nine new chaplains in to clubs up and down the league structure. This has had a very positive impact across the game as we continue to build strong and healthy relationships with the RFL and other professional bodies involved in the game such as Rugby League Cares, League 13, State of Mind and Sporting Chance.

There was a very positive article concerning sports chaplaincy earlier in the year in the Professional Players Magazine, stating the benefits of chaplaincy and the positive role it has had especially in clubs that have had challenges to face.

This year was also the year of the Rugby League World Cup where chaplaincy played a very effective and positive part in player and staff welfare. We had the privilege of supporting The Festival of World Cups where we were able to support student, police and women's world cup teams for the first time which was a great success. This then led into the World Cup where we were able to become official partners and supported nearly all the teams involved in the competition to differing levels.

RLWC2013 Tournament Operations Director, Jon Dutton said: "Player welfare was a big priority at the tournament, so it was important for us to have the right partner to provide pastoral care. It was great that Sports Chaplaincy UK were on board and their undoubted experience was a huge benefit to us."

Warren Evans

Chaplaincy Director in Rugby League 🖪 @pastorwazza



Males

2013 has seen some significant new chaplaincy appointments in Welsh sports. Firstly in Cardiff City, where Rev. Kieran Webster has taken on a volunteer role with their Academy. In addition to this all professional regional academies within Rugby Union now have chaplains serving them and Rev. Ian Hughes has filled the last remaining vacancy in the Scarlets region, based in Llanelli, South West Wales.

The target for this year is to increase the number of volunteer chaplains serving in Welsh Rugby Premiership rugby clubs, which this year took an encouraging step forward with the appointment of Tony Down as chaplain to Cardiff RFC and Phil Bishop at Newport RFC.

In Rugby League, two of our Wales-based Sports Chaplaincy UK chaplains served as chaplains to the national Welsh team and to the Cook Islands national team during the 2013 Rugby League World Cup.

In December Rev. Steve Jones, (Chaplaincy Support Director for Welsh Sport), was invited by the Welsh Premier League to address a meeting to all the chairmen of Welsh Premier football clubs on the subject of sports chaplaincy. The league administrators have commended it to all their constituent clubs and we hope to see a number of new appointments in 2014.

Other areas identified for development in 2014 include; chaplaincy to women's and disabled sport and a growth in the number of club Christmas carol services facilitated by club chaplains.

Steve Jones

EXPERIENCE

OF SPORTS

CHAPLAINCY

HUGE BENEFIT

TO THE RUGBY

WORLD CUP"

UK WAS A

LEAGUE

Chaplaincy Support Director for Welsh Sport



Neil Urquhart Chaplaincy Support Director in Scottish Sport



Pastoral Director

for Sheffield Sports Chaplaincy



In October 2013 the following members were re-elected to the board of trustees of Sports Chaplaincy UK:

David Chawner - Chair of Trustees

Bert Cadmore - Secretary (Norwich City FC Chaplain) **Richard Knapp** - Treasurer (Living Rock Church Trustee) Malcolm Lorrimer (Lancashire CCC Chaplain)

Linvoy Primus (Ex-professional footballer)

Andrew Reed, MBE (Politician with expertise in sports) ArchDeacon Duncan Green (Organiser of Olympic Multi-faith Chaplaincy)

Bob Hamer (Premier League referees assessor)

Scotland

We will have at least three Sports Chaplaincy UK chaplains (Steve Jones, Carolyn Skinner and myself) involved in the Glasgow 2014 Athletes' Village Religious Services Centre team of twenty four, which is encouraging. Discussions with Sportscotland, about possible openings for sports chaplaincy, are ongoing and it is hoped that the Commonwealth Games will provide further opportunity to promote chaplaincy in sport beyond football. I have overseen and supported Geoff Redmayne in his role of developing chaplaincy in Scottish Rugby and we are hopeful of establishing chaplaincy at the next tier underneath the Glasgow & Edinburgh fully professional sides. I took four weeks out to do some study leave on developing sports chaplaincy in Scottish sport beyond football. The opportunities are countless and clearly require someone to work part or full time if the potential is to be realised. There is also scope for closer working with 'Workplace Chaplaincy Scotland', which has a similar ethos to Sports Chaplaincy UK. I intend passing on the role of chaplain at Kilmarnock FC to someone else in May to allow me to devote at least one session (morning, afternoon or evening) per week to my

role of promoting chaplaincy in Scottish

Sheffield

2013 was a big year of Thank You and Goodbye to the Rev Peter Allen. Pete had worked as Director of Sheffield Sports Chaplaincy since it was set up over four years ago and was chaplain for Sheffield Wednesday for seven years. Pete established a great sports chaplaincy work amongst the sporting community within both professional and amateur status and left a great foundation for the rest of the team to continue to develop. In June, Pete left the Sheffield diocese and moved south to start work for the Chelmsford diocese as a team Vicar to the three Colne village churches. As well as starting a new job, Pete also got married in the summer to Sharon. We would like to thank Pete for all his hard work and wish them both a very happy and wonderful life together.

The team have done a great job this year and continue to serve faithfully in the various sporting clubs and organisations through the work of chaplaincy in Basketball, Boxing, Evolution Fitness Gym, Football, Ice Hockey, Rugby League, Snooker, The English Institute for Sport and Sheffield & Hallamshire County FA.

We have also been asked to provide a chaplain for Sheffield Hatters Women's Basketball Team and Club who are the most successful women's basketball team in the UK and we're in the process of trying to find the right lady for the job.

The work is continuing to grow and I see 2014 being a very significant and productive year.

Baz Gascoyne



University Course

Reflections on Sports Chaplaincy Course at Gloucester University

As a Christian female lay person with a lifelong background in sport, I enthusiastically signed up for the first year of the two year course. It is a distance learning course incorporating a four-day residential block in the month of October and a further one in February.

Pre-course reading completed, the seven candidates met at lunchtime and spent the first afternoon learning how to use the Helpzone and library resources. John Boyers, the Manchester United chaplain for the last twenty one years (!) then gave us an insight into the history of sports chaplaincy in the UK. Day two was also spent with John, investigating the Biblical basis for sports chaplaincy and learning about the different models for chaplaincy currently existing in the UK. John has so much experience and insight to share and we were grateful for his words of wisdom and useful hand outs explaining the practical application of sports chaplaincy. The final two days were spent with our course tutor, Andrew Parker, Although not a chaplain himself, he used his teaching skills to highlight the key facts about the role of the sports chaplain while making us feel that we had contributed all the information ourselves. There were lots of opportunities to share experiences and thoughts. Questions were answered with humility and wisdom and nothing was made to feel too trivial. Plenty of advice was given regarding how to study and the writing of essays- particularly useful as most of us had not written an essay for a very long time! Andrew made it clear that he was available for advice at any time, either on the end of a phone or by email, and he was keen to support us in any way

I found it a stimulating and thoroughly enjoyable, if tiring, few days and am looking forward to the rest of the course.

Angy King

Angylain to women's football

Christmas Garols

A bishop once said to me, "Where are the two places people sing today? Church and sports stadia!" Tie that in with Christmas and you have a fantastic opportunity for church, chaplaincy and club to engage with. AFCBournemouth, together with an increasing number of clubs across the country, held an annual community carol service. After good publicity in the local churches, schools and the club we at AFC Bournemouth saw numbers double this year. An incredible sense of joy, laughter and community was enjoyed as we gathered to acknowledge the birth of Jesus. Young and old, most of whom wouldn't necessarily go in a church, sang Carols led by the Salvation Army Band, listened to some cracking songs from the Bournemouth Male Voice Choir and local junior school group and heard Linvoy Primus talk about what Christmas means to him. AFC Bournemouth's chairman, Jeff Mostyn, was there as well and graciously shared how much chaplaincy meant to the club as well as commenting on things in his Christmas programme notes! The best is yet to come!

Could you stage a community carol event in 2014 as part of HOPE 14? HOPE is working with Sports Chaplaincy UK to help clubs stage Silent Night community carols events in December 2014 linking with First World War centenary commemorations - First World War troops sang Silent Night and played football across No Man's Land at Christmas in 1914. Find out more at www.hopetogether.org.uk/greaterlove.

Andy RimmerChaplain to AFC Bournemouth





were on 17th March 2012 when Tottenham Hotspur was playing Bolton at White Hart Lane in the FA Cup quarter finals. They remember not because of the game but because of the sudden collapse of Fabrice Mumaba. As his pulse became weaker the pulse of prayer became ever stronger across the country, as his heart beat was faint the heart beat of love for him and his family grew enormously.

At our AGM, on the 4th June 2013 at Westminster Central Hall, Fabrice came to share with us his incredible and miraculous story and gave a memorable testimony to the power of prayer.

He began his story by sharing something of his early life grown up in the war torn Democratic Republic of the Congo resulting in the need to flee and seek the safety of England. He shared how it was for a youngster to land in a foreign place and have to learn a whole new language and way of life. His faith was strong then and grew stronger as the years went on.

His professional footballing career began at Arsenal, when as a young lad he turned up at the training ground and asked for a trial. From then on his career took off. He went on to play for Birmingham, became a member of the England under 21's and eventually moved to Bolton.

In sharing his story he spoke of our close relationship through chaplaincy and endorsed the work we all do in the field, emphasising the need and the importance of this work and in the delight he had of being an ambassador for Sports Chaplaincy UK.

The whole evening was a very moving and memorable occasion in which we were left with no doubt of the movement of the Spirit.

On reflecting on the whole experience with Fabrice I have often said that at his weakest and most vulnerable God did his most powerful and the country woke up to the importance of faith and prayer. That surely is the heart of the Gospel, when in Christ, at His weakest and most vulnerable moment on the Cross the most powerful event was taking place.

This surely gives the perfect platform on which to build our chaplaincies.

Phil Mason Chaplain Bolton Wanderers FC



Living on the Edge Annual Sports Chaplaincy UK Conference

Over 110 Sports Chaplains attended the Sports Chaplaincy UK Conference 24th-26th September 2013.

Following the theme of living on the edge we explored the whole concept of the fact that often chaplaincy work is just that, being on the edge. It is also about dealing with some "edgy" issues, such as dealing with the media and looking at the appropriate use of the media, matters concerning the use of social media and the dangers within. These are some of the issues that we explored along with the debate and challenges surrounding a multi-faith approach to our work and the increasing diversities of faiths being expressed in sport.

Disability in sport was also explored with an inspirational presentation by Jon Morgan, Executive Director for the Federation of Disability Sport Wales.

The conference gave space for those chaplains within rugby and football to reflect upon their work and upon the issues concerning them, with opportunities for the groups to share stories and experiences. At

the heart of the conference was a rousing reflection by Graham Daniels, General Director of Christians in Sport on the Lord of the Harvest with a powerful reminder that this was not our work to own but that

One of the final presentations was shared by Colin Bland, Chief Executive Officer of Sporting Chance Clinic which gave us all a reminder of the vulnerability of sports men and women who themselves are often living on the edge and of our calling in sports chaplaincy to come alongside and offer support.

Phil Mason *Chaplain Bolton Wanderers* FC



SPORTS CHAPLAINCY NEEDS YOU!

Pray

To pray for the expansion of the work of Sports Chaplaincy UK please register for our monthly prayer letter www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk/prayer

Join Us

Become an 'associate member' of Sports Chaplaincy UK and support the work. www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk/membership

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You can keep up to date with news of Sports Chaplaincy UK by Facebook: Sports Chaplaincy UK, Twitter: @sportschaplain and signing up to our monthly newsletter www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk/newsletter

Just Giving

To help us extend the work of Sports Chaplaincy UK go to www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk/donate

"Sports
Chaplaincy UK
seeks to serve the
people of sport
through the love
of Jesus"