

BEN

Birmingham Ecumenical News

Events and news from across the Christian community
for Birmingham & Solihull

March to May 2011

Advance Notice

Plans are underway to hold an outdoor service in Victoria Square

Pentecost Sunday 12 June 2011

4.00pm to 5.30pm

Open to all Christians from across the Churches and Christian traditions

The 60th Anniversary of Birmingham Christian Council of Churches will be marked during the event

Please keep this afternoon free

More details in May's edition of BEN

This BEN is especially packed full of events and news about a wide range of Christian initiatives across Birmingham and Solihull. It reflects the great energy and vitality of the Christian community and a willingness to work together for the better good. In this edition you can read about events supported by Churches Together groups in Hall Green - page 8, Sutton Coldfield - page 11, Balsall and Berkswell - page 10 and Handsworth - page 9. Barbara Hayes writes on page 4 about the value of work placed chaplaincy and opportunities to volunteer on page 13. Thrive provides news on page 2 of the follow up to Redeeming Our Communities and the Million Acts of Kindness. Advocacy on behalf of the marginalised in our global world is reflected throughout BEN in the work of Restore, BCTTraining, Fair Trade, Jubilee Debt Campaign, Christian Aid and CAFOD. On page 5 read about Nightstop, a new initiative to provide a safety net for young people. Page 14 carries information about retreats. If you are new to thinking about living as a Christian disciple in a multi faith society, the conference on page 3 is for you...And lots more...

(Revd Colin Marsh, Ecumenical Development Officer)

Published by Birmingham Churches Together (Many Voices - One in Christ)

Redeeming Our Communities: Follow up

Transforming Our Communities

16th November 2010 saw Christians come together at the NIA for the 'Redeeming Our Communities' event to celebrate with Birmingham City Council and West Midlands Police, the work being done by churches across the city.

This event highlighted the important role churches have in transforming our city and encouraged Christians to work in partnership with the city council and the police; a partnership which both warmly welcome. The event gave momentum to a developing movement of individuals and churches, who motivated by their faith, are seeking ways to identify and respond to the needs in their neighbourhoods in ways that are both relevant to local community and steeped in prayer.

The 'Redeeming Our Communities' event was just the start and there are other events and activities being planned to support, encourage and inspire the **growing movement of Christians working alongside other people of goodwill**.

Thrive West Midlands is helping to provide locally focused support following the event. There is so much happening across this city and we know there is even more happening under the radar. If you are working in partnership in your local community or have ideas which you would like to explore further, we would love to hear from you. Or if you would like to join the 400 people who signed up at the event then please contact: admin@thrivewestmidlands.org

Future events and activities...

Retreat on the Street – Saturday 2nd April 2011

'Retreat on the Street' is an invitation to spend a day on the streets of Birmingham city centre with no agenda except to be with God and to observe the people and patterns of the city.

You will begin the day with a briefing and a joint time of prayer before leaving your personal possessions with the organisers. You will then be given 50p, a small wooden cross, a map, and emergency contact details, before leaving to walk, observe experience and pray the streets. You will return to the church for a light supper and there will be an opportunity to share your observations, experience and thoughts, before final prayers and the journey home.

The day will begin at about 9.30 at a city centre church on Saturday 2nd April. If you would like to take part please contact Rachel Newsome at Church Urban Fund on 020 7898 1648 or email rachel.newsome@cuf.org.uk to book your place and receive your retreat pack.

1 Million Acts of Kindness

Everyone has the ability to be kind - that's why we are challenging everyone in our city to take part in '1 Million Acts of Kindness Birmingham' - a year long initiative that will encourage people across all sections of the community to be a light in their street, neighbourhood and communities across Birmingham by engaging in acts of kindness. Birmingham is a city of 1 million people from all walks of life, cultures, religions and backgrounds. Just imagine how our city would be if everyone was to do an act of kindness and then pass it onto others!

We want people to notify us about the acts of kindness they have done or received so that they can be shared with others and counted towards our target of ONE MILLION!

You can start right NOW by joining our Facebook page '1 Million Acts of Kindness Birmingham' or emailing us at 1mak@thrivewestmidlands.org

Submit your stories, pictures, video and more so they can be shared with others. Let's light up the city with kindness.

For more information about Thrive West Midlands, Retreat on the Street, 1MAK or for expertise and support to help you think through what might be possible in your neighbourhood please contact 0121 426 0442 or email admin@thrivewestmidlands.org



Part of the work of Church Urban Fund

Church Urban Fund
Tackling poverty together

Christian discipleship in a multi faith world

An exciting day conference organised by an alliance of Christian Churches in Birmingham and Churches Together in England that will tackle the difficult but exciting question of *how to be a Christian disciple in a multi faith world.*

Faith, Hope & Love - Christian Witness in a Multi Faith Society

10am - 4.30pm SATURDAY APRIL 9th

Venue: Mount Zion Community Church, Thomas Street, Birmingham B6 4TN

The Conference through a variety of inputs, dialogues and workshops will seek to

- help Christians become more confident as part of a multi faith society
- share stories that empower others
- gather Church leaders and members *who are new to inter faith engagement*
- act as a catalyst for further developments
- create a safe environment where people can share their stories and ask the difficult questions

Workshops include:

Natasha & Jenni from The Feast: *Christian and Muslim young people working and sharing faith together*

Richard Reddie author of 'Black Muslims in Britain : Why are a Growing Number of Young Black Men Converting to Islam?' on *Black Muslims and Black Culture.*

Andrew Smith of Scripture Union: *Evangelicals and Inter Faith Dialogue*

Ray Gaston author of 'A Heart Broken Open - Radical Faith in an Age of Fear': *Living Faithfully, Hopefully & Lovingly in a multi faith society*

There will be a Sharing our stories sessions with
Bishop Joe Aldred and Archbishop Bernard Longley
and Pall Singh (Sanctuary & Lozells Project)

talking about their own experience of working with other faith communities.

For more information go to www.faithhopeandloveconference.blogspot.com

Or contact:

Revd Ray Gaston at Queens Foundation 0121 452 2623

Pastor Peter Pennant, Council for Black Led Churches: admin@cblcuk.com

Gale Richards Heart of England Baptist Association 07765931348

Bishop Basil Richards Church of God of Prophecy 07738241710

Cost £5 in advance, £8 on day, includes buffet lunch

Discounts for advance group bookings 5 for £20 & 10 for £35

For a conference booking form, email Birmingham Churches Together: office@birminghamchurches.org.uk
or download booking form from www.faithhopeandloveconference.blogspot.com

Conference is supported by Birmingham Churches Together, the Council of Black Led Churches, Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education and Churches Together in England.

Workplace chaplaincy in the mission of the local church



Like all people, **people at work have questions about how they live their daily lives** as well as questions about the meaning of life itself. Few are going to pop in to their local church to look for the answers but, by being there and being known, a work place chaplain offers an opportunity for those conversations.

Some of the questions that arise are not ones that the local church feels immediately equipped to deal with: how to deal humanely with redundancy, how to deal fairly with competing demands, how to address tensions in or between teams. By being part, but not part, of an organisation **a chaplain is in a privileged position to share Gospel values** in a demanding context.

Working people and organisations are also interested in what is happening in the community beyond their workplace. Work pressure or lack of common experience mean it's not always easy for them to make the connections. How can the highly qualified MD of a research company develop links with local young people who feel they have few prospects? How can the business 'can do' ethos work with the apparent unreliability of adolescence? A local work place chaplain who knows both communities can help bring them together, acting as interpreter and developing links.

Chaplaincy benefits the individuals and organisations receiving it and the wider church through the insights that chaplains gain which may contribute to preaching, theological development and practical connections.

All the above discussing questions of meaning, seeking a just society, growing flourishing communities are on the agenda of local churches. **Work place chaplaincy can be part of the ministry and mission of every congregation.** Elements may already be present in the connections a church has with its community, in schools, community centres and care homes, and these can be affirmed and developed. Other work place chaplaincy can be developed with lay people or as part of an ordained role.

Work place chaplaincy is a special ministry and **CIGB** can provide training and guidance. Chaplaincy can best serve the mission of the local church to transform the church and the community when chaplains and local church leadership are understood as expressions of a shared mission, a single team.

For a full copy of this article, complete with local examples, or to explore the potential of work place chaplaincy contact **Barbara Hayes at cigb@birmingham.anglican.org or 0121 426 0425.**

National Census: 27 March



The Office for National Statistics is conducting a national Census on March 27 2011.

This exercise is crucial because it allows everybody to understand the various communities who live in England and Wales.

Whether it is your children's school, your GP's surgery or the clean and waste water that you use, all of these services are planned and delivered using Census data. Supermarket groups use census data to decide where to place their stores and how many car parking spaces they need. Community groups looking for funding base their community size on Census data.

In Birmingham, the last ten years has seen a huge shift in the shape and make-up of our community. It is important that we accurately count all parts of community to make sure that they are properly represented in Birmingham. The best way for any population group to raise its profile and to gain a voice is to fill in the Census questionnaire.

The Census data is totally confidential for 100 years with no Government department, council or company getting access to any personal data.

There are also up to 650 jobs (both part-time and full-time) available in Birmingham alone.

Details of these can be found on www.censusjobs.co.uk
Further details about the Census can be found at www.census.gov.uk

Night Stop: can you offer support as a volunteer?



networkfour

Network Nightstop Birmingham is a citywide scheme, working in partnership with statutory and third sector agencies passionate about prevent young people falling into the downward cycle of homelessness, by providing a safety net at a moment of great vulnerability and need.

How does it work?

Nightstop provides emergency accommodation for young people between the ages of 16-25 in the homes of volunteer hosts. This is done on a night at a time basis - up to a maximum of 3 nights.

How can you help?

Network Nightstop Birmingham are looking to gather the following volunteers to provide the young people with the necessary support they need at such a vulnerable time



Host Families We are seeking families that can provide a safe environment for each young person. Giving them a spare room of their own and bed for the night, an evening meal, the opportunity to have a bath or shower, use laundry facilities and breakfast the following morning. More importantly, take time to listen if needed.

Volunteer Drivers Available to transport Night-stoppers from referral agencies to Nightstop Host families. You must be approachable and friendly at all times and able to talk to young people who may be very frightened.

Network Office Team- with Network Nightstop Birmingham there is a tremendous amount of checks and paperwork associated with a project such as this and we need a lively and adaptable team to man the phones and carry out all relevant Nightstop tasks to deliver an excellent operation of this nature. We will need people that have good administration strengths, as well as fantastic warm telephone skills as you engage with the young people accessing our service, many of whom will have had traumatic stories and situations.

Supporters- Fundraising for us and supporting us in prayer.

This is an opportunity to make a difference in a young person's life.
An extensive training programme is offered.

Please get involved and make a difference. NetworkFour is passionate about empowering and enabling the community, to offer a change of hope and transformation citywide.



To be a part of pioneering this Nightstop, providing a lifeline throughout Birmingham, please don't hesitate to get in contact and help create networks of compassion in the community you are a part of.



Please Email **Gary Wicker**: garywicker@networkfour.org
or Nightstop@networkfour.org
or call us on 07793914440 / 0121 622 1922.

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE

Special Dates

28 February - 14 March

Fair Trade Fortnight

www.fairtrade.org.uk/

4 March

Women's World Day of Prayer

www.wwdp-natcomm.org

15 to 21 May

Christian Aid Week

www.christianaid.org.uk

5 June

Disability Sunday

www.throughtheroof.org

5 June

Environment Sunday

www.christian-ecology.org.uk/conservation-sunday.htm

Inter Faith Week announced as Sunday 20 November until Saturday 26 November 2011



MANY VOICES 2011

a multilingual sponsored sing, read and speak

11.30am -1.30pm Saturday, 21 May 2011

at St Philip's Cathedral, Colmore Row, Birmingham.

Each year, for the past 3 years, we've heard over 40 languages from around the world and have raised in total over £7,000 towards Restore's work with refugees and people seeking sanctuary from persecution.

Comments from previous events include:

"What a great event, it was so varied and affirming! What a creative idea!"

**".....it was really lovely and very moving to hear so many voices
and feel the oneness that created ."**

We hope **Many Voices 2011** will be a time of worship, awareness raising and a celebration of our diversity and unity, so we are looking for people to participate through singing, reading or speaking.

Sponsorship forms and more details are available from Jeremy Thompson:

0121-236 0069 or befriend@restore-uk.org

RESTORE'S ANNUAL MEETING & 12TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Monday, 6 June 2011 at 7.30pm. Venue to be confirmed

Please put the date in your diary and join us for this event celebrating Restore's work.

Keynote speaker: **Rt Revd David Urquhart, Anglican Bishop of Birmingham**

Hear reflections on Restore's work in 2010, enjoy refreshments and share together.

RESTORE'S OFFER TO CHURCHES

Restore can offer your church a customised focus on serving refugees and those seeking sanctuary for your morning or evening service.

Why not set aside a special service to focus on this vital ministry?

Restore will provide a preacher, offer a presentation on the work of Restore, highlight aspects of being a volunteer, & help with hymns and prayers as required to make it a challenging and inspiring act of worship.

Expressions of interest please to Shari Brown: 0121-236 0069 or info@restore-uk.org



Family Learning for Life Project Nechells and Saltley

BCT Training has received funding from the Big Lottery Reaching Communities to work with families in Nechells and Saltley for the next three years. We will be working in partnership with schools, children's centres and other agencies in the area to provide free workshops and courses for parents and their children.

Aim of the Project

To raise the confidence, skills and knowledge of parents/carers from disadvantaged minority ethnic communities with significant English Language needs in Saltley and Nechells, Birmingham to equip them to:

- Provide more effective support for their child's educational development.
- Play a fuller role in their family's participation in the wider community.
- Contribute to improved social cohesion through gaining greater understanding and experience of the wider British community and engaging with it more fully.

Consultation Events

In order to use these resources wisely we are inviting local residents and those who provide services for families in these areas to attend a consultation event where information will be available and where we can look at ways of working together.

Monday 7th March 10.30 am to 12 noon at Maryam House, Bridge Road, Saltley B8 3BB

Thursday 17th March 1.00 to 2.30 pm at the POD, 28 Oliver Street, Nechells B7 4NX

Volunteers are also needed who are willing to give a few hours a week to support parents and children with their learning activities.

If you are interested in hearing more about this exciting new project then please let us know by email training@birminghamchurches.org.uk or phone/text Diane Lamb on 07745588276

Job Vacancy

BCT Training wishes to employ a Family/Parent Learning Tutor part time to work in this project.

Job Summary

The Family/Parent Learning Tutor will be required to provide educational opportunities for vulnerable and hard to reach (mainly) immigrant families by designing and delivering effective learning programmes which develop parents' English skills whilst helping them to prepare their child for entry into education, to develop a greater understanding of the English education system and to promote learning in the home.

This work will take place in schools and other community venues.

For an application pack please contact us as above (CVs will not be accepted).

Closing date Friday 11th March at 12 noon

Events in Date Order

Cheap & Cheerful? Thought provoking drama for Fair Trade Fortnight

Riverside School of Performing Arts presents a fast-paced show exploring the true cost of fashion. While we pay bargain prices for our designer labels, in other parts of the world, people sweat for inadequate wages. Cheap & Cheerful? fuses humour, metaphor, music and real life stories in an engaging, fast-paced, episodic show to challenge the ultimate fashion statement.

Cheap & Cheerful? tours Birmingham schools, youth groups and churches for two weeks during Fair Trade fortnight, **from Monday 28th February – Friday 11th March 2011.**

Please contact Helen at RSPA for details on the tour or for information about our performing arts course.
Call 0121 442 2586 or email helenf@rspa.org.uk.

Performances at the Hexagon Theatre, **Midlands Arts Centre**, Birmingham at **7.30pm** on **Friday 25th and Saturday 26th March.**
To book please call the MAC box office on 0121 446 3232 or online at www.macarts.co.uk

Moseley Wesleyan Holiness Church

27 Cromer Road, Moseley, B12 9QT

Holiness the Key to Revival

Facilitated by David & Patricia Knowles
(author of Holiness the Key to Revival)

Are you hungry for God? Do you want more, much more from God?
Then this teaching on Holiness is a must for you!

**7:30 – 9:30pm on Friday 4 March and
10:00am – 4:00pm on Saturday 5 March**
at Moseley Wesleyan Holiness Church

Entrance is FREE (an offering would be very much appreciated)
Lunch available at a cost of £5.00

Conference organised by District Wesleyan Women
in partnership with Moseley WHC

For further details contact:
Dorrett Lemon on 07985 720 703 or email dorrettlemon@hotmail.com

Friday 18th March, 7pm

St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham

Mass in Celebration of Oscar Romero

celebrated by The Right Reverend David McGough,
Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham

Reception afterwards in the Grimshaw Room
with refreshments and short talk by Jan Graffius,
Conservator of the Relics of Archbishop Romero



Contact CAFOD with any
queries on 01922 722 944

Day conference and book launch

Holding Hands

Supporting sick, dying and bereaved children and their families

10am - 4pm Thursday 24th March 2011
Birmingham Children's Hospital Education Centre

COST: £60 including 5 free books, lunch and refreshments -
£20 for students

Who is the day for? Anyone who works with Christian families or
children.

Main seminars:

Spiritual care for sick children

Rebecca Nye (author on children's spirituality)

Supporting bereaved siblings

Erica Brown (author, Vice President Acorns Children's Hospices)

Caring for bereaved families

Rev Paul Nash, Senior Chaplain, Birmingham Children's Hospital

Plus a choice of workshops to support you in engaging the Christian faith
and pastoral situations including supporting children in hospital and
palliative care, how to use the books with children and families,
theological dilemmas.

Further information from:

paul.nash@bch.nhs.uk or 0121 333 8526

For bookings email:

CourseBooking.enquiries@bch.nhs.uk or 0121 333 8360



Human Trafficking

What is it? How do we recognise it?
What should we do?

A modern form of slavery - it's closer than you think

7.30pm - Tuesday 15 March

Hall Green Quaker Meeting House,
1 Hamlet Road, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 9BG
Supported by Churches Together in Hall Green

Speakers:-

Kerry Smith, (Methodist Deacon, member of West
Midlands Regional Anti Trafficking Network)
Shazim Husayn, (Principal, Al-Mahdi Institute)

Cost: free All Welcome

Contact: Gill Coffin, 0121 449 3967 or
Elisabeth Burgess, 0121 777 3260

<http://hallgreenquakers.web.officelive.com/> for more
information and directions.



Events in Date Order



Disabled Christians Fellowship

You are invited to a meeting of a vibrant group of the Disabled Christians Fellowship, Hay Mills/Yardley

All ages and abilities are welcome

10.30am SATURDAY 26th MARCH 2011

at Hay Mills Congregational Church, Waterloo Road B25 8LD (Opposite Boots Optician Car Park)

We would love you to join us. For further information please ring 0121 444 2213 or go to www.throughtheroof.org for more information on Disabled Christians Fellowship

DCF is a venture of Waterloo Road Chapel & Hay Mills Congregational Church
DCF is part of Through the Roof. Registered Charity 1087788.
Tel:01372 749955



The Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival Service

will be held at St Philip's Cathedral at **11am on Saturday 26th March**. It will be a special occasion as the Chief Executive of Mothers' Union, Reg Bailey will be speaking. This lively service is open to all and we welcome visitors.

A Reflective Evening is planned for **Tuesday 24 May, 7-30pm** at the beautiful Abbey of St Editha, Polesworth. The meditation and quiet time will be led by the Vicar, the Revd Philip Wells. All welcome.

Further information from Mothers' Union Office, Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham B4 7SX Tel 0121 643 0938 office@mubham.org.uk



WEST MIDLANDS INSTITUTE OF PSYCHOLOGY

Spring Conference: Saturday 2 April 2011
'Hidden Shame' (a unifying theme in human distress and psychotherapy)

Shame is everywhere - yet often hidden. It emerges in the failures of human connection and empathy, reaching back to the earliest interactions. Later shame is woven around the aspects of ourselves that do not meet with acceptance, compassion and warmth.

Speaker: Phil Mollon

Venue: Uffculme Clinic, Birmingham, B13 8QY

Cost: Members: £60, WMIP Students: £50, Non-members: £70
Includes lunch and coffee, CPD certificates, book stall.

IMPORTANT – Booking form and more detailed information see WMIP website <http://www.wmip.org/index.html> or phone 0121 455 7888



A Christian Aid Week prelaunch event

in association with The Drum.

Showcasing up and coming gospel acts from the East and West Midlands, interspersed with reflections on their lives and inspiring stories of Christian Aid Week - its impact on the lives of people in villages, towns and cities, and how you can get involved. Featuring, Jerome, Chantel, World Changers Band and One Voice Community Choir.

Tuesday 12 April 7.30pm

at The Drum, 144 Potters Lane, Aston, Birmingham, B6 4UU

Cost: £5 (£3)

Contact: Tel. 0121 333 2444 / 0121 200 2283 or www.the-drum.org.uk

Handsworth and District Churches Together *Invites you and your Church to join us*

Walk Of Witness on Good Friday 22 April 2011

Along the Soho Rd Handsworth

Starting at **12.30pm** from Beacon Evangelical Church, 47 Sandwell Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B21 8NH.
Further information: 0121 551 5260/ 0774 7633316

Acocks Green

At Acocks Green, on the SE edge of Birmingham adjoining Solihull, a big new opportunity has opened up.

Local Methodists built an Institute next door to the church in the 1930s and this has become vacant following City Council cutbacks, this well known local building now offers space for something new. **We are looking for people to join with us** to make the best and most creative use of this spacious, well lit building of over 7,000 square feet. Our local congregation are already serving the local community with projects for the young and to help those with mental health difficulties. For more information or to visit the premises at 3 Botteville Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham B27 7YE, please contact Phil Harvey of Bruton Knowles Property consultants tel 0121 212 7614 or email phil.harvey@brutonknowles.co.uk or Kate Harding of the **Acocks Green Methodist Church** on 0121 711 2362 or email hardinghorde@btinternet.com

Events in Date Order

Wellbeing: an inter-disciplinary approach

Churches Together in Balsall and Berkswell are planning a series of lent breakfasts on the theme of wellbeing to be held in the **Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, Balsall Common**. (5 minutes walk from Berkswell Station)

Breakfast begins at 8.30 am and consists of cereals, croissants and coffee.

At 9.00 am, after a short introduction, the Guest Speaker introduces the theme for the session - usually speaks for about a quarter of an hour. The meeting is then thrown open for discussion, and followed by a Question and Answer session. The discussion will close no later than 9.45 am.

12th March -Physical Wellbeing and Personal responsibility

Dr David Stableforth (Consultant Physician - specialist in chest medicine)

19th March –Wellbeing, sanity and right-mindedness

Revd Mark Bratton (Rector St. John Baptist Berkswell and Associate Fellow of the Warwick Medical School):

26th March - Wellbeing and the moral and political ecology

Caroline Spelman (MP (Meriden)):

2nd April - Sport, Faith and Wellbeing

Professor Andrew Parker (Professor of Sport and Christian Outreach, University of Gloucestershire)

9th April - Spirituality and Wellbeing

Dr Ruth Tuschling (Warden of Offa House)

16th April - Wellbeing and end-of-life care

Revd Peter Holliday (Group Chief Executive., St Giles Hospice Group)

For more information contact Mark.Bratton@warwick.ac.uk or Claire.map@mypostoffice.co.uk

The Qualifiers – Going4Gold

48th National Youth and Christian Education Convention - New Testament Church of God

Friday 29th April - Sunday 1st May 2011

@ Bethel Convention Centre, Kelvin Way, West Bromwich, West Midlands B70 7JW

Going4Gold is the Youth Department's new theme as we fast approach the London 2012 Olympics Games, as well as our own Golden Anniversary National Youth & CE Convention in 2013. To win a gold medal an athlete has to exercise discipline, drive, determination, focus, commitment, strength, endurance and passion. In the Bible, gold symbolises deity, brilliance, purity, trials, rewards, prosperity, excavation, currency and value.

We will be exploring these matters intertwined with the journey of an Olympic athlete over the coming 3 years.

The 2011 convention will include: Guest speaker – Pastor Richard J. Brown (Canada)

Workshops dealing with current youth issues -

Activities and workshops for 4 – 11 year olds on Saturday and Sunday Praisefest 2011 –

Saturday evening features: Renaissance Movement (USA), the National Mass and Children's Choirs and more!

A dance and drama production entitled 'Whose side are you on?'

For registration details visit www.ntcg.org.uk/yce, email Youth@ntcg.org.uk or call 01604 824 220.



Inspiring Christians to transform the workplace and the nation

Kingdom Values in the Workplace

A Conference to energise
Christian impact at work

(In Partnership with Workcare)

10am—4pm on Saturday 21 May 2011

Queens Road Baptist Church, Coventry
£25 and £20 concessions
www.transformworkuk.org

Asian Awareness In Birmingham

Towards understanding and building bridges with other faith groups
To inspire you and your Church to serve
and bless the Asian Communities

Monday evenings 7.30 - 9.15pm

St Martin's Church in the Bull Ring Birmingham B5 5BB

Faith Awareness and the Christ we share

13 June: Towards understanding Muslims

20 June: Towards understanding Hindus

27 June: Towards understanding Sikhs

Contact Pall Singh at East West Trust on 0781 3038756
or email on Eastandwesttrust@aol.com

Hosted by St Martin's Church in partnership with CMS,
Diocese of Birmingham, East West Trust, Navigators and Urban Vision.



£5 donation
welcomed for a Session, but
please contribute as you're able

Churches Together in Central Sutton Coldfield Events

Oasis Day for Ladies

Saturday 5th March 2011

at Sutton Coldfield Baptist Church Centre

Theme: ***Change your thinking, change your life by renewing your mind.*** Romans 12:1-2.

Registration will be from 9.30 and the day will start with worship.

The speaker is Gill Perry from Walsall Community church.

To keep costs down please bring a packed lunch but there will be other refreshments, fruit and puddings.

Booking forms are available from the church office or by telephoning 3555088.

The cost is £5 per person. Deadline for booking is **Friday 28th February**.

For more information please contact Pat or Velma directly on 0121 329 2899 or 0121 240 4165

CHURCHES TOGETHER PRAYER BREAKFASTS Saturday 12th March 2011 at 7.30am for 7.45am

Trinity Centre, Church Hill, off Mill Street

Cost of £3 includes a continental breakfast (cereals, croissants/rolls, juice, coffee/tea)

Pre-booking is requested to help with catering arrangements. Contact the King-Smiths (0121 355 5018).

Speakers: Sylvia and John Gilmour who share about the Whitemoor Lakes project near Alrewas, providing a recreational activity and development training centre with facilities for up to 300 people. This is due to open in late 2011, and will be part of the Action Centres UK group of three modern conference and holiday centres. See <http://www.actioncentres.co.uk/whitemoor-lakes/index.htm>

The next breakfast: Saturday 4th June. Br. Robert Hugh SSF (Revd P.H. King-Smith) will talk about Prayer and Vocation

Lenten Lecture

7.00pm for 7.30pm Thursday 24th March at the Trinity Centre, Church Hill, off Mill Street B72 1TF

Local Member of Parliament **Andrew Mitchell** will speak about **International Development** for which he is Secretary of State, a post he has held as shadow minister since 2005.

The title of the talk is "How the Coalition Government will target Britain's support for the poorest in the world"

www.suttoncoldfieldchurches.org.uk

Faith LIVES

NEW CHRISTIAN TESTIMONY WEBSITE LAUNCHED



Christian Media Services, the ministry that is building bridges between the media and the Church in the Birmingham area, has a new website

www.FaithLivesInBrum.org.uk

Log on to see inspiring testimonies of God's blessings on believers in our locality. As well as maintain the website, Christian Media Services is also continuing to provide media/ PR consultancy advice, support and training for churches and Christian organisations in the area.

Tel: 0121 742 3866 Mob: 07954 572 988 Email: cmsbrum@gmail.com



Congratulations

Rev. Dr. Toby Howarth has been appointed to serve as Secretary for Inter Religious Affairs for the Church of England. He will be leaving Birmingham in April. Toby has long experience of working in inter religious relations, and is currently Inter Faith Adviser to the Bishop of Birmingham, alongside his parish work as Vicar of St Christopher's, Springfield, a church in a majority Muslim area of the city. "I am very much looking forward to working with the Archbishop of Canterbury and colleagues both at Lambeth Palace and in Church House to strengthen interreligious relationships and build on the work of understanding one another better across different faith traditions." Thank you Toby for your willingness to work with the wider Christian Community during your time in Birmingham.

Jubilee Debt Campaign



JUBILEE DEBT CAMPAIGN BIRMINGHAM

working for the cancellation of the unjust and unpayable debts of poor countries

Tuesday 15th March 7pm

DEBT AND THE ARMS TRADE: Talk and discussion led by Pavla Gossop of Campaign against the Arms Trade in the Moseley Community Development Trust Building, Post Office Building, 149-53 Alcester Road, Moseley B13 8JP.

Tuesday 12th April 7pm

INSPIRED BY LOVE AND ANGER: What inspires and sustains you in the struggle for global justice? We are invited to bring inspirational material of all sorts eg poetry, songs, music, pictures for a reflective evening. at Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane B4 7SX.

Wednesday May 18th 7pm

THE DEPARTMENT FOR DODGY DEALS: Come and find out about the JDC campaign about the Export Credit Guarantee Department. Led by Kat Banyard from the national JDC team. In the Cooperative rooms at the Birmingham and Midland Institute, Margaret Street, B3 3BS. Drinks and biscuits provided.

All welcome. Further information from 458 6182.

From the Quakers



Conflict Handling Workshops

Give yourself a morning to explore new skills

10am–12.30pm Saturday 5 March or 19 March 2011

Getting on better with people

Free introductory workshops at The Priory Rooms, Quaker Meeting House, 40 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6AF

Respect yourself Listen to others Manage conflict Build good relations

To reserve a place or for more information please contact Stephen on 0845 345 7433
Email midland-wales@avpbritain.org.uk

AVP registered charity number 1085709 Limited company registered by guarantee 4127409

Quaker Quest in South Birmingham

Find out more about a spiritual path for our time that leads to peace and social justice.

Join us in a series of informal presentations, discussions and questionings, with time to meet new people, experience Quaker worship, browse literature and hear about: Quakers and Worship (evening one) Quakers, Christianity and the Spiritual Path (evening two) Quakers & peace (evening three) Quaker faith in action (evening four)

15th, 22nd, 29th March and 5th April First series will be held on Tuesday evenings at Cotteridge Quaker Meeting House, 23a Watford Road, Cotteridge B30 1JB

27th April, and 4th, 11th and 18th May Second series will be held on Wednesday evenings at Bournville Quaker Meeting House, 65 Linden Road, Bournville B30 1JT.

You can join the series at any session. Each evening starts at 6.30pm for a light supper and 7.00pm session start, ending with refreshments at 9.00pm. For more information visit www.quakerquest.org or call 07964 066823

Free Trade Shop

Carrs Lane Fair Trade: Your city centre fair trade shop selling all Traidcraft foods and much more.

Come and see the new Spring range of products which make a real difference to the lives of communities in developing countries, people like Moses Shisokha, a jewellery worker at Bombolulu in Kenya. He says "I hope we will get enough orders because I have fed my family through working at Bombolulu.

Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, (opposite back door of M&S), Open Tuesday through to Friday all year round 10.30-2.30
Tel. 0121 643 6151, Email fair-trade@carrslane.co.uk or www.carrslane.co.uk

Volunteers Wanted

Queen Elizabeth Hospitals, NHS Foundation Trust, Birmingham

Volunteer Training

Would you be interested in becoming a volunteer at the new Queen Elizabeth Hospitals, being part of a large, multi faith team; visiting patients on the ward, or assisting with Sunday services?

The next Volunteer Training Programme for the Chaplaincy will be held on six consecutive Thursday evenings

9th June – 14th July, 7-9pm

Light refreshments provided.

The course will include listening skills; insights toward visiting; key information about different faiths; how we respond to our own health issues. There will be opportunities to speak to existing volunteers and to meet chaplains from the various faiths.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact
Revd Susan Shewring or Revd Dr. Barry Clark Chaplaincy Office 0121 371 4574



Fire station chaplains

Question 1 What links the following? **A:** Aston, Ladywood, Handsworth **B:** Ward End, Highgate, Hay Mills?

Answer to **A:** Fire Stations with a local chaplain.

Answer to **B:** Stations waiting for someone to volunteer.

Question 2 Might you be the right person for these or other stations awaiting a chaplain?

Before answering Question 2 you'll need to know more:

a Fire Station chaplain is there to build relationships with all the staff on station

to be able to chat about ordinary things

but also to go deeper when people face particular challenges.

This is a ministry of presence, of being alongside, allowing us to meet with people of every faith and no faith, in their space not ours. It can feel a bit scary but it's also an exciting privilege.

Might you be interested?

Contact Barbara Hayes – cigb@birmingham.anglican.org Tel 0121426 0426

Chaplaincy Appointment for Karis Medical Centre

Karis Medical Centre is a large Christian practice based in a multi-ethnic inner city area. Our dedicated team aims to care for the whole person and indeed the whole community. Our chaplaincy work enables us to provide spiritual and pastoral care for patients and staff.

The successful candidate will:-

Have a live faith commitment and spiritual practice

Have attended a course in basic listening skills

Have at least 5 years experience of pastoral work dealing with a variety of needs at one centre

Have an understanding of different faiths and a sound knowledge of the Christian faith

Be interested in and willing to develop this role into a leadership role, including shaping future chaplaincy services, and mentoring other chaplains.

Application packs via email susiepalfreyman@nhs.net.

Contact Tel no: 0121 452 4885

Address: Karis Medical Centre,
Waterworks Road, Edgbaston, B16 9AL.

TREASURER REQUIRED

West Midlands Churches' Further Education Council

are seeking a suitably experienced **Treasurer** to join the Council to assist in our ongoing work.

If you can prepare simple budgets and balance sheets, can spare a few hours on an occasional, voluntary basis and are interested in the churches' work in education, this may be for you!

Chief time commitment is two meetings a year (normally a weekday morning in May & Nov' respectively) plus some occasional processing of payments in between.

For more information please contact:

Ian Jones, Hon. Secretary,
c/o St Peter's Saltley Trust, Grays Court, 3 Nursery Road,
Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3JX
0121 427 6800

email: director@saltleytrust.entadsl.com

Web: www.saltleytrust.org.uk

Retreat and Spiritual Events

Further details and booking form for the events below:

Sr. Morag Gardham La ReTraite 12 Clifford Road, Bearwood, Smethwick B67 5HJ
0121 434 5184 or email: mfgardham@talktalk.net

PLAY and PRAY with COLOUR and CLAY

A time to relax and discover
the Gospel anew

A WEEKEND RETREAT

Friday 8th – Sunday 10th April 2011

led by Pat Callaghan and Morag Gardham
at **The Mercy Centre**, Handsworth, Birmingham

NO ARTISTIC SKILLS REQUIRED!

Cost: £160 includes full board and all materials

A PRAYER OF MANY COLOURS

Especially for people who have followed a prayer-guide training or equivalent and are called to minister to the spiritual needs of others in some way

SATURDAY MARCH 5th:

Dreams – GOD'S FORGOTTEN LANGUAGE
Venue: **Manresa house**, Harborne, Birmingham

SATURDAY MAY 21st: Praying with Colour

Venue: **Warley Woods Methodist Church**, Bearwood
NO ARTISTIC SKILLS REQUIRED!

SATURDAY JUNE 18th: Praying with Clay

Venue: **Warley Woods Methodist Church**, Bearwood
NO ARTISTIC SKILLS REQUIRED!

All days start at 10.30 and finish at 3.30.

An offering of £10 per day is asked to cover expenses.
Days may be booked individually or together.



SHALLOWFORD HOUSE STONE, STAFFS INDIVIDUALLY-GUIDED RETREATS

Because of refurbishment, there will be no Summer Retreat this year.

Details are being finalised for an **AUTUMN RETREAT**, beginning on **Monday evening 26th September 2011**

Enquiries to: Sr Morag Gardham (La ReTraite, 12 Clifford Road, Smethwick B67 5HJ) Tel. 0121 434 5184 or mfgardham@talktalk.net
Rev Rob Hingley (147 Hamstead Road, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 5BB) Tel. 0121 357 4534. email rob.hingley@btinternet.com

Birmingham Forum for Spiritual Directors

A course in Spiritual Direction

Aim of the course: to encourage giftedness and offer practical training in the skills of spiritual direction

The course is open to Christians of any denomination (ordained and lay).

**The course runs from
September 2011 till December 2012,**

and consists of 18 Tuesday meetings
over four terms, from 10 am till 3.30 pm

Venue: St Luke's Church Centre, Great Colmore Street,
Lee Bank, Birmingham B16 2AT.

It is close to Birmingham City Centre, about 15 minutes
walk from New Street Station

Cost: £450 for the 18 sessions. (£150 for the first term,
£100 per term thereafter).

Details are available from: Revd John Austen
john@jausten.freeserve.co.uk Or 0121 554 8882

Retreats 2011

Individually-Guided Retreats in the Ignatian tradition

These residential Retreats are conducted in silence with an experienced guide to work alongside you as you pray with scripture and other aids, according to your individual need and temperament.

Nicholaston House, Gower Peninsular, S. Wales,
12th -18th September - £330

Glenfall House, Cheltenham
24th -29th October - £226.50

Also a Weekend Guided Silent Retreat
'Meeting Jesus, the Living Well',
at Shallowford House, nr Stafford
13th -15th May - £140

For further information contact Rev Rob Hingley
147 Hamstead Road, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 5BB
0121 357 4534. email rob.hingley@btinternet.com

Taize Prayer

You are invited to join us at services following the style of Taize worship on the third Sunday of the month. Services take place from 6-7pm, except for the service on 20 March, which is from 5- 6pm.

- 20 March:** Newman House, Catholic Chaplaincy, 29 Harrison's Road, Birmingham, B15 3QR
17 April: South Aston URC, Upper Sutton Street, Birmingham, B6 5BN
15 May: Our Lady of the Caribbean Church Centre, Bayswater Road, Birmingham, B20 3AE
19 June: Old Church, The Uplands, Smethwick, B67 6EQ

For more information call 0121 478 3841

Support



*Starting in Barnt Green & Sutton Coldfield
on
March 1st*

This six session course is for anyone at any stage of separation or divorce.

The workshop-

- enables people to have a better understanding of what they are going through
- provides them with support from others in the same situation
- assists in the process of readjustment in their lives
- also provides a new circle of friends afterwards

Who can you tell?

For Sutton Coldfield call David or Helen on 0121 308 0739

For Barnt Green call Heidi on 0121 445 4396

email: suttonc@drw.org.uk and website: www.drw.org.uk

the
marriage
preparation
course



**TAKE TIME OUT FROM YOUR
BUSY SCHEDULE TO LAY THE
FOUNDATIONS OF A MARRIAGE
WHICH WILL LAST A LIFETIME**

SIGN UP NOW!

- a five session course set in a delightful candlelit atmosphere
- drinks and a delicious dessert at a table for two
- practical talks that are informative and fun
- no group work
- stories of real situations from actual couples
- learn how to understand each other's -
needs, ways of communication,
love languages and much, much more!

Tel: 378 1422 email: rob-pam@foundations-westmidlands.org.uk

[foundations](http://foundations.org.uk)

*Starts Wednesday March 9th
@ Sutton Coldfield Baptist Church
Book early as places are limited*

**this
way
up**

Supporting young people affected by family break-down or bereavement

Have you ever struggled to know what to say to a young person who is coming to terms with parental separation or felt useless when faced with a young person dealing with a bereavement?

This Way Up is a registered charity that works with young people who have experienced loss through divorce/separation or death. We have been working in West Midlands schools since 2002 and now train Christians across the UK to help young people affected by loss.

Our 2 day training course (£155 including ongoing support) will give you an understanding of how loss affects young people and equip you to facilitate our Lost & Found small group course for young people.

Thursday 3rd/Friday 4th March 2011

Tuesday 7th/Wednesday 8th June 2011

Thursday 8th/Friday 9th September 2011

Access to this course is by way of an application form and 2 references, including a supporting reference from your church

Visit our web site www.twup.org.uk ,
email info@twup.org.uk or Tel 0121 689 2912 /0121 708 4189
for further details and an application form.

**this
way
up**

**This Way Up have two
vacancies for trustees to join
their current board**

For more information



Churches Together' news

Churches Together in England...

Invites you to take part in a health check of intermediate ecumenical life in England, especially of bodies such as Birmingham Churches Together (that lies between the local and national). Your reply will help Churches Together in England determine their future strategy for supporting local church cooperation.

Please fill an online questionnaire at www.cte.org.uk/ICreview

A New free Website and Social Networking for Churches Together Groups

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) is offering local Churches Together groups a free website and hosting, based around an easy-to-use Content Management System (CMS), linked to its new social networking website Churches Together Connect <http://www.churchestogetherconnect.org/>

A sample website can be viewed at <http://together.ourchurchweb.org.uk/ct/>

If you are interested in a free Churches Together website, please email CTBI at:- ianfo@ctbi.org.uk

Resource Websites

www.hopetogether.org.uk	For an Easter Resources Booklet
www.christianity.org.uk	Basic introduction to Christianity
www.earthabbey.com	Spirituality and living in tune with the earth
www.communitymission.org.uk	Transform your community
www.aftersunday.org.uk	Resources to help and equip Christians for daily work and life

Birmingham Churches Together: Many Voices - One in Christ

Coming Soon...a new Website for Birmingham Churches Together: www.birminghamchurches.org.uk

By the time you read the next edition of BEN, our new website will be up and running. It will include a Church Finder for over 700 places of worship and will enable the BCT office to update news and events on a regular basis and send out a regular e-bulletin in between editions of BEN.

Birmingham Ecumenical News: BEN is the quarterly publication of Birmingham Churches Together. 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/events/information for inclusion in BEN.

Deadline for June to August 2011 edition:

5pm Thursday 12 May 2011

Note the Thursday deadline

Postal Address	Birmingham Churches Together, St. George's Community Hub Great Hampton Row, Newtown, Birmingham. B19 3JG
Email	office@birminghamchurches.org.uk
Telephone	0121 236 3966
Website	www.birminghamchurches.org.uk
Editor:	Revd Colin Marsh, Ecumenical Development Officer
Presidents of BCT:	Bishop David Urquhart (Anglican Bishop of Birmingham) Archbishop Bernard Longley (Catholic Archbishop of Birmingham) Major Samuel Edgar (Free Churches Moderator).

Birmingham Churches Together Charity No. 243931

BCT seeks to encourage greater cooperation between Christian churches across Birmingham and Solihull