

3. The Diocese of Worcester

Church Action Within Society - www.cofe-worcester/work_of_the_diocese/social_outreach.php

CAWS Principle Officer and Social Responsibility Officer:
John Paxton, 01905 732817 email: jpaxton@cofe-worcester.org.uk

Faith at Work in Worcestershire (FWW)
www.faithatwork.org.uk Leader: Phillip Jones, 01905 755037
email: phillipjones@faithatwork.org.uk

Black Country Urban Industrial Mission (BCUIM)
www.bcuim.co.uk Office: 01902 710407
email: enquiries@bcuim.co.uk

Chaplaincy for Agriculture and Rural Life (CARL) <http://freerangevicar.blogspot.com>
Chaplain: Robert Barlow, 01886 821339 email: rbarlow@cofe-worcester.org.uk

FWW and BCUIM have:

- each produced a leaflet entitled 'Lost your job?'
- run workshops on redundancy, unemployment and debt to encourage local churches to be better able to help
- briefed church leaders
- supported people affected by redundancy and work pressures through chaplains in workplaces
- engaged with leaders of commerce, industry and civic society in responding to our economic problems
- contributed to Christian thinking about the future shape of our economy

Signposts to Help in times of economic difficulties

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1. Help for Individuals

Advice (general)

Citizens Advice www.citizensadvice.org.uk This service helps people resolve their legal, money and other problems by providing free information and advice, and by influencing policy makers.

national helpline 08444 77 1010 (10.00 – 16.00)

You can find a local centre from their web page by entering your postcode.

Adviceguide www.adviceguide.org.uk is an online information service from Citizens Advice

The What? Centre <http://www.thewhatcentre.com/> 01384 379992- a registered charity specializing in young people's advice and information

Debt (free advice)

National Debtline 080 880 84000 (9am-9pm weekdays, 9:30am-1pm Saturdays)

Consumer Credit Counselling Service www.cccs.co.uk 0800 138 1111 - also offer online debt counselling <http://debtremedy.cccs.co.uk>

Community Legal Advice 0845 345 4345 - free service funded by legal aid

Employment Advice

JobCentre Plus – 0800 0 55 66 88 (to register) 0845 6060234 (looking for jobs) www.jobcentrepplus.gov.uk

Directgov www.direct.gov.uk offers help for coping with redundancy and managing your finances

ACAS (Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service) www.acas.org.uk – help line 0845 7474747

SIGNPOST 01384 77790 - a job centre at Brierley Hill

Food

Black Country Food Bank operates throughout Dudley Borough and has bases in Stourbridge, Brierley Hill, Netherton and Halesowen. They can provide three days nutritionally balanced emergency food-aid for people in crisis identified and referred by frontline voucher distributors

including Citizens Advice, Sure Start and the What? Centre. To find where to get a voucher visit <http://blackcountryfoodbank.webs.com/wheretogetavoucher.htm>

Housing

Shelter Housing Aid <http://england.shelter.org.uk/> national advice line 0808 800 4444

Worcester Housing and Benefit Advice Centre www.whabac.org.uk/ 01905 721899

Trades Unions

TUC www.tuc.org.uk – Midlands Office 0121 236 4454

Training

Learn Direct www.learnirect.co.uk 0800 101 901 - Training is free to unemployed people

Next step www.nextstepwestmidlands.org.uk 08000 217 244 – adult guidance – looking for work, updating skills training, redundancy help

Seetec www.seetec.co.uk 01702 201070 - one of the UK's leading providers of employment, training and IT services

2. Help for Businesses and Farmers

Business Advice/Self employment

Business Debtline 0800 197 6026 - confidential, independent free advice

Chamber of Commerce – Enterprise advisers, training, etc.

Hereford and Worcester - www.hwchamber.co.uk - 0845 641 1641

Dudley (part of Black Country Chamber) www.blackcountrychamber.co.uk 0845 002 1234

Business Link West Midlands <http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/westmidlands> 0845 113 1234

Support West Midlands (West Midlands Task Force) www.supportwm.co.uk

Federation of Small Businesses www.fsb.org.uk - help line 01253 336 000

local contacts - Worcestershire: 01386 750032 Black Country: 01332 517176

Manufacturing Advisory Service - West Midlands www.mas-wm.org - 0845 245 0845

Farmers

Farm Crisis Network www.fcn.org.uk Helpline: 0845 367 9990 (7am - 11pm every day) FCN provides pastoral and practical support to farming people during periods of anxiety, stress and problems relating to both the farm household and the farm business. They can also act as a gateway into the resources of the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI) and the ARC Addington Fund.