



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION of CIVIL AVIATION CHAPLAINS

IACAC NEWSLETTER

February IACAC 2016

President's Letter

Greetings from a very blustery Manchester – as the snowstorms that have been such a feature of life in North America over the last week or so (Snowzilla or Winter Storm 'Jonas') turn into fierce gales (and yet more rain) for us, and much of Europe. British people spend enough time talking about the weather, but since the Met Office has decided to give names to the various storms that come our way, we are even more conscious of the weather with Storms Abigail, Barney, Clodagh, Desmond, Eva, Frank and now Gertrude (née Jonas) bearing down on the British Isles and bringing yet more flooding and disruption, not least to the aviation industry. I gather Cyclone Pali is making life interesting in the Pacific too and between them **El Niño** and **La Niña** promise the world a 2016 no less stormy and unpredictable than 2015. Batten down the hatches!

PRAYER DIARY

I have been enjoying the opportunity of trying to make contact with chaplaincies around the world as we follow a prayer cycle here in Manchester from A (for Aberdeen) in January to Z (for Zurich) by the end of December. It has been a privilege and a delight to receive communications from colleagues around the world and to hear what concerns are on your hearts at the moment. If you'd like to join us, an easily customisable file is attached with this newsletter.

THE IACAC BOARD

The IACAC Board meets in February in Paris with the conference organising committee to plan our 49th Conference, 23-28 August 2016 in Paris. I do hope you will be able to join us for this. I know that as well as putting on a fantastic programme, the Paris team want to make the conference as attractive (and affordable) as possible for delegates, so look out for more information soon, and sign up early! We will also be discussing a number of subjects which came up at the New York conference, including how the IACAC relates to regional and national chaplains' networks and how we can better support one another to develop professional resources - including training and worship resources.

In conversation only last week, I heard how the German-speaking chaplains' network had recently offered training on '*conducting short conversations*' – an absolutely fundamental skill for airport ministry, but something that it really does help to think carefully about. I realise that some of the best and most useful training resources open to us are those opportunities we have to listen to one another's experience and skills. I hope we can continue to learn from one another. If your chaplaincy or network would like

training in a particular area, or you know of some really good training that has been offered on specific areas of airport ministry, please, please do let me or members of the IACAC board (and, I hope, very soon, our new training co-ordinator) know. On a related theme, I have asked Bill Raines, a chaplain here at Manchester to review the new '*Handbook of Chaplaincy Studies*' (subtitled '*Understanding Spiritual care in Public Places*') published only late in 2015, which has a lot to say to us. I commend Bill's helpful and brief review, and the book itself – which is eye-wateringly expensive on Amazon, but can be bought for a fraction of the price, if you know where to find it!

WOULD HAVE - SHOULD HAVE

Finally – just a quick thought based on a busy week of passenger assistance cases (Two Forced-Marriage-Unit cases, one male and one female, An Asylum seeker with no funds and a homeless UK citizen deported from abroad, and a Cameroonian citizen married to an EU national, but picked up by Border Force officers for a visa violation). At least one of these passengers had come up against the full force of the British Government at its conditional, subjunctive or hypothetical best (Grammar pedants please forgive me). What I mean is this: the passenger had spent all their money and arrived back at the airport with nothing. The official response was 'you shouldn't have spent all your money – go away and come back in three weeks, which was how long we estimated your money should have lasted.' Thankfully the Border Force officers who had to say this, then, very charitably, brought the passenger to the chaplaincy and asked where they could go to for support for him. As a rule of thumb, my children have taught me that if I respond to them in the conditional, subjunctive or hypothetical tense (or is it 'mood'?) 'You should have.../why couldn't you.../I wouldn't have...' then I'm not going to be much help, in fact, I'll probably make it worse. What's much more helpful are words that give direction 'I'll do this.../Go and speak to.../Let's sort this out together'.

In our day to day work in the airport chaplaincy, we meet lots of people (staff and passengers) who find themselves, for whatever reason, in a bit of a hole. They will almost certainly have encountered people who can't help them ("*it's company policy*" / "*computer says 'no'*"), or won't help them ("*you got yourself in there!*" / "*not my problem*"), or try to avoid them (and '*pass by on the other side*' Luke 10.31/32) – and people who answer in the conditional, subjunctive or hypothetical ("*You shouldn't have got yourself into that position in the first place*" / "*If you had done this/that/the other, you wouldn't have...*").

Thank God for those who answer with straightforward words, and even more, with straightforward actions. I pray that I am counted among them!

There are many versions of the following story, but this is one of my favourites (from Aaron Sorkin's NBC TV series, *"The West Wing"*)

"This guy's walking down the street when he falls in a hole. The walls are so steep he can't get out.

"A doctor passes by and the guy shouts up, 'Hey you. Can you help me out?' The doctor writes a prescription, throws it down in the hole and moves on.

"Then a priest comes along and the guy shouts up, 'Father, I'm down in this hole can you help me out?' The priest writes out a prayer, throws it down in the hole and moves on

"Then a friend walks by, 'Hey, Joe, it's me can you help me out?' And the friend jumps in the hole. Our guy says, 'Are you stupid? Now we're both down here.' The friend says, 'Yeah, but I've been down here before and I know the way out.'

May we all know the way to best help as we work within our airports.



Rev George Lane

President
Manchester Airport
president@iacac.info

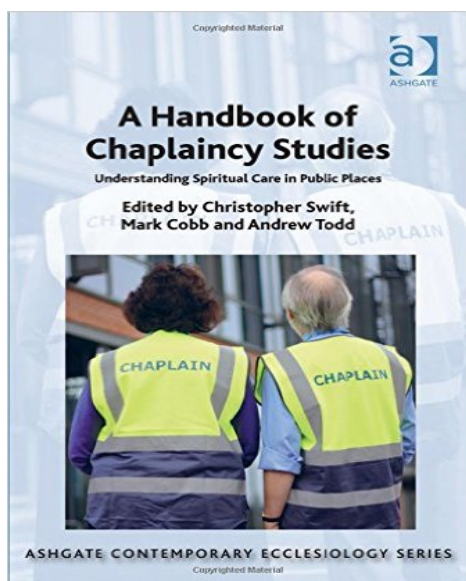
=====

A BOOK REVIEW THAT WE HOPE YOU WILL FIND INTERESTING

A Handbook of Chaplaincy Studies Understanding Spiritual Care in Public Places

Edited by Christopher Swift, Mark Cobb and Andrew Todd

Ashgate Publishing (UK & USA) 2015, 335 pages



This
important
new

resource is published as part of the Ashgate Contemporary Ecclesiology Series. The 30 contributors

are a mixture of practitioners and academics: mostly Christian with a few exceptions, actually mostly Anglican, and exclusively British. Prospective readers unfortunate enough not to be Anglican and British should be aware that some of the insights presented may not instantly resonate with their own situation.

The handbook is divided into parts: parts 1 ("Chaplaincy in Context") and 2 ("Key Themes in Chaplaincy Studies") are of relevance to many chaplaincy ministries; parts 3 – 6, roughly the second half of the book, focus more narrowly on (respectively) health care, military, prison, and educational chaplaincies. Airport chaplaincy does not get its own specialist section – we are the liminal among the already marginalised – but the experiences and voices of airport chaplains are reflected, notably in the chapter on *Managing Multifaith Spaces*.

What these diverse chaplaincies have in common, of course, is that they operate in places and spaces not owned by any religious group, and alongside or within public or commercial institutions having a well-defined and entirely secular purpose. Chaplaincies consume resources – of space and equipment, and in many cases salaries also – which the host institution is expected to provide. So the discipline of market forces comes into play: their continued presence is not guaranteed and they must repeatedly demonstrate that they add value to the organisation they serve. This is a theme which is taken up in several of the book's chapters. Victoria Slater writes an interesting paper on the need for chaplains to 'evidence' the impact and value of what they do. Hewson and Crompton offer us the imaginative image of the chaplain as entrepreneur: someone constantly looking for new opportunities to fill a gap, and taking on roles that evade formal job descriptions.

There are many ideas to ponder in this volume. The major aspects covered include the place of chaplaincy in public life, chaplaincy and the law (UK law naturally), tensions between religious traditions and the ethical demands of the host institution, multifaith working and multifaith spaces, supervision and support for chaplains, and the interface between spirituality and psychology. Inevitably, some contributors write more fluently than others, and there are occasional lapses into sociological jargon. God, of course, hardly gets a mention and the recent emergence of humanist chaplains as members of hospital or hospice teams is noted as a natural development.

In the *Multifaith Working* chapter, Gillat-Ray and Arshad offer some acute analysis in relation to Muslim chaplains. They also note that "there are many occasions when chaplains from different faiths can and do substitute for one another in relation to non-liturgical functions." Indeed so – and what a positive model for how religions might witness together in a pluralist, secular setting.

William Raines

IACAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE- PARIS

Conference 23rd to 28th August. Post Conference Tour 28th August to 1st September

Our annual conference this year is to be hosted by the chaplains at the Paris Airports. The theme of this year's conference is "*Airports-Human, Religious and Cultural Crossroads*" Much planning has already taken place and most arrangements have now been made. All the chaplains of Paris Airports are eagerly awaiting to welcome you to the 49th annual IACAC Conference. Much work has gone into keeping the costs as low as possible so all delegates can attend the conference and spend time exploring beautiful France. Registrations will open on the 15th March and more details will be sent out very soon. Please do plan to join us in Paris. The conference promises to be stimulating and thought provoking.

NEWS FROM OUR CHAPLAINCIES

Rev Adrien Neely Executive Director Interfaith Airport Chapel Atlanta Int'l Airport wrote,"

*Two of our chaplains at the Hartsfield-Jackson Airport in Atlanta have decided to retire effective the first of 2016. They both have been very active in the ministry and we are certain many of you know them.

Frank Colladay was at the last meeting in New York and as you know he was admitted into the hospital for heart surgery while in New York. He has served at the airport for eight years. He is recovering nicely but he lives quite a distance from the airport and has decided not to make the trips into Atlanta due to his health.

Don Kelsey has been very active for thirty years at the Atlanta airport and has been very active in Catholic Airport chaplains in the US as well as internationally. He is also a "lifetime member" of IACAC. Over the years he has had several medical issues as well and is not able to come to the airport not able to come to the airport on a regular basis now due to his current health situation. He does continue to serve on our board of directors.

We want to thank both of these gentlemen for their years of service to the Atlanta Airport as well to IACAC functions. I am sure you will continue to remember their service to the chaplaincy as well as their good health in your prayers.

Jean –Pascal Dey from Nice Airport has informed us that he has taken over from Henri Damamme as the President of the Chaplaincy Board but Henri still has a part to play. He is now the Treasurer. Mgr Antonin Balnchi is no longer working as part of the airport chaplaincy team and the Bishop has appointed Deacon Claude Philipott in his place.

For those of you who were not aware, our Treasurer, Mrs Bev McNeely recently underwent major back surgery. She is making a slow but steady recovery and has felt supported by all the messages she has received Bev has asked for this message to be sent.

"All my special friends and colleagues. Thank you so much for all the prayers, get well messages, thinking of you messages and the lovely flowers, etc. What a blessing it is to be able to reach out to friends around the world to hold me up in prayer before our Lord. Prayers for not only me, but for my surgeons and Steve. I am getting around pretty well and following the doctors' orders, but don't want to push too hard until I am released. My doctor said that I need to be walking a mile 6 weeks after surgery -- while that may not sound like a lot, but I feel each step as my nerves endings are reconnecting. Please continue to uphold me in your prayers, the same as I do for each of you. May the Lord continue to bless each and every one of you. Blessings and Hugs Beverly McNeely"

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Hold fast to your dreams for without them life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly.

Langton Hughes. US Writer, Poet and Essayist