

Birmingham Ecumenical News

Events and news from across the Christian community
for Birmingham & Solihull: December 2009 to February 2010

International Carol Service

St Martin's-in-the-Bullring

2.00pm Saturday 5th December 2009

Please join us
for a multilingual
celebration
of the birth of Jesus



All Welcome



Organised by Restore on behalf of Birmingham Churches Together
For more information please contact Restore on 0121 766 8764



In this edition:

Page 4 BCT Restore

Pages 8 Other Events

Page 12 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Page 2

Page 5

Pages 9

News in Brief

BCT Training

Passion for Life

Page 3 Special dates & websites

Page 6-7 Carols & Christmas Events

Page 11 Vacancies and Volunteering

News Briefs

Welcome!! New Archbishop for the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham

The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has announced that the Right Reverend Bernard Longley, titular Bishop of Zarna and currently Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Westminster, will be the next Archbishop of Birmingham. Bishop Longley was named the ninth Archbishop of Birmingham on 1 October 2009. He succeeds the Archbishop of Westminster, the Most Reverend Vincent Nichols (2000-2009). After receiving news of his appointment, Bishop Bernard Longley said: "I feel immensely honoured and very humbled that the Holy Father has appointed me to succeed Archbishop Vincent Nichols as Archbishop of Birmingham. I look forward to serving the Priests and Deacons, the Religious and all the People of the Archdiocese and to working alongside my brother Bishops there. I also look forward to knowing and appreciating the life of the Diocese and the many ways in which it reaches out with the love and truth of Christ, in its parish and school communities and through ecumenical and inter-religious friendships. I am grateful to Bishop William Kenney for his faithful service as Diocesan Administrator over recent months and for the welcome he has already shown to me." [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news.asp?news=35]

In 1996 Bishop Bernard became National Ecumenical Officer at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. In 1999 he was appointed Moderator of the Steering Committee of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and also Assistant General Secretary of Catholic Bishops' Conference with responsibilities for Ecumenism and Interreligious Affairs. Bishop Longley authored the Catholic Commentary on the Agreed Joint Statement by the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission - 'Growing towards Unity and Mission' (2007). [www.catholicchurch.org.uk/ccb/catholic_church/the_church_in_england_and_wales/bishops/longley_bernard]

Bishop Longley will be installed as Archbishop of Birmingham at the Metropolitan Cathedral and Basilica of Saint Chad on 8 December 2009.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18 to 25 January 2010

YOU ARE WITNESSES

For Resources to download or order, including worship for each day and an all age service go to:

www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer

World Council of Churches appoint new General Secretary

Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, Norwegian theologian and pastor, age 48, was elected 7th general secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Thursday 27 August during its Central Committee meeting. Tveit will be the youngest general secretary since Willem A. Visser 't Hooft who had led the WCC while it was in process of formation and following its founding assembly 61 years ago.

"This task I really feel is the call of God. I feel that we have a lot to do together", said Tveit in his acceptance speech before the central committee. He stressed the spirit of unity that dominated the whole process and expressed hope that it will continue to reign in the common journey. Tveit encouraged the committee members to continue praying for him: "Please do not stop!"

Since 2002, Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit has been the general secretary of the Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations. Tveit is a member of the WCC Faith and Order Plenary Commission and the board of directors and executive committee of the Christian Council of Norway.

Tveit will replace outgoing general secretary Rev. Dr Samuel Kobia who in February 2008 informed the Central Committee, the WCC's highest governing body, that he would not seek a second term in office. Kobia has served as general secretary since 2004. [www.oikoumene.org/en/news]

Special Dates

1 December	World Aids Day	www.worldaidsday.org
10 December	Human Rights Day	www.un.org/events/humanrights
18 - 25 January	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	www.ctbi.org.uk
17 January	World Religion Day	www.worldreligionday.org
27 January	Holocaust Memorial Day	www.hmd.org.uk/
31 January	World Leprosy Day	www.leprosymission.org.uk
31 January	Education Sunday	www.educationsunday.org
31 Jan - 7 Feb	Poverty and Homeless Action Week	www.homelessness-Sunday.org.uk www.church-poverty.org.uk
22 Feb - 7 March	Fairtrade Fortnight (The Big Swop)	www.fairtrade.org.uk/
5 March	Women's World Day of Prayer	www.wwdp-natcomm.org
2 - 6 June	Centenary of 1910 World Missionary Conference	www.edinburgh2010.org

The Churches in Birmingham are planning a city centre event to mark

Pentecost Sunday on the afternoon of 23 May 2010

It will be open to all Christians from across the Churches and Christian traditions

Please keep this date free

Interesting and useful Websites

<http://evangelismuk.typepad.com/evangelismuknet/>

Sign up to receive regular mission and evangelism bulletins by email

The blog hosted by Churches Together in England's Group for Evangelisation: www.gfe.org.uk

www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk

Website packed resources aimed at helping churches become family friendly

www.urbanmission.org.uk

Learning resources for Christian Mission in an Urban World

www.ukltg.com

UKLTG promotes Christian pilgrimages to the north of England, Wales and Scotland

www.throughtheroof.org

The website of 'Through the Roof' - a Christian disability ministry working in partnership with churches and other organisations to promote access and inclusion of disabled people in every area of church life.

Birmingham Churches Together: Restore



**Restore: a project of
Birmingham Churches Together
supporting refugees and asylum seekers**



Who is fleeing persecution and seeking sanctuary?

**Please join Restore for 3 sessions offering
information on asylum issues
and training for befriending refugees and asylum seekers**

***EVENING COURSE:* Mondays 1st, 8th and 22nd February 2010**

**7.30 - 9.30pm at All Saints Church, 172 Herbert Road,
Small Heath, Birmingham, B10 0PR**

Restore's training is offered to all those who are interested in becoming a volunteer befriender of asylum seekers and refugees. Anyone wishing to gather further information on asylum and refugee issues is also welcome. (N.B. there is no obligation to volunteer with Restore at the end of the course!)

- Week one: introduction to Restore and an overview of asylum issues, exposing some of the media myths about asylum, introduction to befriending and hearing the personal experience of a befriender
- Week two: introduction to the asylum application process and hearing the first-hand experience of a refugee or asylum seeker
- Week three: the practicalities of befriending including guidelines, qualities, boundaries, cross cultural issues and the support offered to volunteers

All sessions include interactive elements

“Befrienders are excellent at providing the invisible things like just showing you around, being a friend, providing company, giving you a feeling of normal life.”

(Quote from an asylum seeker)

**Further details are available from Jeremy Thompson (Befriending Co-ordinator of RESTORE)
Telephone – 0121 766 8764; email: befriend@restore-uk.org; website: www.restore-uk.org**

Birmingham Churches Together: Training

BCT Training News Autumn 2009

WORKING WITH BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER TRAINING

Opportunities

Administrative Assistant

Salary: NJC Scale 4, point 18 (£16,536 pro rata at 21 hours per week)

Initially for six months starting January 2010 but will be extended subject to funding

This is an exciting opportunity to support Birmingham Churches Together Training in its work of promoting wider access to learning for disadvantaged and hard to reach adults and families in and through the churches, faith groups and schools within Birmingham and Solihull. (Contact us for closing date for applications and interview date)

Treasurer

Voluntary position with expenses

Our Treasurer is retiring and we need a person with suitable qualifications and experience to help us; initially for one year. The Treasurer plays an important role in overseeing the work of the Administrative Assistant by attending meetings of the Management Committee (four annually) and the Finance Subcommittee (meets as necessary).

Learning Champions

Voluntary positions with expenses which may lead to paid sessional work for those with suitable qualifications and experience. BCT Training delivers a variety of programmes for adults who have English as a second language as well as Family Learning and Parenting Courses. We are looking for people who are interested in supporting learners under the guidance of our tutors. These opportunities currently exist in Handsworth, Handsworth Wood, Small Heath, Nechells, Saltley and Moseley

To Apply and for Further Information

Full details on our [website: www.bcttraining.co.uk](http://www.bcttraining.co.uk)

Or Write to the Training and Development Officer, BCT Training,
All Saint's House, 172 Herbert Road,
Small Heath, Birmingham B10 0PR.
Or Telephone: 0121 766 5599
Email: training@birminghamchurches.org.uk

Family Learning Festival October 2009

Mums and children at the Rookery Children's Centre and the Baptist Church Centre, Handsworth celebrated the National Family Learning Festival. 16 adults and 32 children took part in physical exercises and games whilst improving their communication skills and having great fun together.

Thank you Susan and Manjeet for leading these sessions.



Carols & Christmas events in date order

GREAT BIG CHRISTMAS SING

A Christian Aid fundraising concert focused on present-day Bethlehem.
Featuring Young Strings Project, Sylvia Rose White and Chad Quartet.
Fairtrade refreshments provided by Midlands Co-op

On Friday 4th December at 7pm (doors open 6.30pm)

St Martin's Church (Bullring), Edgbaston St., Birmingham B5 5BB

Cost: £7.50 (in advance), £10 on the night

Contact: Tel. 0121 303 2323 Website: www.birminghamboxoffice.co.uk

MOTHERS' UNION:

join us for a

Family Advent Service

St Martin's in the Bullring

Saturday 5th December at 11am.

You are invited to bring a strip of cloth, and children to bring a picture they have made of a carol.

All are most welcome.

Information about Mothers' Union in Birmingham from
office@mu-bham.fsbusiness.co.uk

RIDING LIGHTS THEATRE COMPANY

presents

Nearly the Goat

Acocks Green Methodist Church

1 Botteville Road, Birmingham B27 7YE

Saturday 5th December at 2.30pm

Tickets: £6 & concessions £5

Family/Group ticket for 4 people to include 1 or 2 adults—£16

Box Office: 0121 246 1865

A brand new Christmas play for the whole family

Birmingham Churches Together: Restore

International Carol Service 2.00pm Saturday 5th December at St Martin's in the Bullring

More details on front page of BEN for further details

2009 University of Birmingham Carol Service

Monday 7th December in the Great Hall (Aston Webb) at 6:15 pm.

This annual event, organised by the University Chaplains and the Department of Music is a joyful Christmas celebration for staff, students and families. All are welcome: no booking or ticket is required.

For further information please contact Fr Nicholas at n.lopolito@bham.ac.uk Tel. (0121) 414 8151

Roger Jones, "The Inn Crowd"

Come and join The Inn Crowd: hear the traditional Nativity story through the eyes of the Bethlehem Innkeeper and wife

Members from 12 churches in Yardley and Stechford area of Birmingham have come together for the first time in an exciting musical event to perform Roger Jones, "The Inn Crowd". The production is made up of local people who have a desire to share the Christmas story. Roger Jones, who wrote "The Inn Crowd" will conduct all 3 performances.

Saturday December 12th: 4pm & 7pm at

St Michaels and All Angels Church of England, Yew Tree Lane, Yardley, Birmingham B26 1AP

Sunday December 13th: 4pm at

Digbeth-in-the-Field United Reformed Church, Moat Lane, Yardley, Birmingham B26 1TW

Tickets: Adults £4 Children & Concessions £2 Family Ticket £12.00 Cheques payable to: The Inn Crowd Singers

Tickets available from: Derek Clayton: 0121 783 8342 derek_clayton@onetel.com

Helen Jones: 07947925202 helen.jones8@virgin.net; Anne Maddox: 0121 706 7811 annemaddox8@googlemail.com

Carols & Christmas events in date order

CAROLS IN THE CITY

Celebrating Christmas

Saturday 12 December

Victoria Square and other venues around the city

Come and be inspired by the true meaning of Christmas as we celebrate together with music and song amid the wonderful atmosphere of the Frankfurt Christmas Market.

Birmingham City Centre from 2.00pm

postcard/flier enclosed

www.carolsinthecity.org A partnership between Birmingham Churches and Birmingham City Council



Carols for the Business Community

You are warmly invited to a lunchtime carol service for those working in the city centre with a talk by Revd Chris Turner
Birmingham Cathedral, Colmore Row

Thursday 17th December, 1.05–1.55 pm.

Mince pies and mulled mora juice will be served after the carols

Further information contact: Tel Chris Dinsdale 0121 236 9742 or chris.dinsdale@chaplaincyplus.org.uk

The Promise

Christmas Carol Concert 2009

Boyce & Stanley

Friday 18 December 8pm

Corpus Christi RC Church, Stechford

Tickets: £8.50/£6

Tel: 01675 466254

www.cjmmusic.co.uk/box office

Apostolic Faith Mission (UK)

Annual Christmas Evening of Music

Saturday 19 December 4pm-6pm

Redeemed Christian Church of God

Bristol Street, Birmingham B5 7AY

Admission is free.

New English Orchestra and Singers introduce

RECREATIO!

Saturday 16 Jan 2010 7:30pm at Birmingham Town Hall

A kaleidoscope of music to refresh and inspire from an ensemble which specialises in spiritual music.

This highly varied concert includes music from different genres and from around the world

Ticket prices: £10, £15, £20 and £25

Book your tickets online: Birmingham Town Hall booking page www.thsh.co.uk Or phone 0121 780 3333.

Other events in date order

THE WAVE

Come Together to stop climate chaos
in London on 5 December 2009

A Christian Service at 11am Westminster Central Hall, London SW1H 9NH,
followed by a peaceful march to the Thames.

Please wear blue or bring a blue banner to join The Wave.

Time to pray: Christian Worship with Archbishop Rowan Williams and Archbishop Vincent Nichols.
Time to march: family-friendly, peaceful march around the Thames

If you can't make the service, head straight to Grosvenor Square from 12pm. March leaves at 1pm
More details: www.stopclimatechaos.org/the-wave

Churches Together in Central Sutton Coldfield: Winter 2009-2010 Events

We continue our regular series of Prayer Breakfasts at the Trinity Centre, Church Hill, Sutton Coldfield B72 1TF
starting at 7.30am for 7.45am.

Saturday 12th December 2009 speaker will be David Healey (Intercontinental Church Society)

Saturday 13th February 2010 Our 50th breakfast with the speaker, Rt Revd Andrew Watson, Bishop of Aston

Booking forms should be available from about three to four weeks in advance from local churches,
or please telephone the King-Smiths on 0121 355 5018 if you hope to attend.
Pre-booking is requested to help with catering for the continental breakfast. (Cost £3).

Also **Thursday Evening 21st January 2010** at 7.30pm
a United Service as part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, at
St Peter's Church of England, Maney, Maney Hill Road, Sutton Coldfield B72 1JJ

All welcome to all events. www.suttoncoldfieldchurches.org.uk



Disabled Christians Fellowship

You are invited to a meeting of a new and vibrant group of the
Disabled Christians Fellowship, Hay Mills/Yardley. All ages and abilities are welcome

10.30am Saturday 30 January and 20 March 2010

Hay Mills Congregational Church, Waterloo Road B25 8LD (Opposite Dolland & Aitchison Car Park)
We would love you to join us. For further information please ring 0121 444 2213.

Disabled Christians Fellowship is part of *Through the Roof* [www.throughtheroof.org; tel: 01372 749955;
Registered Charity 1087788] and a venture of Waterloo Road Chapel & Hay Mills Congregational Church



IGNATIAN INDIVIDUALLY-GUIDED RETREATS IN STAFFORDSHIRE 2010

SUMMER: Monday 9th-16th AUGUST

AUTUMN: Monday 27th SEPT - 4th OCTOBER

At SHALLOWFORD HOUSE Near Stone

Three Possibilities: Monday p.m. - Mon a.m. OR Monday p.m.-Friday a.m. OR Friday p.m.-Monday a.m.
Cost: £45 per 24 hours approx. Some grants available. Further details:

Summer Retreat: Revd. Rob Hingley
147 Hamstead Road, Great Barr,
Birmingham B43 5BB
0121 357 4534
robhingley@btinternet.com

Autumn Retreat: Sister Morag Gardham
La Retraite
12 Clifford Road, Smethwick B67 5HJ
0121 434 5184
moraggardham@supanet.com

March 2010



Shalom Consultancy & Counselling Practice present:

A Dynamic Mother & Daughter Conference

Theme: “ From My Heart to Yours.....with LOVE!”

Saturday 13th March 2010 (11.00am-3.00pm)

Venue: Lakeside Suite, Ramada Hotel, Sutton Coldfield

Book early today to secure your places in doubles!

Only £15.00 per person all inclusive Conference (Spa treatment separate – leisure passes ½ price!)

Further info (online booking www.shalomconsultancy.com) or: Pauline & Ebony Anderson 0121 313 0410

a passion for life
in birmingham

A Passion for life is about proclaiming Christ's **PASSION** for the **LIFE** of the World in March 2010.

It is a nationwide initiative that is drawing together local evangelical churches to plan a fantastic variety of missional initiatives culminating in Easter 2010. Our passion is to see numerous people of all ages and backgrounds in our country reborn to glorify God.



March 26-28th 2010 come and join with us at a number of events at Birmingham Town Hall that seek to proclaim God's goodness in sending Jesus to the earth as we look ahead to Easter.

The events will primarily be for Christians to bring non-Christian friends along to so they can have an opportunity to hear the good news about Jesus. What we'd love would be for churches to build the events into their mission and outreach plans for the year.

Rico Tice, an experienced evangelist who works at All Souls Church (London) and wrote the Christianity Explored course, will be coming to help us see the relevance of the message of Jesus from passages in Luke's gospel. The program for the weekend is still taking shape but we envisage there being youth events (with the "band with no name"), seniors lunches, mums and tots Easter fun as well as an afternoon of apologetics events with short talks and opportunities for Q&A. Our evening events will be ticketed & should be of a high quality with good music, interviews and a clear talk from Rico.

For more information, go to the national Passion for Life website www.apassionforlife.org.uk

Or our local site for information on the Town Hall events www.apassionforlife-brum.org.uk

You will be able to order tickets through the website and find pages jam packed full of resources.

We're really excited about the events and ask you to pray with us that God would be glorified in all that we do and that there will be many who trust him for the first time in March!

If you'd like to know more please don't hesitate to email Dan Steel on 0121 4549444

or info@apassionforlife-brum.org.uk. c/o 1 Greenfield Crescent, Edgbaston, B15 3BE

Saturday 5 December 9:30am-11:30am, Monyhull Church, Kings Norton, B30 3PS -

a morning to share more information and pray for the events

Passion for Life, Birmingham is being organised by a local group of Midlands Gospel Partnership Churches.

You can find more information about the Gospel Partnership at www.midlandsgospel.org.uk

Langleys Community House and Lozells Bookshop

Looking for?

Accommodation

Christian values

New friends?

Langleys Community House



If you are between 20 and 40, and are looking for a place that offers Christian Community living in South Birmingham, then the Langleys Community House might be the answer for you! We currently have vacancies within the community and are seeking people to fill them.

Contact us at: bhamswcircuit@btinternet.com or on 0121 472 1060 If you would like an informal chat, ring Donald Eadie on 0121 449 9357

Lozells Bookshop

Looking for somewhere to get your Bibles, song books, study material, children's resources or other material? Come and visit our shop.

We are open Monday – Friday 10am – 4.30pm and Wednesday 10am – 1pm.

Our volunteers and bookshop supervisor Julie Stokes will be please to help.

Why not use the contact details below and phone your order though.

Lozells Bookshop, 92 Lozells Road, B19 2TB. Tel: 0121 554 6471; lozellsproject@tiscali.co.uk

Stop Press

Bethel Health and Healing Network

Safe Place Prayer Training

Partnering in Prayer for Emotional Healing

Venue: Azadi House, 56 Grantham Rd, Sparkbrook

Start date: **Weds 2nd December 2009**, 7pm

Sign up on the website for details: www.safeprayer.com

or Telephone: 07742557074

Coming Soon: **February 2010**

Pastoral Skills: a practical introduction

A course organised by

Shalom Consultancy and New Jerusalem Apostolic Church

6 Rocky Lane, Aston Cross, B6

Tel 0121 313 0410 or 0121 359 0272

Relationship Support

foundations
marriage and relationship support

Registered Charity
No. 1113091

Marriage Preparation

Couples preparing for 'The Big Day' can make the best start to their life together by devoting time to prepare for their marriage.

Church Leaders:

Do you marry a few couples a year?

Is Marriage Preparation too time consuming for you?

Would you like to access resources already up & running?

Throughout the year 'Foundations' offers the Marriage Preparation Course & FOCCUS, a relational inventory. Both of these excellent resources give couples the opportunity to develop skills & address issues which will enhance their relationship and lay the foundations for a fulfilling life together.

Courses are planned throughout 2010

If we can help you in any way please contact

David & Helen Bennett

Tel: 0121 308 0739

email office@foundations-westmidlands.org.uk

write: foundations, PO Box 13088 Sutton Coldfield B73 9FE

**Divorce
Recovery
Workshop**

Do you have people struggling with the effects of divorce or separation in your church. Why not suggest they attend this workshop. It could turn their life around !!

RECENTLY DIVORCED OR SEPARATED FROM A SIGNIFICANT RELATIONSHIP?

Suffering shock, disbelief, rejection, guilt, anger or bitterness?
Alone with these issues or receiving misguided advice?

DIVORCED OR SEPARATED FOR SOME TIME?

Feel you've got it together?

What about bitterness & resentment?

New relationships - are familiar problems recurring?

WHATEVER STAGE This workshop helps people have a better understanding of what they are going through.

For more information

Contact David & Helen Bennett

www.drw.org.uk

Tel: 0121 308 0739 or 07000 781889

The next workshop
STARTS on
Monday 22nd
February 2010

Vacancies and Volunteering

Job Vacancy: Community Development Worker (25 hours)

The Lozells Project

The Lozells Project, located in the Bookshop at 92 Lozells Road, is an ecumenical community-based ministry which is open to all. Together with local Churches and other partners, the project seeks to share the love of Christ in this multi-faith neighbourhood.

The Trustees wish to appoint a part time Community Development Worker (25 hours) to develop the Project's outreach and community work in partnership with the shop supervisor, local churches and other organisations. The person appointed will be an enthusiastic people-person with the ability to work on their own and to lead and be part of a team. He/she must be able to communicate effectively with people from different faiths, ethnic backgrounds and age groups and have some experience of work in an urban setting. Knowledge of Asian and Afro-Caribbean cultures would be an advantage.

The Salary will be £14,650 for a 25 hour week to be worked flexibly. There is presently funding in place for an initial 18 months. This will be extended if funding bids are successful.

For more information and an application form please
email Helen Jobling at helen.jobling@methodist.org.uk or telephone 0121 240 4767.
Closing date for applications is Friday December 11th. Interviews will be held on Tuesday January 5th.

Shalom Consultancy & Counselling Practice

V A C A N C Y

Administrator/Receptionist (14 hrs pw)

A voluntary position is available to assist the work of this small Company with an aim to support its strategic development to be of impact within Birmingham. Expenses will be paid.

Days: Monday, Tuesday & Friday mornings Evenings: Monday & Tuesday

Venue: Coleshill St, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham

Contact for further details: Mrs P Anderson

0121 313 0410 / 07951125908

Please see website: www.shalomconsultancy.com



Making a Difference

Initially we recruited volunteers from the city centre churches, then people from the suburbs joined us at Traidcraft's BC4 stall (as it was called) at Carrs Lane Church Centre. One of these volunteers had responded to our advert in BEN and we are glad to say she still regularly comes once a week after many years.

In line with Traidcraft's policy we are happy to welcome people of any faith or of none at all. For a long time a Hindu lady regularly volunteered on the team until ill health caused her to have to give up. We used to have a young Muslim couple until they moved out of Birmingham to do post graduate degrees.

We are blessed by having students from the city's universities – despite the fact that they are temporary and can only come to help at time that suit their studies. Through a Chinese post graduate student who joined, two other students have come along at different times. We had a French student last summer on work experience. We also welcome refugees who want to come and help us. Some of them have found their language skills and understanding of our culture have been enhanced through regular contact with the experienced volunteers and our customers.

It's all about teamwork with Traidcraft who are now working with more than one hundred groups in over thirty countries. Also with producers in the developing world, their families and their communities and then with each of us who are help by volunteering to sell their high quality foods and unique products from a variety of traditional craft skills. Last but not least are our customers who buy the goods, many of them very regularly.

We know that the benefits to the producers from fair trade are many – health, educational, economic, better working conditions and a safer environment. All this adds up to much improved lives and much happiness for them. You can see it in their faces when you meet producers such as Chino Henriques, general manager of a beekeeping co-operative in Chile or Nazma, a jewellery maker in Delhi.

At Carrs Lane, in the city centre, we are proud to have a good team working together to sell Traidcraft, but especially we are humbled by the small part we play in making the world a fairer place

Would you like to come and join us? For details phone 0121 643 6151 or email fair-trade@carrslane.co.uk.



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18 to 25 January 2010

YOU ARE WITNESSES

Churches around the world traditionally mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from 18 to 25 January in the octave between the feasts of St. Peter and St. Paul, although some local contexts choose to celebrate it around the Feast of Pentecost.

The global organisers (the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity and the World Council of Churches) of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity asked Scotland to host the week in 2010 to mark the centenary of the first world mission conference that met in Edinburgh. This gathering is traditionally seen as the beginning of the modern ecumenical movement, which seeks the visible unity of the world's divided churches.

Scottish churches are also involved in celebrations for the anniversary of the 1910 conference on the theme, "Witnessing to Christ today". Scotland therefore suggested as the theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2010, "You are witnesses to these things" (**Luke 24:48**).

For Resources to download or order, including worship
for each day and an all age service go to:

www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer

Advance Notice

The Churches in Birmingham are in the initial stages of planning a city centre event to mark

Pentecost Sunday on the afternoon of 23 May 2010

It will be open to all Christians from across the Churches and Christian traditions

Please keep this date free

BEN is the quarterly publication of Birmingham Churches Together [Charity No. 243931]

BCT seeks to encourage greater cooperation between Christian churches across Birmingham and Solihull in order to enhance God's mission. The contents of BEN do not necessarily reflect the considered views of the BCT Trustees or its member churches. BCT reserves the right to edit and format news articles and events information for inclusion in BEN.

Deadline for the next edition (March 2010 - May 2010)

9am on Monday 8 February 2010

post to: BCT, All Saints House, 172 Herbert Road, Small Heath, Birmingham B10 0PR

telephone: 0121 766 5522

email: office@birminghamchurches.org.uk

Editor: Revd Colin Marsh, Ecumenical Development Officer, Birmingham Churches Together