

**Notes of the SCT Forum 2015:
Who Is My Neighbour? Community and Chaplaincy**

Andrew Chalkley, Chaplain to Frome Market

He ministers to several local parishes and on Wednesdays, market day, he comes to this, the traditional centre of the rural community, wearing a badge announcing he is the chaplain. He represents 'the Church without walls'. He has found friendship here and ways to "uncover the kingdom of God". He suggested that worshipping groups could think of adopting a chaplain, and offer prayer support.

Michael Joyce, Frome Livestock Auctioneers

This is one of only two such markets remaining in Somerset, and was redeveloped 25 years ago, following a 500 year tradition of a Wednesday market in Frome. Individual farms have drastically reduced in number, as have livestock markets places. The Standerwick Centre was used during the 2001 foot and mouth crisis as a vital refuge for the farming community.

Rob Walrond, Farming Community Network

He is an organic farmer and spoke from the heart of the isolation and separation felt by those still working on farms, and the dire financial difficulties they face. FCN provides a telephone helpline, and offers support to people in trouble who are referred to them.

Maree Farrimond, Newbury Town Centre Chaplain

She spoke of St Martin of Tours who gave to a needy person half his military cloak, his "capellan", which gives us the word 'chaplain'. He worked outside church walls alongside people, invited by them to offer his ministry, without exercising authority. Nowadays chaplains are commissioned, for instance by Churches Together groupings. In town centres they work in pairs as the original 72 of the gospels were asked to do; they are guests, not hosts, and therefore vulnerable. They seek to listen to people prayerfully, not to preach.

Chris Brown, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme Chaplain

This is a non competitive scheme for young people, offering opportunities for expeditions and growth of body, mind and spirit. There are many openings for volunteers, including chaplains.

Steve Reed, Taunton Team Chaplaincy

He coordinates a team of volunteer chaplains from 14 churches and promotes the idea that 'the church has left the building!' They have a variety of places including supermarkets, department stores, offices and barracks where they are welcomed to offer support and are on the streets every day.

Debbie Thrower, Anna Chaplain, Alton

She spoke of the identity crisis experienced by elderly people, especially those living in care homes, who often feel 'erased'. Her work helps such people to make sense of older age, overcoming feelings of fragmentation by 're-membering'. She recommended a new initiative of the Bible Reading Fellowship called The Gift of Years (<http://brf.org.uk/thegiftofyears>).