

A Monthly Digest of Ecumenical News and Views

From Churches Together in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire

For August 2009

Even during the holiday months there are things going on, and preparations to be made for the Autumn – here are some more items gleaned from those we've received that may be of interest or help to you.

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NOTTINGHAM INTER FAITH COUNCIL INVITE YOU TO

**A FAMILY FUN DAY
PICNIC IN THE PARK**

Sunday 2nd Aug 2009, 12.30 to 3.00pm

Wollaton Park

(meet in front of Wollaton Hall).

Bring your own lunch. Activities for kids of all ages!
Visit the Botanical Gardens, see the Deer – or just relax !

For more information, contact: -

Mr. John Murray
Development Officer
Nottingham Inter Faith Council
Private tel: 01949 876 447
Mob. tel: 07970 952 616

Reply to e-mail john.murray.whm@ntlworld.com

Prayer and the BNP

St James' Church, Codnor is holding a Day of Prayer on **Saturday 15th August**, from 10.00am to 4.00pm; to which everyone is welcome. The church will simply be open for those who are looking for a quiet place in which they might pray on their own or with others. There will be five minutes of guided prayer on each hour, and coffee and biscuits will be available throughout the day. This day of prayer coincides with the proposed BNP festival in Denby and is an opportunity to pray into that situation.

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Taizé Worship

An Ecumenical Service of Prayer and meditation

With prayer for all the Churches, for the City of Nottingham and for the World
On the second Tuesday of each month, 6pm – 7pm, with refreshments from 5pm
@ St Andrew's with Castle Gate Church (URC),
Goldsmith Street, Nottingham NG5 5JT

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mission shaped ministry

All over Britain, Christians are beginning fresh expressions of church for our changing culture. **Mission-shaped ministry** is a year long, part time course that aims to equip individuals and teams for a lifetime of good practice and learning.

The course is being co-ordinated ecumenically across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, with leaders from the Anglican, Methodist, Baptist and Church of Christ churches.

Together, we are delighted to make the mission shaped ministry course available to our area as an effective means of training all God's people further in mission.

• “**mission shaped ministry** provides one of the most exciting and creative ways in which God's gifts can be nourished and focussed to have maximum impact for the Gospel in our times. I hope that many will take advantage of this important opportunity - I commend the course warmly. God ever calls us to be agents of His new and surprising life.” **Right Revd Dr Alastair Redfern, Bishop of Derby**

Who is it for?

- Christians who want their church to be more effective in mission
- Individuals and teams who are exploring ideas for fresh expressions
- Experienced pioneers who want to reflect on what they are doing
- Emerging leaders in new forms of church
- Ministers & leaders who want to learn about and / or support fresh expressions

What will you learn?

- How to begin a fresh expression of church
- How to sustain and grow a fresh expression
- The qualities and characteristics of Christian mission
- Listening to God in our culture and community

Features of the course

- Designed for busy Christians active in ministry
- Ecumenically owned & delivered with students from a broad range of churches
- Varied learning styles and resources
- Teaching by local & national teachers
- Rooted in prayer and worship
- Access to a growing online community & resources
- Develops lively learning networks of people who support one another in ministry
- Learning through reflection on your own context & story

When & Where?

The course runs from September 2009 until June 2010, with 6 Monday evening sessions (7:30pm to 9:30pm), 3 Saturday sessions (9:30am to 3pm), and a residential weekend (6:30pm Fri. 8th to 4pm Sun. 10th Jan 2010).

The weekday and Saturday sessions will be hosted at the All Saints Centre, Huthwaite, NG17 2JT, about 2 miles from Junction 28 of the M1. The residential weekend will be at Bawtry Hall, Bawtry, DN10 6JH.

How much will it cost?

The normal course fee is £325.

We would not want anyone to be hindered from joining the course because of costs; Please consider asking your PCC or Deanery for financial support for this valuable training, or if this is not available contact Rev Michael Mitton, at - Derby Church House, Full Street, Derby, DE1 3DR Tel: 01332 388674

Please contact the *msm* course administrator for a booking form.

How do I find out more?

Contact the course administrator –
Ian Dobson, Course Administrator, *msm* Derby & Notts,
The Rectory, Main Street, Rampton, Retford, Nottinghamshire, DN22 0HR
Tel. 01777 248143
email msm_derby_notts@yahoo.co.uk

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East Midlands Christian Aid Magazine update

September/October

Poverty Over: transforming lives

A series of events put on by Christian Aid around the East Midlands this autumn. We believe poverty can and must be swiftly ended. **We urge you to help us make it happen.** Want to find out more about our vision to end poverty?

Be inspired: by hearing about Christian Aid's work around the world.

Be informed: a chance to look at the latest resources and quiz staff members with any issues or questions.

Be refreshed: each of the events will include food and the opportunity to meet other supporters to share ideas and tips.

Please do join us at one of these events near you:

Tuesday 29th September, 7:30pm, Christ Church hall, Boundary Road, **Newark**, NG24 4AJ

Thursday 1st October, 7:30pm, The Crossing, Newcastle Street, **Worksop**, S80 2AT

Saturday 3rd October, 9:30pm, The Town Hall, **Ashbourne**, DE6 1ES

Places are free, but booking is essential.

To book your place please contact the East Midlands Christian Aid office on 01530 417522, ashby@christian-aid.org or Christian Aid, 70-72 Market Street, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire, LE65 1AN.

Harvest

This year Christian Aid's harvest materials are focusing on the work of partner organisation Deccan Development Society which is working with dalit communities in India. For more information and to order your pack, please visit the website www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/harvest.

Campaigns

Do you believe in a world free from the poverty and injustice caused by climate change?

Take the Countdown to Copenhagen pledge at www.christianaid.org.uk/actnow to tell the Prime Minister that in December 2009 we need the world leaders meeting in Copenhagen to make a fair deal for the world's poor on climate change. If you would like pledge cards and postcards for your church or housegroup or someone to come and talk about Christian Aid's Climate Change Campaign please contact Ruth Beverley on 01530 417522 or rbever@christian-aid.org

Emergencies

Please visit <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/> to see information about the emergencies we are currently responding to and <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/pressoffice/pressreleases/index.aspx> to see our latest press releases on all topics.

Prayer

Please visit www.surefish.co.uk/prayerdiary for information on prayer resources available from Christian Aid. This includes church resources and reflections which you may wish to include in your magazine.

You can also visit <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/churches/prayer/index.aspx> on our main website for prayers for use in services and reflections.

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News from the Joint Public Issues Team

(Baptist, Methodist s and URC Churches working together)

Creation in Crisis: a time for prayer and action

Between 1 September and 4 October, churches are encouraged to observe a Time for Creation, for the protection of God's creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles.

Resources for Creation Time 2009 include suggestions for churches, groups and individuals to focus on a creation theme, either on one occasion or over the five weeks (sermon notes, discussion ideas for young people, Bible study notes, action ideas, prayers and other liturgical material). In particular, some of the material looks at the crucial issues facing the UN Climate Summit in Copenhagen in December. The resources are now available here. (<http://www.ctbi.org.uk/creationtime>)

UN International Day of Prayer for Peace

The Joint Public Issues Team is preparing some resources for prayer and theological reflection for churches to use on **Sunday 20 September** to mark the UN International Day of Prayer for Peace (21 September). Available to download from the Joint Public Issues Team website (<http://http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/>) in August.

Nuclear Non-proliferation and Trident missiles

At the G8 summit at L'Aquila, Italy, Gordon Brown stated that, at the NPT Review Conference in May 2010, he could place on the table the offer of a reduction in the number of warheads in the Trident nuclear missile system. Our churches take the view that a reduction in the number of warheads is a poor token gesture in the light of the billions that our government is due to spend on new submarines. This investment makes sense only if we are to keep the system well into the 2040s and beyond. A recent report by the Institute of Public Policy Research states that cheaper and more flexible options to maintaining a minimum nuclear deterrent need to be investigated. (<http://www.ippr.org/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=676>)

The Government intends to make a decision on the next stage of the Trident programme in September while Parliament is in recess. This will commit us to the design phase for the new system. This phase is likely to cost over £4 billion. 160 MPs have signed an early day motion calling on the Government to fulfil its promise to provide a report to the House of Commons for scrutiny before the decision is made. Has your MP signed? See (<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=37711&SESSION=899>) Please consider writing to express your concern.

Get Fair

It's good to know that at least 117 MPs were lobbied by constituency groups during the weekend of 26/27 June. Since the lobby, the Government has pledged to increase the number of social rented homes and 62 MPs (only one Conservative) have signed EDM 1529 tabled by John Battle MP. Please ask your MP to sign it by linking to Get Fair's e-action at <http://www.getfair.org.uk/lobby> or the Early Day Motion itself: (<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=38699&SESSION=899>)

Obviously, asking MPs to sign the EDM or pledge their support is not the end. Get Fair is encouraging people to have ongoing dialogue with MPs and prospective candidates on these issues, and to organise follow up meetings in the autumn.

Please forward any feedback, stories, comments, pictures or media coverage to info@getfair.org.uk or Get Fair c/o Church Action on Poverty, Central Buildings, Oldham Street, Manchester M1 1JQ.

'Asylum in Britain - a Question of Conscience' by Revd Dr Anthony Harvey (formerly Canon Theologian and Sub-Dean of Westminster Abbey and chair of the Churches' Refugee Network)

A significant new book examining the successive stages of the asylum process, reviewing the efforts government has made to meet its obligations and conform with acceptable standards of humane treatment. It argues that even when all these factors are taken into account the balance of public policy has come down too heavily on the side of exclusion and restriction, with the result that much of the system and its administration amounts to an affront to any well-informed conscience.

£10.00, incl. p&p (cheques payable to the George Bell Institute) from Dr Andrew Chandler, George Bell Institute, University of Chichester, College Lane, Chichester PO19 6PE.

Racial Justice Sunday - 13 September

The Changing Face of Britain and Ireland - 'Who do you say I am?'

This year all the materials for use on Racial Justice Sunday (or any Sunday) will be available online to download from CTBI (<http://www.ctbi.org.uk/396>) and denominational webpages, and will include worship resources, stories and suggestions for other activities. If you require the materials in printed format, please contact your denominational Racial Justice/Equalities office.

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Glossary of abbreviations used in this and other mailings:

CTE – Churches Together in England – the umbrella body co-ordinating and encouraging inter-church work in England.

See www.churches-together.org.uk

Visit: www.rejesus.co.uk

CTBI – Churches Together in Britain and Ireland www.ctbi.org.uk

CTD – Churches Together in Derbyshire – The County-based body that encourages inter-church work throughout the county of Derbyshire

www.churchestogetherderbyshire.org.uk

CTN - Churches Together in Nottinghamshire – The County-based body that encourages inter-church work throughout the county of Nottinghamshire

www.churchestogethernottinghamshire.org.uk

LEP – Local Ecumenical Partnership – check out

www.churchestogetherderbyshire.org.uk or

www.churchestogethernottinghamshire.org.uk for details of the bodies that fit into these categories

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