

BEN

Birmingham Ecumenical News

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

September to November 2011

BCT has launched its new website www.birminghamchurches.org.uk

find a church - check your church's details via our postcode map

newsletter - sign up for the latest news

events - to find out what is happening

and more - latest news, Churches Together groups & vacancies

The website is yours to share news and information

Focussing on homelessness, racial injustice and human trafficking

**with guests from Birmingham City Mission, BRAMU,
the RAT Network and the Adavu Project.**

Service for Racial Justice Sunday

11 September 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Church of God of Prophecy Church
Aberdeen Street, Winson Green, Birmingham B18 7DL

a service for Christians of all traditions and ages

A Racial Justice Sunday event promoted by
Birmingham Churches Together
and the Council of Black Led Churches



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



*What good is it my brother, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds?
Can such faith save him?*

Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes or daily food.

If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action is dead. James 2:14-17

Discovering the Heart of God in the Heart of The City

Situated in the heart of the city at **St Martin's in the Bullring**, next to one of the busiest thoroughfares in Birmingham between the Bullring shopping centre and the market, St Martin's **Centre for Health and Healing** is an expression of Christian compassion and care where the whole person is what matters. Through our **Help Desk and Counselling service** we support some of the most vulnerable and excluded people in our city. Our policy is to help everyone who comes in from the street seeking help at St Martin's.

The majority of people who use our services come to us having nowhere else to turn. Most experience **multiple disadvantage** and are often some of the **most 'damaged' people in our community**. Those whose lives are blighted by a combination of issues such as; homelessness, mental health problems, physical health needs, problems with addiction, domestic violence, abuse, family breakdown and poverty, have no aspirations and little hope.

The Centre comprises of a linked social care **Help Desk and Counselling service** that are designed to offer a comprehensive, integrated range of services. These services are unique in providing open access to everyone who needs them. Over the last year our team of six staff and 60 volunteers worked with **2700 people** – over 24000 interventions, providing advice, counselling, practical help, advocacy, a listening service, befriending and onward referral. Clients were provided with access to a range of specialist workers, to help with housing problems, mental health issues, addiction, and personal finance.

Clearly we cannot resolve every issue that people come to us with and regularly refer clients for specialist support. **We work in partnership** with many organisations across the city and spend a great deal of time maintaining these close working relationships.

An extract from an interview with a client who has been using the Help Desk:

"I was homeless and I was living on the street, I wanted some help, I was living in a broken car, sleeping in a car, in a scrap yard, it was somewhere to keep warm in the rain. I turned to crime, prison was my option. I was fourteen when I started drinking, my dad was an alcoholic, I used to steal his whisky, go to school and get expelled, I'm forty now so it's been a few years I've been drinking".

Over a period of a few months we helped him with accommodation, sorted out his benefit entitlement and referred him for support for his addiction.

Commenting on the help he received from the Centre for Health and Healing, he said;

"I think it's fantastic man, done a good job, I'd be lost without you lot man, I've got nothing bad to say about that, everybody is polite, they're respectful and they really help you, and that's why I'm here right now, I wouldn't be here otherwise".

This is an example of the work undertaken by the Centre for Health and Healing. Whilst based at St Martin's, we are tackling problems that are **the responsibility of all of us who live in the city of Birmingham**; people come to us from across Birmingham and beyond. Funding our work in the current economic climate is a challenge. The Centre is an extremely cost effective service, our budget for providing over **24,000 interventions for vulnerable people** is under £150,000 per annum.

If we are to continue to support those that live on the margins of society we need the support of Birmingham's Christian community in terms of a) financial support, b) offers of voluntary work and c) fundraising assistance.

If you require any additional information or wish to make a donation please contact:

Jen Wallace, Administrator. St Martin's Centre for Health and Healing, St Martin in the Bullring, Birmingham. B5 5BB
Tel: 0121 600 6025 or Email: jen@bullring.org

Olympics 2012

The countdown begins...

It is just a year until the biggest ever sporting event in the UK: don't let your church miss this chance to be part of it!



Here are two key dates:

Saturday 30 June 2012: Olympic Torch reaches Birmingham

This will be a major event in the city. Have you thought about who might carry the torch? This is an opportunity for Christians to be seen. The first round of nominations for torch carriers has closed, but you can still nominate through 'presenting partners'. www.london2012.com/games/olympic-torch-relay/presenting-partners/

Friday 27 July 2012: The Games begin

The Games run until 12 August, and then the Paralympics take place from 29 August until 9 September.

What is your church going to do?

What can you do in your context?

There will be big events in the city to welcome the American and Jamaican teams, including a service at Birmingham Cathedral, but the best way of using the Games to help the mission of your church is to put on events. Churches around the country are organizing event screenings and family sport events and coming up with any number of other ideas to help their community engage with the Olympics through the Church.

Finally, we've all found it difficult to get hold of tickets for Olympic events, but don't forget that applications for Paralympic Games tickets open in just a few weeks on 9 September: www.tickets.london2012.com/

**If you want more details about the above information
or information about what the churches are doing to welcome teams to Birmingham,
then contact: Fr Crispin Pailing at The Vicarage, Church Rd, Perry Barr. B42 2LB.
Tel. 0121 356 7998, or e-mail vicar@st-johns-perry-barr.org.uk.**

A prayer in preparation for the 2012 Games

Eternal God, giver of joy and source of all strength,
we pray for those who prepare for the London Olympic and Paralympic games.
For the competitors training for the Games and their loved ones,
For the many thousands who will support them,
For the Churches and others who are organising special events and who will welcome many people from many nations.
In a world where many are rejected and abused,
we pray for a spirit of tolerance and acceptance,
of humility and respect and for the health and safety of all.
May we at the last be led towards the love of Christ who is more than gold, today and forever. **Amen**

www.morethangold.org.uk

Explore the resources available to help churches engage in mission during the Olympics, for example book one of 4 drama companies on tour in 2012 to help strengthen your community outreach: <http://www.morethangold.org.uk/outreach/creative-arts.html>

THRIVE: Tackling Poverty

THRIVE
WEST MIDLANDS



faith to engage
SUPPORTING PARTNERSHIPS, TRANSFORMATION AND ENGAGEMENT



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
BIRMINGHAM

Come along to a **free open exhibition** event offering **tools and resources**

that you or your church can use to tackle the issues of poverty in your local neighbourhoods.

Also meet existing projects and find out about practical ways you can support these projects to continue their work.

Open Resource Exhibition: Tackling Poverty

Venue: St John's and St Peter's Church
Darnley Road, Ladywood, B16 8TF Birmingham

On the 80, 8A, 8C bus routes:

Saturday October 22

10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Admission: FREE

Attend a 30 minute workshop seminar:

10.30 or 14.00	Housing Justice	setting up a winter night
11.00 or 14.30	Trussell Trust	setting up a foodbank
11.30 or 15.00	Jericho Foundation	setting up a job club
12.00 or 15.30	Community Money Advice	setting up a debt advice centre
12.30 or 16.00	Christians Against Poverty	setting up a CAP debt counselling centre

Housing Justice - offers supports for Christian homeless projects and guide churches in setting up their own independent projects, and campaigns on behalf of homeless people.

Trussell Trust - offers a package of support to set up a foodbank, a concept designed to help individuals in crisis by providing free emergency food.

Jericho Foundation - works with disadvantaged individuals and help them overcome barriers and become fulfilled, skilled and employed.

Community Money Advice - provides training, set up and ongoing support services for independent, affiliate, community debt advice centres.

Christians Against Poverty - a national debt counselling charity working with local churches across the UK.

Exhibiting organisations on the day also include:

Restore

Worth Unlimited

Lighthouse group

Karis Neighbour Scheme

Church Urban Fund...and others

Pre-register for the event online and receive a free cup cake on the day.

To register visit: <http://tacklingpovertyevent/eventbrite.com>

For more information - email: info@thrivewestmidlands.org or call: 0121 426 0442,

The Tackling Poverty event is a Thrive West Midlands and Faith to Engage partnership.

Thrive West Midlands was formed in 2010 by the Anglican Diocese of Birmingham and Church Urban Fund to support churches, Christian organisations and individuals in Birmingham & West Midlands to engage effectively with their local neighbourhoods and tackle the issues of poverty and deprivation.

Near Neighbours Grant Programme

Is your church situated in one of the following **Birmingham wards**: Ladywood, Soho, Nechells, Lozells and East Handsworth, Aston, Washwood Heath, Bordesley Green, Edgbaston, Moseley and Kings Heath, Sparkbrook, Springfield, South Yardley and Hodge Hill?

If so, you can be considered for a grant from the **Near Neighbours Grant Programme** which is being set up to “encourage stronger civil society in areas that are multi-religious and multi-ethnic by creating association, friendship and neighbourliness. It intends to bring together people of different faiths and of no faiths to transform local communities for the better.” Once set up in September, **grant requests from £250 up to £5,000 will be considered**. Applications must be from local initiatives planned by and involving local people from small organizations. A key criterion is that grants are spent in ways which bring together people from different ethnic and faith communities which impact specifically locally. If there is the intention and likelihood of **lasting relationships between people**, then a grant is more likely to be awarded.

The fund will be administered from the **Faithful Neighbourhood Centre, 10-12 Court Road, Sparkhill, B11 4LX** in partnership with the local parishes of the Anglican Birmingham Diocese. The Centre is a new partnership venture of the Church Urban Fund and Birmingham Diocese. As a lead partner in this initiative, the Diocese is collaborating closely with ecumenical partners through Birmingham Churches Together. Application forms are likely to be available from late August or early September: www.cuf.org.uk/near-neighbours

Look out for local briefings about the Near Neighbours programme during the Autumn months.

Changes in the Methodist Church in Birmingham

Big changes are taking place within the Methodist Church in the Birmingham area.

On **1st September**, 42 Methodist churches with a combined membership of around 3,500 will be joining together to form an enlarged Birmingham Circuit.

This will bring together churches in Birmingham, Solihull and North Warwickshire, along with the city centre.

This will mean that the Methodist Church, together with partner churches with whom we share premises, will be able to expand the work and better use skills and resources in the wider community.

As this is a significant project for Methodists in this area, and to mark the occasion, on 1st September at Symphony Hall, there will be a service to launch the new Birmingham Circuit (admission by ticket only). The President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference together with invited guests including the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, the Mayor of North Warwickshire, the Mayor of Solihull, Civic Dignitaries and Church Leaders from the area will be attending.

Calendar of Special Dates

1 September - 4 October	Creation Time 2011	www.ctbi.org.uk
11 September	Racial Justice Sunday	www.ctbi.org.uk/551
12 October	The People's Bible in Birmingham	www.thepeoplesbible.org/come-along/tour-dates-locations/
13 October	World Sight Day	www.v2020.org/
16 October	Healthcare Sunday	www.healthcaresunday.org.uk/
23 to 30 October	One World Week	www.oneworldweek.org/v2/
13 November	Remembrance Sunday	www.britishlegion.org.uk
15 November	International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians	www.csw.org.uk
20 – 26 November	Inter Faith Week	www.interfaithweek.org/
20 – 26 November	Prisons Week	www.prisonweek.org
1 December	World Aids Day	www.worldaidsday.org/

Social Concerns

STOP THE TRAFFIK.
PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE BOUGHT & SOLD



Human Trafficking starts in communities and can be stopped by communities. People in the West Midlands can work together to stop trafficking in their community. How? Read on.....

Stop the Traffik Community Roadshow 2pm -5pm Saturday 19th November 2011

Hawkesley Primary School, 376 Shannon Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 9TR

Next summer, the Olympics take place at venues all around the country. Thousands of hopeful athletes will choose to travel from around the world to win gold. Every minute of every hour of every day, other people are forced to travel around the world to make gold for someone else; trafficked. Deceived or coerced against their will, men, women and children are bought, sold and transported for forced begging, labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude and other forms of exploitation. Stop The Traffik Community Roadshows aim to equip local communities to tackle human trafficking ahead of the Olympic Games.

Why? Everyone needs to know what human trafficking is and how it affects them.

What? An interactive community workshop exploring the impact of trafficking and what we can do about it.

Where? The Birmingham Roadshow is being organized by local community members and professionals who want to lead the fight against human trafficking.

Who by? Members of the Stop the Traffik team, frontline professionals, and local community activists.

Who for? Anyone in the West Midlands who wants to make it harder for trafficking to occur, faith groups, local charities, police officers, social workers, health workers, teachers, community services, local businesses, and others.

To register for the Birmingham Roadshow: Email act@stophetraffik.org with your name and address, indicating that you wish to attend the BIRMINGHAM roadshow.



To find out more about trafficking: www.stophetraffik.org

For more information contact Kerry at adavuproject@gmail.com



Birmingham Methodist District

JUBILEE DEBT CAMPAIGN BIRMINGHAM

Liberal Democrat Conference Fringe Meeting: *Tackling the root causes of global inequality.*

Sunday September 18th. 6.30pm – 8pm.

Speakers: Malcolm Bruce - MP & Chair of International Development Select Committee, Deborah Doane - Director of World Development Movement, Nick Dearden - Director of Jubilee Debt Campaign. **Venue is Jury's Inn on Broad Street**, near Berkley Street and not far from the ICC. No pass needed as it is outside the secure zone. No charge.

Monday October 10th evening. *Public Meeting about the Horn of Africa – the crisis and how to prevent it.*

Thursday November 17th evening. *Third World Debt and World Debt Crisis – the same but different.* Tim Jones from JDC to speak.

Further details from John Nightingale at 0121 458 6182 or johnnightingale@btinternet.com



Good Will Supper

Wednesday 28 September 7pm

Chester Rd Baptist Church, Chester Rd, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5HU

An evening of entertainment, information and inspiration. Music and supper will be followed by a speaker from Christian Aid and a local solicitor, on what makes a good will. Tickets £8.

Young Strings Project in Concert

Friday 9 December 7pm

St Luke's Church Centre, Gt. Colmore St, Lee Bank, Birmingham B15 2AT (nr. city centre)

A concert by this talented young orchestra, to raise funds for Christian Aid.

Tickets - Adults: £7 in advance, £10 on the night. Children: £5 in advance, £7 on the night.

East Africa Food Crisis Appeal -

Thank you to all who have donated to our ongoing appeal as we continue to respond to a very challenging situation.

For further information on the above Tel. 0121 200 2283 or email: Birmingham@christianaid.org.uk

Christian Aid, Room 403B, The Big Peg, 120 Vyse St, Birmingham B18 6NE

Birmingham Churches Together: Restore



‘Who is fleeing persecution & seeking sanctuary?’



Please join Restore, a project of Birmingham Churches Together supporting refugees and asylum seekers, for information sessions on asylum issues and training on befriending

AFTERNOON COURSE

on Thursdays 29 September, 6 & 13 October 2011
from 2.00pm - 4.00pm
at BMS: International Mission Centre
24 Weoley Park Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 6QX

EVENING COURSE

on Mondays 3, 10 and 17 October 2011
from 7.30pm - 9.30pm
at St John’s Church, High Street, Birmingham, B17 9PT

Further details are available from Jeremy Thompson (Restore Befriending Co-ordinator) – 0121 236 0069 or befriend@restore-uk.org



Amnesty International & Restore



invite you to a meeting on

ASYLUM: HUMAN TRAGEDY, HUMANE RESPONSE

Tuesday 11 October 2011

7pm - 9.15pm

Wragge & Co, 55 Colmore Row (opposite Birmingham Cathedral)
with speakers, workshops and forum

Mike Kaye (Still Human, Still Here, national campaign)

Dave Smith (Boaz Trust, Manchester)

Shari Brown (Restore, Birmingham)

All are welcome! There will be light refreshments from 6.30pm.

For more information, please contact 0121 444 2454 (Amnesty) or 0121 236 0069 (Restore)

Spirituality and Prayer

Birmingham Spiritual Directors' Forum: open meeting
Thursday 6th October 2011 at The Hub, Hazelwell
10 am till 3 pm

The Changing Face of Spirituality: A Day with Steve Hollinghurst

Steve is researcher in Evangelism & Post-Christian Culture with the Church Army.

Outline for the day: The changing face of spirituality in Britain.

Understanding the New Spiritualities

Christian responses to contemporary spirituality

The sessions will include some PowerPoint presentation, video clips and time for discussion in groups and in plenary. The middle session in particular is based on a few video clips of people talking about their beliefs which we discuss both to understand the ways people approach spirituality but also the language they use and their understanding of Christianity. The last section explores how we might respond both generally as Christians but specifically from a spirituality and spiritual direction agenda.

Cost: £12. (payable to SDF), Bring your own lunch – drinks provided.

Advance booking is essential (numbers limited).

Contact Revd John Austen: Email: john@jausten.freeserve.co.uk or tel. 0121 554 8882

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 November, which is from 5-6pm.

- 18 September:** St John's and St Peter's Church, Darnley Road, Ladywood, B16 8TF
16 October: Our Lady of the Caribbean Church Centre, Bayswater Road, Birchfield, B20 3AE
20 November: Newman House, Catholic Chaplaincy, 29 Harrison's Road, Edgbaston, B15 3QS
18 December: Chapel in Birmingham Children's Hospital, Steelhouse Lane, City centre, B4 6NH

Wellsprings Christian Meditation Centre and Centre for Spirituality

Autumn Programme 2011 – Day Events

Events are from 10:00am – 4:00pm. Suggested donation: £20.00 per person, participants to bring a packed lunch.

Saturday September 17th "Journeying to the Centre" Led by Fr Stephen Ortiger OSB

Day led by Fr Stephen, former Abbot of Worth Abbey, will be interesting and prayerful.

Saturday October 29th Day for Christian Meditators: "Let Your Inner Self Grow Strong"

led by Sr. Anna O'Connor, a day primarily for Christian Meditators and those interested in meditating in the way taught by John Main (open to others, if there is space). **This event: 9:30am – 1:00pm**, followed by a bring and share lunch. Participants are welcome to stay for a quiet time after the programmed day. Suggested donation: £10.00 per person.

Saturday November 19th "In The Beginning..." Led by Sr. Morag Gardham RLR

A quiet day in preparation for Advent with images, silence and words, based on the opening of John's Gospel.

Saturday December 3rd "With Martha and Mary – a time in Bethany" Led by Sr. Maureen Marston SP

A quiet day to spend some time reflecting with Martha and Mary.

At all the events, tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

For further information or to book, please contact: Sr Stella Minogue, Programmed Events, 236 Alcester Road South, Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 6DR; Tel: 0121 444 7463, email: wellsprings@googlemail.com

Please make cheques payable to: St John's Convent - Counselling

Wonderful Tour To The Holy Land

Led by Rev. Tom Maginley **Sunday June 17 to Sunday June 24, 2012**

Cost: £1385.00. The week spent in Israel will provide each pilgrim with times of prayer and meditation. The Bible will come alive as we visit sites associated with the Life of Christ. For details, contact: Rev. Tom Maginley, 57 St. Peter's Road, Handsworth B20 3RP

Study and Training



Introduction to workplace chaplaincy

Why is work important?
Pastoral issues in a work context.
Talking ethics.
How does chaplaincy work in practice?

This short course is for anyone interested in workplace chaplaincy for themselves or as they develop the ministry of others.

Wednesdays 2.00 – 4.00 p.m.

14th September – 12th October 2011

Church House, 175 Harborne Park Road, Harborne,
Birmingham B17 0BH

To book a free place call 0121 426 0425
or email cigbadmin@birmingham.anglican.org

(Christian) COUNSELLING COURSES

Levels 2 Counselling Concepts and
Level 3 Certificate in Counselling Skills
Level 4 Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling

These courses are designed to aid churches in their work supporting and facilitating individuals when most vulnerable.

They are delivered in association with Awarding body ABC Awards.
(Levels 2, 3 & 4),

Venue: Birmingham Christian Centre,
Parade, Birmingham B1 3QQ

(Applications accepted all year round)

Closing date: 22nd August 2011 for September start

If you would like any further information contact the BCC office:

Dates, times and prices of courses available on contact.

Phone: 0121 236 2997 ask for Pastor Paul Clarke

www.birminghamcc.co.uk email: admin@birminghamcc.co.uk

Celebration Evening @ The Queen's Foundation. Thursday 13th October, 6pm

The Graduate Research Centre will be hosting an evening to celebrate the pioneering work in Black Theology that is taking place at Queen's. **If you wish to know more about studying for an MPhil** with particular reference to Black Theology, then this is your chance to hear more about this innovative program of study. **The Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education** has established a long and impressive tradition in Black Theology dating back some 20 years. Black Theology is a theology of liberation that seeks to re-interpret the meaning of God in Christ in light of the suffering and ongoing oppression of Black people.

Dr Anthony Reddie is a research fellow in Black Theology. He is a prolific writer, having written 13 books, 35 journal articles and 23 chapters in edited books. Dr Reddie is also the editor of *Black Theology: An International Journal*. Details on the journal can be found at www.blacktheologyjournal.com/BT/ He is also the co-editor of the 'Cross Cultural Theologies' book series for Equinox.

Carol Troupe is a research associate. Her primary work is overseeing a web based project that seeks to document lived expression of Black Christian faith. Ms Troupe is the author of a number of articles and essays in *Black Theology and Education*. She Co-Reviews '*Black Theology: an International Journal*', is co-ordinator for the Black Theology Forum and facilitator of the Black Theology Research Seminar, which take place at Queen's. The website can be found at www.livingoutfaith.org.uk

New Research Degree with particular reference to Black Theology

Dr Anthony Reddie and Carol Troupe are also actively involved in supporting students in their own research activities. As an extension of this work, Queen's is seeking to offer a **Master of Philosophy (MPhil)** as a means of enabling interested and promising students to pursue their interest in Black Theology. **Candidates who are interested in developing their knowledge and expertise in Black Theology are encouraged to apply for the MPhil at The Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological.** The degree is validated by the University of Gloucestershire. Eligible candidates must already possess a 1st or 2:1 in Theology or Religious Studies and have experience of producing extended pieces of written work. Interested candidates should prepare a research proposal of around 1,000 words in length outlining their area of interest and relating this to a specific research question and the literature pertaining to this area of academic study.

Further details regarding any of the above can be obtained from:

Dr Anthony G. Reddie, Research Fellow in Black Theology at the Queen's Foundation,
Somerset Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham. B15 2QH.
Tel no: 0121 452 2660. Email: a.g.reddie@queens.ac.uk

Events in Date order

Theological Reflection Forum

The next Theological Reflection Forum will be on
Friday 2 September 2011 at 7.30pm
at Church of God of Prophecy Community Centre,
Aberdeen Street, Winson Green, Birmingham B18 7DL.

The speaker will be **Sandra Boden** who will present her
Masters research on
'Spiritual Development through Psychotherapy'.
For more information contact:
joealdred@btopenworld.com
Please put the date in your diary.

Birmingham City Mission

5K/10K WALK/RUN/CYCLE

Saturday 17 September 2011

at Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield (Streetly gate entrance)

Walk starts between 10am - 12 noon

with the run starting at 1pm

Lots to do - bring a picnic.

For sponsor forms and details:

Contact office@birminghamcitymission.co.uk

or telephone 0121 766 6603

Registered Charity No. 1051023

Faith Storytelling Event

an evening of inspirational stories from the faith groups in North Birmingham. Spiritual stories play an important role in all religions, traditions and cultures as they help us to remember the wisdom transferred from one generation to another.

Friday 23 Friday September 2011

7.45 - 9.00pm

Faizul Quran Jamia Mosque Lozells,
213-217 Lozells Road. B19 1RJ

A free event for all faith groups to attend

Please come and share an encouraging story from your personal spiritual journey or your Holy Scriptures for 5-10 minutes. It could be in the form of a thanksgiving for an answered prayer or blessings you have received from God's loving hands. You might want to share a short story from your Holy Books or a spiritual leader who has inspired you. Please share freely with an open heart while respecting the faith of others present on the evening.

Ladies, please cover your heads. Men and women must cover their arms, legs and remove their shoes in the Mosque.

Organised by the 'Faith in Lozells' group in partnership with faith leaders in North Birmingham and the Lozells Project.

Further information from Pall Singh 0121 523 8726

Heritage Open Day at Bull Street Quaker Meeting House

Sunday 11th September 2011

1.00pm until 5.00pm

Once again Bull Street Quakers are opening their meeting house as part of Heritage Open Day.

The current meeting house was built in 1933 on a site occupied by Quakers since 1703. There will be an exhibition, books and artefacts relating to the history of Quakers in the city centre.
Refreshments available, disabled access, all welcome

The meeting house is close to Snow Hill Station and Metro, a 10 minute walk from New Street Station and also close to bus stops in Colmore Row and Corporation Street

Church Open Day & 'Let the Needles do the Talking' Embroidery Exhibition

Bournville United Reformed Church, Beaumont Road, Birmingham, West Midlands, B30 2EB

A chance to look around Bournville United Reformed Church, founded as Bournville Church of Christ in 1905. It moved to the present purpose built Meeting House in 1914. The church retains a number of original features including a Baptistry for Believers' Baptisms. There will be a display on the history of the Church.

Heritage Open Days Opening Times

Saturday 10th September: 12.00-15.00

Sunday 11th September: 12.00-15.00

Sunday 11th September a service: 10.30-11.30

Specially for the Heritage Open Days weekend only, there will be an exhibition entitled 'Let the Needles do the Talking.' This is a range of meaningful textiles by embroiderer and textile artist Pamela Pavitt and presented in two groups: i) peace and reconciliation, and ii) stewardship of the world we live in, creation and the environment.

Access: Please note the building is not accessible to wheelchair users. An Induction loop is available.

RAIL: train station is Bournville.

BUS: WM Buses 11 or 84 to the junction of Linden Road and Beaumont Road or 27 to the junction of Linden Road and Bournville Lane.

Prom Praise

7.30pm Saturday 8th October

at Birmingham Symphony Hall

with Noël Tredinnick and the All Souls Orchestra.

The soloists include Matthew Little and Kelly Rainford, with Pam Rhodes as the special guest speaker.

See <http://www.thsh.co.uk/view/prom-praise-2011>

Previous performances have been sell-outs so it would be good to get your bookings in soon, especially if your church or friends want to make a group booking.

See the leaflet enclosed with this issue for details.

Events in Date Order

Alternative to violence project

Give yourself a morning to explore new skills:

Saturday 24 September OR 8 October. 10am–12.30pm

Getting on better with people, free introductory workshops at

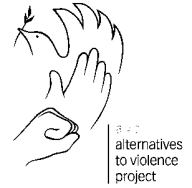
The Priory Rooms, Quaker Meeting House, 40 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6AF

There will be a full Level 1 workshop in November.

Respect yourself *Listen to others* Manage conflict Build good relations

To reserve a place or for more information, please contact Stephen, Tel 0845 345 7433 or email midlands-wales@avpbritain.org.uk

AVP registered charity number 1085709
Limited company registered by guarantee
4127409



Managing Repairs and Maintenance for Your Church Building

LOVE IT, FUND IT, KEEP IT!

Managing repairs and maintenance for your church building

**Wednesday, 12th October 2011,
10.00am - 3.30pm**

at Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham, B4 7SX.

All Places of Worship face challenges.

The biggest usually involve finding money to make repairs, but getting the stewardship and maintenance right can significantly reduce costs in the longer term.

We aim to show you

- How to be confident stewards of your building
- How to write a maintenance plan
- How to take the mystery out of funding for repairs to Places of Worship
- How to engage with English Heritage and other funders in creative and positive ways

This event is free of charge. Tea/Coffee on arrival, lunch will be provided.

To register for this event, please contact

Amanda Ross, Divine Inspiration,

1 Hill Top, Coventry, CV1 5AB Tel: 02476 521306 or

email to amanda.ross@divine-inspiration.org.uk

There is no parking at the venue and we would advise you to travel by public transport. The venue is accessible.

Faiths for Fun Event

Sun 23rd October 1.45 - 5.30 p.m.

Following the success of the last 3 years, this event will again be held at Hamstead Hall Community Learning Centre, Handsworth Wood.

Organised by Birmingham Council of Faiths and Birmingham Scouts.

All children aged 8 to 11 years are welcome. They will join in multi-faith groups to learn together about other faiths by participating in fun activities at 6-7 different faith bases and have fun in the sports hall. Certificates are awarded to all participants. Cost £1 per participant.

Application Forms from Peter & Jean Rookes:

Tel 477 2282, or e-mail pjrookes@gmail.com

The Council of Christians & Jews and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Warmly Invite you to a special seminar

Wednesday 19th October 2011

11.00 am to 1.00 pm

The Continuing Israel - Palestine Conflict:

is it now defining the relationship between Jews and Christians?

by Dr John Pawlikowski

at The Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical

Theological Education Somerset Road, Birmingham B15 2QH www.queens.ac.uk

Tea, Coffee and biscuits will be provided.

If you wish to stay for lunch in the College refectory you are most welcome, but please indicate this with your RSVP, stating if you are vegetarian so we can book the correct numbers.

The cost for lunch is £5.

RSVP by Thursday 30th September 2011

cjrelations@ccj.org.uk or

telephone: Lindsay on 0207 015 5160

A PRAYER BREAKFAST

Saturday 22nd October 2011,

7.30 for 7.45 am

The Trinity Centre, Church Hill, off Mill Street,
Sutton Coldfield B72 1TF

Arranged under the auspices of Churches Together in
Central Sutton Coldfield, but open to all

"Breakthrough"

working with the Deaf community,

Speaker: Mike Reynolds

After breakfast, the speaker will introduce the subject, followed by prayer at the tables - ends approx. 9.30 am.

£3.00 per head inclusive, - please pre-book to help with catering

Leaflets / Booking forms available from CTCSC Church Offices or from Beresford & Kate King-Smith

Tel: 0121-355 5018, E-mail: cantabile@freeola.com

Send SAE for details to: CTCSC,

8 South Parade,

Sutton Coldfield B72 1QY



Carrs Lane Church Centre

Carrs Lane Lectures 2011: Rethinking Christian Theology

We hope you will join us for this year's Lecture series entitled 'Rethinking Christian Theology'.

The Lectures will be held as usual on **Thursday evenings in October, from 6.00 – 7.30pm**, tickets £5 each.

Programme:

October 6th: Professor Paul Knitter 'What Is Atonement?'

October 13th: Professor Paul Knitter 'Is There Life after Death?'

October 20th: Professor Roger Haight 'Who is Jesus?'

October 27th: Professor Roger Haight 'What is the Trinity?'

Paul Knitter is a former Roman Catholic priest, now a leading theologian of religious pluralism. He is currently Paul Tillich Professor of Theology, World Religions and Culture at Union Theological Seminary in New York and Professor Emeritus of Theology at Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio, where he taught for 28 years. His research interests are religious pluralism and interreligious dialogue. **Roger Haight** is Scholar in Residence at Union Theological Seminary. He is a member of the Society of Jesus and is a past President of the Catholic Theological Society of America. He has taught at four Jesuit graduate schools of theology in Manila, Chicago, Toronto, and Cambridge, Massachusetts. He has also been a visiting professor in Lima, Nairobi, Paris, and Pune, India.

Wednesday 26th October, 10.30-4pm Professor Haight leading a one-day workshop on **Christian Spirituality for Seekers: according to Ignatius Loyola:**

3 sessions: Jesus for Seekers; Finding Meaning in Jesus' Story; A Spirituality of Gratitude for Existence
tea/coffee will be provided but bring your own lunch. There will be no charge but donations would be appreciated.

The series will be chaired by Dr David Cheetham who is Senior Lecturer in Theology and Religion in the School of Philosophy, Theology and Religion, University of Birmingham.

Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham B4 7SX. 0121 643 6151 : office@carrslane.co.uk

Carrs Lane Fair Trade

Your city centre fair trade shop selling all Traidcraft foods – crafts – Christmas cards and much more.

Come and see the new Autumn/Christmas range of products.

Traidcraft buys from small producers so come early if you want the best choice.

Each purchase makes a difference to the producer in one of the poorest countries in the world

We also offer crafts on sale or return. If you are having a special event in your church, why not take advantage of this service?

Alternatively maybe you could sell them after worship on one or two Sundays?

Some of you might be able to use our sale or return facility in selling to colleagues at your place of work.

Do contact us to find out more and discuss possibilities – dates etc.

We are open Tuesday through to Friday all year round and Saturday in November and December: 10.30 – 2.30

Carrs Lane Church Centre (corner of Moor Street Queensway and Carrs Lane)

Tel 0121 643 6151, email fair-trade@carrslane.co.uk

City Centre Office Accommodation

Carrs Lane Church Centre houses various church and other voluntary organisations. An office unit is available to let to a similar organisation. It has space for around 4 people, plus kitchenette, toilet and store. On the second floor up from our main entrance on Moor Street, so regrettably no disabled access.

For details, contact the Church Centre Manager on (0121) 643 6151 or manager@carrslane.co.uk.

City Centre Conference Facilities & Room Hire

Including newly created rooms on our refurbished lower ground floor, all with disabled access.

Visit our website www.carrslane.co.uk, or contact our office on 0121 643 6151 or booking@carrslane.co.uk.

Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham B4 7SX

Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association - Recycling Scheme



The Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association in Birmingham are a movement with a mission to give every child and young person an opportunity to develop a personal faith in Jesus Christ.

Engaging with children and young people, building up relationships with our members and providing a Christian environment in which we can deliver our four fully resourced programmes all costs money. Funders are withdrawing grants as financial restraints take their toll; however we are determined to create more opportunities for young people, including creating jobs for some of the 25% of 18-25 year olds that are currently unemployed in our city.

In 2009 we opened our first charity shop, the Anchor Shop in Central Shopping Square, off Erdington High Street. Initially this was mainly a bookshop run by a team of volunteers. After 12 months we had made a good contribution to our costs and have been able to take on a permanent lease for the shop, offer employment opportunities through the Future Jobs Fund and begin selling clothing.

And that's not all! **The good news is that recycling not only creates jobs here but in Africa too.** It pays a wholesaler who employs market stall holders, ironing assistants, a tailor to make alterations and drivers to deliver around the villages. Our social enterprise aims to create opportunities and jobs for young people in Birmingham and contribute to developing jobs in the Third World.

But we need your help! we are encouraging churches to hold a 'Caring & Sharing Sunday'. What's this you might ask? We will provide each of your church congregation with a black bag, together with some of the information about our project, a week before the arranged collection date.

Then on the following Sunday morning, **'Caring & Sharing Sunday'**, we will come and pick up all the filled bags which have been collected. We can show you a video clip of how your items can build a new life for young people and give you some astounding facts and figures showing why it's so important to recycle. If you would like any more information about this exciting project, please contact **Ann Reaney on 0121 333 5873 or email ann.reaney@bb-birmingham.org.uk.**

Activity Instructor Training Scheme

**Firm Foundations
The Action Centres UK Instructor Training Scheme
for young people aged 18-24
2 Years That Will Change Your Life!**

Call
01604 499699



You will get £200 per month with all training fees, room and board provided.

Placements at either

Pioneer Centre - Shrops • Whitemoor Lakes - Staffs • Benham Sports Arena - Northants.
Book your place now! Call Jon Munt on 07714 307 865 or email jonmunt@actioncentres.co.uk.

For more info please visit www.actioncentres.co.uk/instructortrainingscheme

1Million Acts of Kindness: Birmingham

The aim of 1 MILLION ACTS OF KINDNESS (1MAK) is to share, map and inspire people and community groups with the great stories and acts of kindness that are happening right across our city.

1MAK Birmingham will run initially from Easter 2011 to Easter 2012. This will be a year when we hope people will continue to be inspired to make a difference in their neighbourhoods right across Birmingham.

You can get involved by visiting the website, logging your act of kindness, reading what others are doing across the city and send news about 1MAK.

MAKE AN IMPACT ACROSS THE WHOLE CITY!!!

Visit the 1MAK Birmingham website at www.1makbirmingham.co.uk

SIGN UP and start logging your acts of kindness. Let the movement gather pace

Tree of Life



The Baptist Church in Chelmsley Wood has recently launched '**Tree of Life**', a creative journey for spiritual seekers in their community.

It is based around a number of different branches, including an artist in residence, storytelling, community trips and seasonal events. The aim is to engage people who would not even consider 'church'. There is no requirement to go to church, if someone wants that there are plenty of them! The emphasis is very much on finding God in our lives.

Tree of Life may appeal to people who are seeking but have issues with church, people who are into alternative spiritualities or those interested in the creative arts.

The website can be found at www.thetreeoflife.org.uk

The Baptist Church is looking to run a mind, body spirit type event in September and are looking for Christians interested in being involved.

Please get in touch. You can call Neil on 0121 770 8590 or email cwbc.neil@blueyonder.co.uk

Acts 435

"giving to anyone who has a need" Acts 435 is a useful tool for the churches in the UK which is free and easy to get involved with and so help those in need in your local community. It is a relatively new charity, set up by the Archbishop of York. It is designed to work through churches of all denominations and non-denominational churches, and is appealing to churches who are serious about helping those in their community.

Acts 435 is a revolutionary charity which uses the existing church network to enable those who have resources to give to those who haven't through the technology of the Internet. Now someone in Cambridge can buy shoes for a needy child in Birmingham or a donor in London can provide a new washing machine for a neighbour in distress in Middlesbrough.

Go to the website www.acts435.org.uk to get an idea of how it works

Resources from Church Together in Britain and Ireland

Creation Time: Our Daily Bread - Food in God's Creation

1 September - 4 October 2011

'What's the food like?', 'Who is providing the food?', 'Is there enough food to go round?'

Our everyday talk constantly makes reference to food, which is no surprise, as food and drink are essentials for life and survival. When we pray "Give us our daily bread" we are both acknowledging our dependence on God's generosity and our realisation that the answer to that prayer needs to include agriculture, commerce, sharing, trade-justice, animal welfare, diet and a host of other considerations.

Our Creation Time resources, which encourage and assist churches, groups and individuals to observe a Time for Creation each year between 1 September and 4 October for the protection of creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles, focus this year on Food in God's creation.

May God make us more aware of his generosity and our responsibilities as we pray for our daily bread.

Visit <http://www.ctbi.org.uk/542> for more information

Sign up for the monthly newsletter from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland to receive regular e-updates of new resources and of the work of CTBI: <http://www.ctbi.org.uk/471>

2012 Week of Prayer asks what victory means for unity

Traditionally celebrated between 18-25 January (in the northern hemisphere) or at Pentecost (in the southern hemisphere), **the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** enters into congregations and parishes all over the world. Pulpits are exchanged and special ecumenical worship services are arranged. As Poland prepares to host the European Football Championship in 2012, Christians in the country have put the meaning of "victory" and "defeat" at the centre of their reflections for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity that will be celebrated earlier in the year.

The theme "We will all be changed by the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ" is based on the apostle Paul's first letter to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 15:51-58). It promises a transformation of human life, with all its apparent "triumph" and "defeat", through the victory of Christ's resurrection.

Preparatory resources based on these reflections are already available in five languages on the website of the World Council of Churches (WCC) see <http://www.oikoumene.org/fileadmin/files/wcc-main/documents/p2/2011/>

From Jim Currin, Churches Together in England

The 360 Gospel of Christ: Every Angle for Every Person, By Jim Currin

A new grove booklet by the Secretary for Evangelisation at Churches Together in England: In our concern to have a simple gospel to explain, we often narrow down the message of Jesus. This might meet our need, but does it engage with the needs of others - as Jesus did? Starting with the wide range of ways Jesus presented the good news of the kingdom, this study explores the implications of sharing faith by making connections with different aspects of the multi-faceted diamond that is the good news.

Grove Evangelism Series, EV93; www.grovebooks.co.uk

Have you visited BCT's new website? www.birminghamchurches.org.uk

Explore our new colourful and vibrant website launched in April this year.

Please send your news to share with the wider Christian community
through the news pages and eNewsletter.

Sign up for our eNewsletter

Go to Our Newsletter page and enter your email address to keep up to date with the latest from
across Birmingham and Solihull. We will send you news that arrives in between editions of BEN.

Church Finder

On our Church Finder page, find your place of worship from our post code map

Complete your entry by sending the following information to enquiries@birminghamchurches.org.uk

Name of Church; Tradition of Church; Address of Church; Name of a contact person & Role;

Contact phone no & email; Church Website address; and a description of your Church up to 50 words

Local Groups

Go to the local group page, explore the drop down bars
and find churches belonging to your local Churches Together group

Birmingham Ecumenical News (BEN)

BEN (Birmingham ecumenical news) 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 December 2011 to February 2012 edition:

5pm Thursday 3rd November 2011

Postal Address Birmingham Churches Together, St. George's Community Hub
Great Hampton Row, Newtown, Birmingham. B19 3JG

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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