



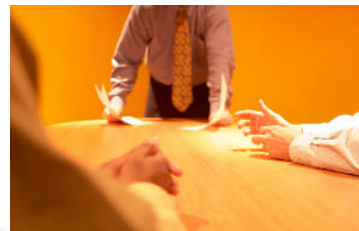
Take Your Minister to Work



Take Your Minister to Work

Take Your Minister to Work Day seeks to

- Help Christians to forge a closer link between their faith and their working lives.
- Help churches and local clergy to develop a greater understanding of the world of work.
- Develop relationships and networking opportunities between churches and local businesses for mutual benefit.
- Make churches aware of the particular challenges and struggles that are faced by employers and employees within their local community.
- Affirm and encourage local businesses.



A partnership project of



ICF - Faith on Monday Morning

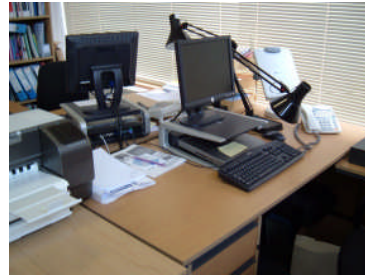
An opportunity to make some real connections

www.icf-online.org



Take Your Minister to Work

Take Your Minister to Work Day is a partnership initiative that seeks to encourage a closer understanding between local churches and the working lives of the community around them. During the season of “Rogationtide” members of the clergy are encouraged to visit at least one workplace, either of a member of their congregation, or in a local business with which the church has some tangible connection (e.g. one that serves the same community).



Rogationtide is an ancient Christian festival in which congregations would “beat the bounds” of their Parish; and clergy would often be invited into the fields to “bless the crops”. It was observed on the days preceding Ascension Day, which is the fortieth day after Easter, usually falling around the middle of May. In many rural communities various Rogation rituals continue to be practised, although it is no longer deemed to be an essential component in a church programme.



These rituals made very clear connections between the Church and the everyday working lives of those it was called to serve. The importance of maintaining this connection in a 21st century context remains paramount. Most Christians of working age will spend more time in their place of employment than

anywhere else, and more time with their work colleagues than anyone else except their immediate family. Developing an understanding of the world of work, and the specific work situations of congregational and community members, is an important part of sustaining effective discipleship and mission.

Clergy who visit workplaces do not come with any agenda except to *listen* and to *understand*. Where it is practical and safe to do so, it can

be particularly enlightening to participate in the normal workplace activity of regular employees. It can be an opportunity to hear and better appreciate some of the particular issues and challenges that face the particular sector of employment that they are visiting.

Take Your Minister to Work Day is something that churches and local businesses can participate in with relative ease. It is simple to do and even a one-off visit will have value in its own right. It may also open up further opportunities for churches and employers to continue to work together for mutual benefit.

We invite both ministers and local businesses to recognise the potential value of this initiative and encourage them to participate. Clergy who register will receive a simple guide leaflet offering advice on arranging a workplace visit and a personal reflection sheet to help them identify what they have learned through it. Participants may wish to restrict themselves to one visit or set aside some time to engage with a number of workplace situations. Those who are not affiliated to one of the partner organisations are welcome and encouraged to participate in this initiative.



Who we are

Take Your Minister to Work Day is a project that was initiated by Industrial Christian Fellowship (ICF) and the North Western Baptist Association, and developed in partnership with Churches Together in Cheshire. ICF has a history of supporting people in the workplace that dates back to 1877 when it was founded as The Navy Mission. More details about Take Your Minister to Work Day and the work of ICF in general can be found on our website.

www.icf-online.org