

# BEN

## Birmingham Ecumenical News

News and events from across Birmingham & Solihull

February—May 2017

### 24 hours of Prayer

On behalf of all involved in the 24 hours of prayer at St Chad's Cathedral on Friday and Saturday 20/21 January, we want to offer a huge and heartfelt thank you for your participation and prayerful support.

Thanks to all whose churches, groups, organisations and schools took part in any way. It was a privilege to pray with so many of you who came to the Cathedral to lead prayer. The space at the front became a place where, united in all our diversity, we turned together to God. During the 24 hours we prayed for many aspects of the challenges facing our city region and beyond, making it a special event.

Thank you to St Chad's Cathedral for your warm welcome and for embracing the contributions of Christians of all traditions. In a year when the 500th anniversary of the reformation will be marked, the willingness of Pentecostal, Anglican, Free Church and Catholic Christians to share together in prayer for common concerns is a real sign of our Christian unity.

We warmly welcome any feedback (positive, negative or all things in between; highlights, suggestions, ideas, thoughts for the future ...) please email [stephanie@carrslanelivedcommunity.org.uk](mailto:stephanie@carrslanelivedcommunity.org.uk)

The planning group: Gerry, Steph, Laurence, Andrew and Colin

Join the global wave of prayer

25 May - 4 June 2017

praying for more people to come to know Jesus Christ

[www.thykingdom.co.uk](http://www.thykingdom.co.uk)

For more info page 2

### 500th anniversary of the Reformation

"As Presidents of Churches Together in England we encourage all churches in England to mark the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 with sensitivity as we acknowledge our unity in Christ. We have learnt over the past century that unity is achieved by walking together, and we have grown in communion, friendship, reconciliation and healing. During this anniversary we want to be able to listen to the truth that is in each other, to hear our different stories, and build bridges of deeper understanding and respect."

The Presidents of CTE: Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby; Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster Vincent Nichols; Free Churches Moderator, Hugh Osgood; The Pentecostal President, Bishop Eric Brown and New Churches President, Billy Kennedy

For full statement from the Presidents of Churches Together in England go to [www.cte.org.uk](http://www.cte.org.uk)

Also a gateway website has been set up at [www.reformation500.uk](http://www.reformation500.uk)

*BEN is published by Birmingham Churches Together: Many Voices - One in Christ*

# Join the global wave of prayer from 25 May to 4 June

In May last year, many of the churches in England took up the invitation of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to set aside the days leading up to Pentecost Sunday to pray for the renewing and empowering presence of the Holy Spirit to 'make Christ real in our midst, for the flourishing of all'.

In September 2016, the Presidents of Churches Together in England said, 'we are delighted to join together to extend this invitation to all the churches in England to participate in this movement of prayer in 2017'.

In a joint statement, the Presidents went on to say, 'We want to encourage our brothers and sisters in churches of all traditions to partner in praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' in the days leading up to Pentecost, from 25 May – 4 June.

There is no prescription about how we should pray; we hope each church will participate in a way that is authentic to them and where possible to engage in this with their partner churches in their area.

[www.thykingdom.co.uk](http://www.thykingdom.co.uk)

The aim of 'Thy Kingdom Come 2017' is simple and threefold:

- to join with the whole family of God the Father
- to pray for the empowering of God the Holy Spirit
- that we may be effective witnesses to God the Son Jesus Christ

The statement concludes: 'As Presidents, we will be writing to our churches and congregations to encourage them to share this aim and to take part in this movement. We pray to the Father that his family, called to be one in Jesus Christ, may see the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to transform many lives and communities in our land'.

## Birmingham Churches Together has accepted the invitation and invites you to participate

Information about our response in Birmingham and Solihull will be made available through our monthly enews  
Resources for prayer and evangelism available nationally are being posted on [www.thykingdom.co.uk](http://www.thykingdom.co.uk)

## A prayer for refugees

Our Gracious Lord, there are many in Your world today who have been forced from their homes by persecution and violence.

Keep them in your constant care, and bring them to a place of safety.

Be the Good Shepherd to refugees who are in flight. Guide them to the green pastures of safety.

Be the Everlasting Father to refugees who have lost home and loved ones. Lead, protect and provide for them.

Be the Great Physician to refugees who are suffering. Grant them healing and hope.

Be the Hiding Place to refugees who are languishing in camps. Shelter their souls as well as their bodies.

Be the Deliverer to refugees who have been able to return home. Restore their lives so that those who have sown in tears may reap in joy.

Be the Wonderful Counsellor to refugees who have been resettled. Help them find their way in a new land.

Be the Giver of all good gifts to those who serve refugees. Empower them to do justice and love mercy and walk humbly with You.

Be the Lord of lords to all the earth, that those who rule would do so in justice and righteousness, and no one would have to become a refugee anymore.

We ask these things in the precious and powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

(from the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service)



# Taize Gathering: Hidden Treasure

*Young Christians from all across Europe coming to Birmingham*

*Friday 28th April – Monday 1st May*

In partnership with the local churches of the city, the Taizé Community will be leading a young adult gathering here in Birmingham. Hundreds of young adults from across the UK and Europe will be travelling here to take part and we hope many young adults from Birmingham's churches will be among those who participate. Brother Alois, prior of the Taizé Community, will take part in the weekend.

The weekend will explore the theme of "Hidden Treasure"; the small and often hidden ways in which Christians are nourishing their faith through prayer, and how their faith is inspiring them to acts of solidarity with those in most need.

An appeal is attached to the invitation to participate:

## Bring a Hidden Treasure with you!

In our world of deep divisions, participants in Hidden Treasure are asked to put into practice some new action of friendship or solidarity, and to bring this experience to the event.

The gathering is being held with the encouragement of the presidents of Birmingham Churches Together, Archbishop Bernard Longley, Bishop David Urquhart and Reverend Ian Howarth. Archbishop Bernard Longley, says "We are looking forward to the coming together, a great gathering, we hope and pray, in Birmingham when young people will pick up something of the spirit of Taizé focussing on the central part that Jesus plays in the life of each individual but also within our communities. I know that the churches in Birmingham will benefit tremendously from this wonderful gathering of prayer."

In the wake of a number of international events which have brought to light divisions in our societies, the weekend will celebrate the beauty of the commitment lived out by many Christians and others of goodwill. It is an opportunity to invite those who are exploring or discovering their faith or are struggling with new challenges to come and deepen their faith and engagement. Workshops on Saturday and Sunday afternoon will enable young people to explore themes together and a regular common prayer, open to all, will be at the heart of the weekend.

In a number of host neighbourhoods around the city, people of different churches are working together to prepare accommodation and to prepare a morning programme for participants. Churches of all traditions are already very actively involved in preparing a welcome for those who will come to them. These small acts of trust, such as inviting a stranger into your home stand as a witness to our commitment to live by love rather than fear, and to experience the beautiful exchanges that our openness to the other can make possible.

Young Adults (aged 16-35) are very welcome to take part and can register at the website.

Keep in touch with the preparations at: [www.facebook.com/taizebirmingham](http://www.facebook.com/taizebirmingham)

For the full programme and to see how to take part: [taize.fr/birmingham](http://taize.fr/birmingham)

# Trypraying

Think back to last Easter.

Remember those buses you kept seeing with "*trypraying*" plastered across the side and the rear? Well; they are returning.

If you're not familiar with the trypraying project, you might want to have a look at:  
the animated video at [trypraying.co.uk](http://trypraying.co.uk)

It's for those that don't do church, are not religious but might just be interested in praying for seven days and seeing what happens. The booklet or the app take people on a seven day journey from praying to see if God is out there to the possibility of having a relationship with him.

It's really simple to get involved: Put a banner outside your church, order a stack of booklets and encourage your members to pray for one opportunity to give the booklet to a friend. With all the bus advertising around, the chances are they will already have heard about it.

Want to find out more? Do get in contact with Andy by email: [AndyM@riverside-church.org.uk](mailto:AndyM@riverside-church.org.uk) or Paul by email [Paul@agape.org.uk](mailto:Paul@agape.org.uk) To donate: <https://my.give.net/BirminghamTryPraying>

A link to a flier with more information can be found on our news pages: [www.birminghamchurches.org.uk/news](http://www.birminghamchurches.org.uk/news)

# Pause for Hope

## *Responding to the spiritual needs of those affected by cancer:*

Almost twenty years ago Professor Ray Donnelly, a Liverpool cancer surgeon, was exploring ways in which to respond to the spiritual needs of those people who are affected by cancer.

A group of like-minded people came together and devised an ecumenical service, PAUSE for HOPE, which has been held annual ever since, alternating between Liverpool's two cathedrals. It has since spread to Chester, Manchester, Glasgow, the Isle of Man and various other centres throughout the country.

**On Sunday 19th March at 3pm we are holding Birmingham's first  
PAUSE for HOPE service in St Chad's Cathedral.**

Archbishop Bernard, Bishop Anne and a whole host of local people will be leading the prayers, music and readings. You are invited to join the congregation.

Further details can be obtained from the Pause for Hope website: [www.pauseforhope.org.uk](http://www.pauseforhope.org.uk)  
or email: [kenvance@jesuits.net](mailto:kenvance@jesuits.net)

# Restore - Birmingham Churches Together



Restore: supporting refugees and those seeking sanctuary



## RESTORE TRAINING - 'Who is fleeing persecution & seeking sanctuary?'

All are welcome at Restore's training sessions for those interested in refugee issues or befriending  
on Monday evenings – 13 & 27 February and 6 March

7.15pm to 9.15pm at Carrs Lane Conference Centre, Birmingham city centre, B4 7SX

To book a place, please contact

Jeremy Thompson, Restore's Befriending Coordinator: 0121 236 0069 or [befriend@restore-uk.org](mailto:befriend@restore-uk.org)

## RUN4REFUGEES – Saturday, 11 March

Following the success of last year's Run4Refugees,  
this fundraising event will be taking place again in Cannon Hill Park.

Could you volunteer to be a marshal? Would you like to run?

Do you know people who enjoy running or have made a new year's resolution to exercise more?

Please tell people about the event, which could be a choice of 5, 10 or 15k.

More details are online: <http://run4refugees2016.wixsite.com/run4refugees>

**RESTORE in 2016:** Over the past few years we have seen a significant increase in the number of refugees referred to Restore showing there is a continuing demand for the relational work that we offer to welcome, include and help integrate people who have fled persecution in their home countries and sought sanctuary in the UK. For many years our annual referral rate was around 100 to 115. In 2014 we received 145 new referrals, in 2015 188 new referrals, and in 2016 that increased to 228 referrals of individuals and families - our largest annual figure. During 2016 our referrals included families from the Government's Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme who had arrived in Birmingham from refugee camps in the Middle East.

We are heartened that Restore has also seen a rise in the number of people from Birmingham offering to volunteer, which has often been a response to the media coverage of refugees fleeing Syria. In 2015 we made 55 new befriending matches. Then in 2016 we set up 88 new befriending matches enabling refugees to receive additional support from a befriender. That support includes help with conversational English, listening, signposting to other services and standing alongside the refugee at this pivotal point in their journey.

For further information about Restore's work, please contact – [info@restore-uk.org](mailto:info@restore-uk.org) or 0121 236 0069

# BUILDING A BRIDGE FROM CHURCH TO SCHOOL

**TLG is a national Christian charity whose mission is to help churches bring a hope and a future through education for children and families.**

All over the UK, children are struggling in school for all kinds of reasons and many families are suffering without hope. Last year there were over 10,000 primary and secondary school exclusions in Birmingham and Solihull alone, affecting nearly 6,000 pupils.

We know that the earlier we can intervene, the greater the chance we have to transform a child's experiences in school for the better. So, what role can the church play in supporting the families of children who are struggling?

**Will you join us on our mission to provide hope and a future to children in Birmingham?**

We invite you to join us at our special forum event for church leaders, where we will be sharing more about **TLG Early Intervention**. We will be hosting workshops and providing opportunities to explore what your church can do to meet a huge need in our local schools.

**Tuesday 9th May, 10am-2pm** (including lunch)  
at **ChaplaincyPlus, 1 Colmore Row, Birmingham, B3 2BJ**

This is an event for those currently serving in church leadership and children's and youth ministry.

**RSVP to [partnerships@tlg.org.uk](mailto:partnerships@tlg.org.uk)**

**early  
intervention**

[tlg.org.uk/earlyintervention](http://tlg.org.uk/earlyintervention)

**Thank you from the Narthex, Sparkhill**

Thank you for your generosity to Narthex resource centre over these past months, we are at a stage of very little space to take any more donations until April. (Does not apply to foodbank)

If you are considering bringing or donating any items in this time period, please ring Frances or Jen on 0121 753 1959 to check over coming weeks

# Christian Aid



## #CAWeek

### Christian Aid Week turning 60!

When Christian Aid Week began in 1957 it was to support the work we were doing with refugees in Europe in the aftermath of the Second World War. This year we celebrate the impact of 60 years of Christian Aid Week, and reflect on the current needs of refugees worldwide and how Christian Aid is responding today.

Everything you need to have a fabulous #CAWeek

[www.CAweek.org](http://www.CAweek.org)

### Churches Together Meetings

Do you attend your local churches together meeting?

Christian Aid are passionate about partnership and want to be where ever churches come together to do good. We have a wonderful team of speakers who can attend your next meeting – please get in touch to invite us along: [kormerod@christian-aid.org](mailto:kormerod@christian-aid.org)

### Big Shift Campaign Workshop

The campaign to persuade banks not to invest our money in fossil fuels is gaining momentum. This workshop is an opportunity to find out more information, gain inspiration and practical tips and to get together with others in your area to share stories and ideas.

Join us on Tuesday 7 February, 7-9pm, at St Martin's in the Bullring, Birmingham, B5 5BB.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/big-shift-banks-birmingham-training-tickets-30217018917>

### Book a Speaker

Our speakers are very busy around Christian Aid week so do contact us soon if you would like a speaker. We can offer people who can take sermons, talk to groups, lead school assemblies or run a workshop with your youth group. Speakers can be booked before Christian Aid Week to inspire your congregation to take part, during Christian Aid Week to celebrate our work or after Christian Aid week to thank everyone who has taken part.

Email: [Birmingham@christian-aid.org](mailto:Birmingham@christian-aid.org)

### Check out our latest volunteer roles

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/>

### Connect with our social sites

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ChristianAidWestMidlands](http://www.facebook.com/ChristianAidWestMidlands)

Twitter: @ca\_westmids

# National Estate Churches Network

The National Estate Churches Network (NECN) is a national ecumenical charity which seeks to support Churches, clergy, practitioners and all those who live and work on social housing estates. NECN links together Christians of all denominations to support and learn from one another; it does this by holding national conferences, hosting a web-site, publishing a regular newsletter and supporting local groups. ([www.nationalestatechurches.org](http://www.nationalestatechurches.org))

Estate Churches and clergy in Birmingham are very welcome to join the Birmingham NECN Group

There is no membership fee so just send your name and email address to [andydelmege@nationalestatechurches.org](mailto:andydelmege@nationalestatechurches.org) (tel 0121 6930217) and you'll get NECN's regular free Newsletter and other information about events, resources, groups, seminars, links and a lot more.

We have entered a time when the Churches are finding new vision and will to support local estates ministry.

The Church of England is responding with energy and there is now a Renewal and Reform Committee, headed up by Bishop Philip North, on Estates and Evangelism.

This has come up with a considerable and good programme of work, which you can see here:

<http://www.nationalestatechurches.org/NetLink%20Autumn%202016.pdf>

NECN will be working closely with this Group, offering its experience and presence. NECN, of course, brings a lot to this, not least its ecumenical character and its independence. And NECN is renewing itself too. It has a new Chair (Revd Andy Delmege from Birmingham) and Vice Chair (Revd Lynne Cullens from Crewe) and they, together with their Steering Group colleagues, are working on NECN's vision and the work it may be called to do over the next few years.

If you are part of an estate church, NECN would love you to join them on this journey.

## Birmingham Ecumenical Outer Estates Group

2pm on Tuesday 14th February at Yardley Wood Baptist Church, B14 4QA

An open invitation from Andy Delmage and Trevor Neil (Yardley Wood Baptist Church) to church leaders who work on outer estates to join with others to have a conversation about how our work, ministry and churches can be best supported.

## Urban church planting and strategy training

With special guest speaker Pastor Troy Evans

10:30am – 5:00pm, Saturday 25 February

Wesleyan Holiness Church, Merridale Lane, Wolverhampton WV3 9RD

For information and to book contact:

Rev. Cassius Francis on 07903 674 852 or [cassius.francis@wesleyanchurch.co.uk](mailto:cassius.francis@wesleyanchurch.co.uk)

Troy Evans is a Wesleyan Pastor and leader of The Edge Urban Church in Michigan, USA.

This training day will include:

- Answering The Call To Go: an overview of God's story of redemption in Pastor Troy's life
- Why Urban Church Planting? An outline of the need for more urban churches in the UK
- Church Planting in the States: An examination of best practices for creating church planting movement from experience in the USA
- Building the Legacy Church: A discussion about the importance of engaging youth and young adults in church planning

This training day is ideal for: pastors, church leaders, decision makers, youth and community workers and those with a heart for urban mission



# Winter Night Shelter

## Can you support the night shelter?

The Birmingham Churches Winter Night Shelter is a community of individuals, churches and organisations that work together to provide emergency accommodation, food and support to homeless people in Birmingham during the coldest winter months by welcoming them into our churches and providing hospitality.

This year is our 6th year of running the shelter and we now have 14 churches hosting over 12 weeks from 9th January until 2nd April.

The shelter is a partnership project and relies on an army of volunteers and churches, but it has some financial costs which are necessary for it to run effectively. Thrive Together Birmingham provide the coordination of the project and we have to fund raise for guests transport costs to get them to and from the shelter, and for central coordination costs - we rely on the generous donations of churches and individuals to make the project run.

## How to donate to the shelter

Cheque: made payable to 'Thrive Together Birmingham' and referenced 'Night shelter' on the back of the cheque or in correspondence. Please send it to: Thrive Together Birmingham, C/O Balsall Heath Church Centre, 100 Mary St, B12 9JU.

Online: [www.give.net/bhamchurchesnightshelter](http://www.give.net/bhamchurchesnightshelter)

Bank Transfer: If you would rather donate directly to a bank account: email [info@thrivetogetherbham.org](mailto:info@thrivetogetherbham.org) and we can send you our bank details.

Contact us:

Email: [bhamchurchesnightshelter@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bhamchurchesnightshelter@hotmail.co.uk)

or Phone: 0121 426 0442



# Interfaith week

Thank you to everyone who organised or participated in the 21 Birmingham events during National Interfaith Week in Nov 2016.

There were a wide range of activities reflecting the diversity of our great city.

To view the full report, go to the Birmingham Council of Faiths website: [www.bhamfaiths.org.uk](http://www.bhamfaiths.org.uk)

The 2017 National Interfaith Week will be Sun 12th - Sun 19th November, so put the date in your diaries.

The Interfaith Network have published a helpful toolkit full of ideas, which can be accessed at:

<http://www.interfaith.org.uk/publications/all-publications/all-publications/158-inter-faith-week-toolkit/file>.

Further information from: Dr Peter Rookes, Secretary & 3rd Sector Liaison Officer, Birmingham Council of Faiths [pjrookes@gmail.com](mailto:pjrookes@gmail.com)

## FAITHS FOR FUN EVENT 2017: 9th glorious year

Sun 2nd April, 1.30 - 5.30 p.m

Hamstead Hall Academy (previously known as Community Learning Centre), Handsworth,  
organised by Birmingham Scout Association in conjunction with Birmingham Council of Faiths

For all youngsters aged 7 to 12 years of different faiths, and none, to have FUN, get to know each other and learn something together about each others' faiths. Youngsters can be dropped off at 1.30 & collected at 5.30. They will be supervised by trained adult leaders throughout the afternoon. On arrival, they will be registered & allocated to a multifaith team, supervised by a trained leader. The fun starts with joining in the parachute game & then they will be guided around 6 faith bases to carry out a fun activity and learn something about each faith.

Faith Bases – Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Jewish

Refreshments at half time – special diets (Vegetarian, Kosher & Halal) catered for. Enjoy the campfire (simulated) at the end.  
Certificate awarded to verify 3 parts of World Faiths Badge

Cost £2 per participant. Places allocated on first come first served basis.

Return registration forms as soon as possible (closing date Tues 28<sup>th</sup> March)

to:- Dr Peter Rookes, 61 Bunbury Road, Bournville, Birmingham, B31 2DS, Tel 477 2282 or e-mail [pjrookes@gmail.com](mailto:pjrookes@gmail.com)

## They Also Served

Researching the contribution of Black African and Caribbean men and women in the First World War

They Also Served is a HLF funded project by Churches Together in England that will bring to life the contributions of African and Caribbean servicemen and women. Working with the Midlands African and Caribbean churches and wider communities, the project will deliver a series of talks, screenings and workshops, and produce an exhibition that will explore the experiences of the men and women that served in the British imperial forces.

The project is looking for volunteers to assist with the exhibition, writing blog entries and with hosting events.

The project is also offering a workshop in researching ancestors that served in WW1.

For more information contact Dr Angelina Osborne [angelina.osborne@cte.org.uk](mailto:angelina.osborne@cte.org.uk)

## Marriage Preparation

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

Church Leaders:

- Is Marriage Preparation too time consuming for you?
- Would you like to access resources already up & running?

We are registered Care for the Family's Facilitators in the West Midlands and offer 'Marriage By Design' – a one day marriage preparation course. This excellent resource gives couples the opportunity to develop skills & address issues which will enhance their relationship and lay the foundations for a fulfilling life together.

Our next course is being held on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017

For more information please contact Rob & Pam Whittington: 07804 853 057; [rob.pam@marriage.org.uk](mailto:rob.pam@marriage.org.uk)

## Eadie Community House

We are looking for new members who want to live in this dynamic part of Birmingham

Are you interested in living with a group of friendly, considerate, like-minded people?

Age : 20 and 30 year olds

People who want to share their journey through life, for a period of time, with others, and make a positive contribution to the wider community? Oh... and they are Christian as well...

If you are interested please contact us at:

*Circuit Office, Selly Oak Methodist Church, Langleys Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6HT*

*Phone: 0121 472 1060 or email: [ssaunderson@birminghammethodistcircuit.org.uk](mailto:ssaunderson@birminghammethodistcircuit.org.uk)*

If you want an informal chat about what this is, and if it is right for you,  
then ring Rev Dr Vincent Jambawo on 0121 427 1747

## **ACTA a call to action**

Prof. Tom O'Loughlin (Prof of Historical Theology at Nottingham University and current President of the Catholic Theological Association GB) speaking on "Celebrating a community of service and love: from John's Gospel to L'Arche"

**Sunday afternoon, February 26th, 1.30 for 2pm start, till 4.30,**

including Q&A and discussion.

Newman House, Harrison's Rd, Edgbaston B15 3QS.

No charge. Everyone welcome.

For more contact: Jean: [mjriordan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mjriordan@hotmail.co.uk) or tel: 0121 414 0466

or see national ACTA website: [www.acalltoaction.org.uk](http://www.acalltoaction.org.uk).

## **Midlands & East Anglia Regional PCUK Pastoral Pals**

**11.30am to 2.30pm Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March**

**Venue: The Manna House: 73, St Giles Street, Northampton, NN1 1JF**

Come and meet your regional representative Pauline Anderson and others working in pastoral care settings in the Midlands & East Anglia Region. This is a great opportunity for Pastoral Carers to:

Connect and to support and encourage one another  
Share ideas and resources  
Reflect on pastoral practice  
Explore personal and pastoral development

**Don't miss out! Why not come along and bring a friend with you**  
**Take the opportunity to Network with others in your Area costs £5 per person**  
Tea and coffee will be provided (Please bring your own lunch)

## **Residential Silent Retreats 2017**

These residential Retreats are conducted in silence with experienced guides to work alongside you as you pray with scripture and other aids.

**Weekend Retreat 'Meeting Jesus' at Shallowford House, Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 0NZ**

**6pm Friday 19th May to 4.30pm Sunday 21st May with guided Gospel meditations and optional individual interview, exploration of the labyrinth and art facilities.**

**Guides; Rob Hingley, Juliet Fletcher and Enid Thomas. Cost: £162**

**Individually-Guided Retreats at Nicholaston House, Gower Peninsular, Swansea, S. Wales beside the Sea**

**Friday pm 5th May to Monday am 8th May (Cost: £199)**

**Monday pm 4th September to Sunday am 11<sup>th</sup> September (Cost: £399)**

**with daily individual guidance to suit your need and temperament**

**Guides; Rob Hingley and Pat Callaghan**

For further information contact

Rev Rob Hingley email: [rob.hingley@btinternet.com](mailto:rob.hingley@btinternet.com) or Tel 0121 777 2171

4 Adrian Croft, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9YF

# Resources

**Racial Justice Sunday** has changed over with Education Sunday which is now in September.

This means the next Racial Justice Sunday will be marked on the 12th February 2017.

Resources are available on the CTBI website: [www.ctbi.org.uk](http://www.ctbi.org.uk)

**Resources for Good Friday:** do you have a passion for your community?

ONE FRIDAY can help you to do something exciting in 2017; something unique and public that will engage your community in re-telling the story of the Passion of Jesus. Join the challenge with the possibility of winning an award: [onefriday.info](http://onefriday.info)

**Towards 2018:** HOPE's dream is a growing church, showing Jesus' love and telling the Jesus story, at the heart of every community. Go to [hopetogether.org.uk](http://hopetogether.org.uk) and search for 'towards 2018' to view a 16 page brochure.

## Contact details for Birmingham Churches Together



**BEN (Birmingham ecumenical news)**  
is a publication of Birmingham Churches Together (BCT)



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/format news articles/events/information for inclusion in BEN.

**Deadline for the next edition of BEN: 5.00pm, Thursday 25 May**

**Enews deadlines: 9.00am on Monday 27 February, 23 March, 10 April**

Postal Address: Birmingham Churches Together, St. George's Community Hub  
Great Hampton Row, Newtown, Birmingham. B19 3JG  
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Social media: [www.facebook.com/birminghamchurchestogether](http://www.facebook.com/birminghamchurchestogether)  
Twitter: @BirmCTogether

Presidents of BCT: Bishop David Urquhart (Anglican Bishop of Birmingham)  
Archbishop Bernard Longley (Catholic Archbishop of Birmingham)  
Revd. Ian Howarth (Free Churches Moderator and Chair of Birmingham Methodist District)

Birmingham Churches Together: at the heart of Christian partnership in Birmingham and Solihull (Charity No. 243931)  
[www.birminghamchurches.org.uk](http://www.birminghamchurches.org.uk)

Details for Vacancies can be found on the Birmingham Churches Together' website.  
They are regularly updated.

## *Are you missing out?*

**If you appreciate BEN - you will enjoy our monthly enews.**

*It is packed full of information, news and events that does not appear in BEN*

Subscribe on the newsletter page of our website: [www.birminghamchurches.org.uk](http://www.birminghamchurches.org.uk)