

BEN

Birmingham Ecumenical News

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

March - May 2012

Are you ready to embrace the unique opportunities of this year's Olympics?

More than Gold are visiting the West Midlands

Saturday March 10th

from 10:30am to 4:30pm

at Our Lady & St Chads School, Old Fallings Lane,
Wolverhampton WV10 8BL

Get Set - a day to get ready

This is the day every church needs to attend
to be ready for the 2012 Games

Register online for a wide range of workshop options. Cost £10.00 a delegate
<http://www.morethangold.org.uk/your-church/get-set-a-day-to-get-ready/>

Who should attend? Churches are encouraged to bring a team to Get Set.
It is for all who play a key role in children, youth, outreach, events and more.

You'll leave with new ideas, strategies, skills and resources.

All your church can make the most of the 2012 Games.

The skills and insights learned will be of benefit long after the dust has settled.

Wolverhampton is our nearest event on the Get Set tour

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Published by Birmingham Churches Together: Many Voices - One in Christ

Nightstop for young people

Network House
174 – 178 Barford Street
Birmingham, B5 7EP
Email: nightstop@networkfour.org
Website: www.networkfour.org



To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of Network Nightstop Birmingham, a project supported through the West Midlands based not-for-profit charity Networkfour.

Networkfour is an exciting diverse cross-city partnership with Depaul UK, Birmingham City Council, West Midlands Police, Tearfund, Solihull Borough Council and our Patron, the Right Rev Bishop of Birmingham David Urquhart. Networkfour launched Network Nightstop Birmingham back in November 2011 and has been commissioned to become the Nightstop Midlands hub. This draws together many other Nightstop projects within the Midlands region and sees us spearhead the positive engagement of vulnerable young people in Nottingham, Wyre Forest, Redditch, Derby, West Bromwich, Banbury and Oxford as well as our two new Nightstop projects in Birmingham and Solihull.

Nightstop is an initiative to prevent youth homelessness, born out of the desire to ensure that all young people have access to safe and secure accommodation appropriate to their needs. The Nightstop concept is simple: it provides safe emergency overnight accommodation in the homes of trained volunteer host families, for vetted and police checked young people aged 16-25, who are vulnerable and at the point of becoming homeless. This is done on a night at a time basis for a maximum of 3 nights until more permanent and appropriate accommodation can be found. Our young people can only access the scheme after being referred by an approved youth or homelessness agency across the county. To run this project across Birmingham, we need as many host families as possible in order to extend our services out to all areas of the West Midlands. Our Host Families, Drivers and Office staff receive all the necessary training and vetting to make them safe and fully prepared for a young person to stay at their home for a nightstop stay.

We would love to be able to come and talk to you, and your church, about the possibilities of training more Host families, becoming a volunteer driver or simply getting alongside a vulnerable young person and offering to listen as a Nightstop youth mentor. Please consider if your church or you might be able to be more involved within our Nightstop homeless work, and learn more about the project. We really need your help as we have had to turn away children this week, due to the lack of host families.

If you wish to hear more about the Nightstop project, or if you are interested to in becoming a Host family, driver, youth mentor or office supporter, then I look forward to hearing from you very soon. Please stop and help us through this Nightstop project that is expanding across the Midlands, and help us make a major difference to hundreds of homeless young people that have no one to turn to but Nightstop in our City.

Please contact us to arrange a meeting, and thank you in advance for your support.

Rebecca Williams - Project Co-ordinator.

Email: rebeccawilliams@networkfour.org Mob: 07878871223

P.S. If you'd like further information about our work and different projects that reach some of Birmingham's hardest to reach please visit - <http://www.networkfour.org/network-nightstop-birmingham>



WM Police give their support to More than Gold

On January 25th Steve Bownds (West Midlands Champion for More Than Gold) gave a presentation on More Than Gold to over 100 policemen and women in the West Midlands Police.

As well as giving a brief history of More Than Gold, the presentation outlined 2 key areas in which the UK church and the police can work alongside one another, namely schools work and youth cafes. Both of these areas were very well received by the police, which is hugely exciting. Church support is now required to ensure that the Games are a catalyst for a long-lasting legacy for the church and for community cohesion across the nation. Churches across the West Midlands are urged to do whatever they can to maximise the opportunity provided by the Games to reach out to their community with love, friendship and the good news of the Gospel. Local police are hugely supportive of church outreach during the Games and if they do not come directly to you (which some of them will) then please do go directly to them.

The Youth Cafe idea, named Café 2012, is currently the initiative that most excites the police. Café 2012, which is recognised by the London Games Organising Committee (LOCOG), aims to provide a safe space where young people can enjoy themselves and watch the Games. The Café 2012 resource is now free to access from www.cafe2012.info. There are a whole host of other ideas which churches can put into practice too. To find out about them check out www.morethangold.org.uk.

For further info please contact Steve Bownds at steve.bownds@yfc.co.uk, who is more than happy to chat about what could happen in your church and local community.

The Games can provide a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to help fulfil the great Commission; we don't even have to leave the UK to go to the nations...they are all coming here, and many already exist on our doorsteps.

Big Jubilee Lunch

Join this summer's celebrations to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee - honouring Queen Elizabeth's 60 years of service to the nation and the Commonwealth.

The Diamond Jubilee celebrations offer churches a great opportunity to get out into the community. Serve your neighbours and the families in your area by taking in a lead.

www.thebiglunch.com & www.hopetogether.org.uk

Your church can be a catalyst for once-in-a-lifetime street parties and festivities which will be remembered for decades. The Eden project which organises 'The Big Lunch' each year has asked HOPE to help churches to get involved. During 2011 three million people shared food in their communities as part of The Big Lunch.

In 2012, on Sunday 3 June, up to six million people are expected to sit down together for The Big Jubilee Lunch with neighbours and friends.

Add your Olympic event to Birmingham City Council's website:

www.birminghamourgames.co.uk



Diverse Chaplaincy Diverse World

It says something about the energy and commitment of the Industrial Mission teams in the West Midlands that the national Industrial Mission conference will be taking place in Birmingham in April this year.

The theme is the diversity of chaplaincy in response to our diverse world and our diverse city.

Speakers include Ann Morisy, Rt Revd David Urquhart and Paul Thandi, CEO of the NEC Group.

There will be visits and workshops exploring the different ways in which chaplains work locally – from the gym to the redevelopment of Longbridge, from the railway signal box to the retail centre.

Based at Woodbrooke Study centre for three packed days we'll be sharing our experience with colleagues from across the UK and learning from each other.

Birmingham and its neighbours so clearly show how important the economy is as part of human flourishing. The work of CIGB is one demonstration of how seriously the church takes this element of our common life.

A new chaplain for an historic company

Webster & Horsfall in Hay Mills dates back to 1856, producing wire and strip for springs, musical instruments and rope. Next door, Latch and Batchelor produce wire rope for cranes and mining.

The company produced the transatlantic cable in 1865 and in 1873 James Horsfall funded the building of St Cyprian's church, with a school room for the children of his workers. The company is now investing in new production lines and in the redevelopment of the Tyseley area.

With such strong links between church and factory, the Vicar of Hay Mills has always been chaplain to the business. Now that Revd Roy Anetts has moved into the vicarage he'll be taking on that role. It won't be an unfamiliar context as Roy himself works in industry.

So – welcome to the team Roy!

Support us

To support of the work of CIGB text CIGB 11 and the sum you want to give to 70070 or send a cheque to CIGB, 175, Harborne Park Road, Birmingham B17 0BH

Responding to unemployment

A number of churches are responding to the challenges of high unemployment by setting up Job Clubs.

A new club starts on **20th February 2012** on Monday evenings, 7 - 9pm, at Rowheath Pavillion, Heath Road, Bournville, B30 1HH.

The club offers practical support with applications, CVs, interview preparation and job search; and, as importantly, mutual encouragement, learning from each others experiences in a relaxed environment.

Meanwhile specialist clubs for young people have opened in Solihull and Chelmsley Wood libraries,

1 - 4pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays respectively.

A growing team

On January 30th eight people began CIGB's 'Introduction to Workplace Chaplaincy' course.

We don't always run a course at this time of year but this was a response to demand. Not everyone who does the course goes on to be a CIGB chaplain but participants can find it useful in other places .

'There have been surprisingly numerous occasions on which I have been able to use the skills learnt, both in my place of employment and as a lay minister. Could it be that this is the key to Chaplaincy – taking time out for the individual?'

If you'd like to hear about future courses please contact cigbadmin@birmingham.anglican.org

**LOOK OUT FOR CIGB's AGM IN MAY
WHEN THE TOPIC WILL BE**

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT

UNEMPLOYMENT



Equipping refugees for work

Restore launched an innovative project 'Equipping refugees for work' in December 2011. The aim is to help 25 refugees become more job-ready through monthly training sessions and one-to-one mentoring. The project uses Restore's network and expertise in working with refugees combined with invaluable input from Sue Bains, a Human Resources professional, and Farhana Darwich, Senior Policy Officer for Employment at the West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership.

The training session in January focused on writing a CV. All sessions are very interactive so the 16 refugees present left having identified transferrable skills and with 'homework' to do on their CVs with their mentors. The February meeting will look at the benefits of volunteering. Those attending may have had a wide range of work experience in their home countries prior to being forced to flee, but have not been allowed to work in the UK until recently receiving leave to remain. Their English language skills also vary, so the mentor's role is essential as we seek to meet very diverse needs.

The project is funded by the European Social Fund and will run until the end of November 2012. More refugees and volunteers are welcome to join us to assist people towards the goal of employment.

New training from Restore!

A half day course for clergy and other church leaders is being offered on the legal and support aspects relating to asylum seekers and others with immigration issues. We hope this will be particularly helpful to church leaders who have asylum seekers among their congregation.

10am - 1pm Wednesday 14th March

at the Faithful Neighbourhoods Centre,

10 Court Road, off Stratford Road, B11 4LX (near Sparkhill swimming baths).

Cost: £5.00 per participant. Parking: Sparkhill Park car park.

The presenters will be Dr Elizabeth Corrie, until recently a legal advisor with TRP Solicitors & Shari Brown of Restore.

Please contact Restore if you wish to attend by email: info@restore-uk.org or telephone 0121-236 0069.

Restore's Annual Meeting & 13th Birthday Celebration

Friday, 22 June 2012 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: **Archbishop Bernard Longley**

Hear reflections on Restore's work in 2011, enjoy refreshments and share together.

Christian Aid Week, 13 to 19 May



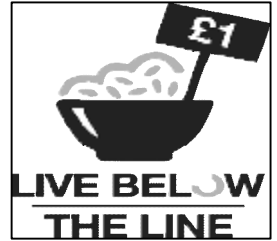
You can download or order free resources from our website.
We've got all you need to make the week a success and help end poverty.
For further information contact **0121 200 2283** or birmingham@christianaid.org.uk
Christian Aid, Room 403B, The Big Peg, 120 Vyse Street, Birmingham B18 6NE
www.caweek.org www.facebook.com/ChristianAidWestMidlands

7th to 11th May The challenge?

To feed yourself on £1 per day for 5 days. £1 because that is the UK equivalent of the extreme poverty line – a line that no one wants to fall below. The reason?

To give a unique glimpse into the lives of 1.4 billion people who have no choice but to live like that every day – and have to make £1 cover a lot more than food.

5 Days... £1 a day...How much change can you make?



Coffee Morning and Ploughman's Lunch

12 May 10am – 2pm

Venue: Solihull Methodist Church, Blossomfield Road, Solihull, B91 1LG
an ecumenical event organised by churches in Solihull
- celebrating 20 years of the event at this venue.

Featuring the film Mamma Mia.

Venue: The Electric Cinema, Station St, Birmingham B5 4DY

A Sing-along Fundraiser

17 May 7pm

Helping in the city...

Every year in Christian Aid Week, it's our privilege to take advantage of our setting in the heart of the commercial sector of the city, and hold a six day street collection for Christian Aid. We regard this as one of the most important events in our year. Not only do we raise money for the poorest of our world but we also seek to raise awareness and witness to Christian values of justice and fairness right here in the heart of the city.

About 20,000 people cross our square every day. It is a wonderful opportunity!

The amount of money we raise is in direct proportion to the number of collectors we can persuade to help us.

At the moment the amount stands at around £3 - £4000. Please could you help us to increase it in 2012?

If you could spare an hour or two on one (or more) of the six days Monday 14 to Saturday 19 May between 9.00 am and 6.00 pm we'd love to hear from you.

Please email us at enquiries@birminghamcathedral.com giving it the subject Christian Aid Collection and telling us the day(s) and times you can manage and we'll get back to you with further details. With many thanks and best wishes.

Catherine Ogle. Dean of St. Philip's Anglican Cathedral, Birmingham

Volunteering Opportunity with Carrs Lane Fair Trade

In view of the fact that Shared Earth has closed its Birmingham shop, we are hoping to open on Saturdays in addition to our present opening times which are Tuesday through to Friday all year round plus Saturdays in November and December only.

If you could spare a few hours (10.00 – 3.00) on a Saturday regularly, please contact Joan Davies at The Church at Carrs Lane on 0121 643 6151 for details.

We would love to hear from you!

To Retreat...

Ignatian style

Life offers more, if we can slow down our busy activity and busy minds, and learn to listen to God and appreciate what he wants to give. That is the purpose of a Silent Retreat such as the ones I advertise on these pages. Without occupying yourself in conversation with others, with no television or computer or telephone to divert you, the silence helps build an inner stillness in which it is easier to commune with God, and to be truly in touch with yourself.

The environment of most retreat houses helps. Wholesome food and attractive scenery reminds us of the goodness of God in creation. Daily acts of worship focus our minds on God revealed to us in Jesus Christ. But most important, in a retreat which follows ancient principles taught by Ignatius of Loyola, is the individual's daily reading and meditating upon Holy Scripture. Each retreatant is partnered with an experienced retreat guide. They meet daily to reflect together on the retreatant's on-going prayer experience, and the guide recommends passages for meditation for the next day's prayer.

The Holy Spirit is active. Through the discipline of time spent with a few verses, pondering the words, imagining the scenes, the scriptures often become alive with a new revelation for the retreatant. And the time spent praying with scripture is an anchor for the more relaxed times of the retreat, resting, walking, admiring the view, playing with paint. God is found to be close in everything.

Most retreatants have a new experience of God's love for them. Many find inner healing, or a new vision for their life. Some repeat the retreat experience annually to refresh and re-orientate their lives with God. Individually-guided, such a retreat suits all sorts of people.

If you have not done so before, why not give it a try.?

Rob Hingley (contact details below)

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.

1st - 7th October - beside the sea at Nicholaston House, Gower Peninsular, S. Wales
Guides: Rob Hingley and Frances Henley-Lock Cost: £340

22nd-27th October - in Cotswold countryside at Glenfall House, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham
Guides: Pauline Green, Rob Hingley, Rachel Willard, Janet Lindsay-German. Cost: £252.50

For further information contact Rev Rob Hingley, St Bernard's Vicarage 147 Hamstead Road, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 5BB Tel: 0121 357 4534. rob.hingley@btinternet.com

DREAMS AND THE INNER JOURNEY



God's Forgotten Language?

A day led by Sr. Morag Gardham

SATURDAY 26th MAY 10.00 – 4.00

at the Wellspring Centre, 236 Alcester Road South, King's Heath, Birmingham B14 6DR
Details and Booking forms: Sr. Morag Gardham, La Re traite, 12 Clifford Road, Smethwick B67 5HJ
0121 434 5184 mfgardham@talktalk.net

A new church is born... 'united in Jesus, serving the city'



On Advent Sunday, 27th November 2011, a service of celebration and commitment was held to mark the signing of a covenant between the Methodist Central Mission and Carrs Lane United Reformed Church, and a new church was born:

The Church at Carrs Lane.

The day began with a pilgrimage around the city centre, led by Revd Neil Johnson, tracing the history of Methodism in Birmingham. Singing and praying at each of the many significant sites marked an historical journey from Steelhouse Lane, where John Wesley was first welcomed to the city in 1745, to Carrs Lane Church where, since the 1970s, ecumenical cooperation in mission and ministry between URC and Methodist Christians had led to this moment of joining in covenant together.

Fellowship over a roast lunch was followed by worship, a service led jointly by Revd Bill Anderson, Chair of the Birmingham District of the Methodist Church, and Revd Roy Lowes, Moderator of the West Midlands Synod of the URC. Revd John Marsh, Former Moderator of the General Assembly of the URC, was the preacher.

160 people joined the celebration, most of them recording their support by adding their names to the huge covenant document (pictured on the right), the formal signing of which marked our joining in partnership together. The story of that partnership and of the naming of the church was told. An act of commissioning of our two ministers, Revds Neil Riches and Neil Johnson, was held and a prayer of dedication invited us all to commit to being 'your church in this place'.

'For this day of new beginnings, thanks be to God...' words written by Fred Kaan, much loved former member of Carrs Lane, began our service and the joy of that hymn resonated throughout the afternoon as we marked the culmination of a long and continuing journey together and the beginning of a most exciting future.

Julie Grove, The Church at Carrs Lane



Carrs Lane Fair Trade Shop

Fair Trade Fortnight: 27 February – 11 March

Do make a point of calling in on Carrs Lane Fair Trade Shop



open Tuesday to Saturday 10.30-2.30

in The Church at Carrs Lane (Carrs Lane alongside M & S).

You are particularly invited to a Free Cup of Coffee Day including a TRADCRAFT CRAFTS SALE on Saturday 3rd March 10.30-2.30 & a further opportunity to view the new Traidcraft Spring Catalogue

Islam Awareness Week

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM: LOVE OF GOD AND HUMANITY

Wednesday March 14th 6.30 - 9.00 pm at the Bordesley Centre, Stratford Road, B11 1AR

Parking available, approach via Henley St and Stratford St North

Christian and Muslim speakers, including Dr Andrew Smith, Dr Jabal Buaben, Rehanah Sadiq

For more information and to book: Ruth Tetlow, Faith Encounter Programme 0121 449 4892 ruthtetlow@btinternet.com

Living in a multi faith society

ARADHNA at Sanctuary

Sunday 6 May 2012, 4.30pm
St Martin's Church in the Bull Ring Birmingham.
Further information: Pall Singh 0121 523 8726

Faith and Food Festival

Music – Food – Dance – Stalls – Faith leaders

An Interfaith community event to make friends and learn about the importance of food in our faith communities.

Saturday 19 May, 11.00am – 3.00pm at the Georges Park, Wills Street, Lozells, Birmingham.

Organised by the Lozells Project in partnership with local Faith leaders and Community groups. For further information please contact Pall Singh on 0121 523 8726.

Faith, Hope and Love Conference

Christian Presence in multi-faith Society

Monday 18 June 2012, 10am – 4pm

Venue in Birmingham to be confirmed

Further information:

Revd Ray Gaston 0121 452 2623

Peace Walk in Lozells

Visiting Hindu, Christian, Muslim and Sikh places of worship.

Saturday 16 June 2012, 10am – 1.00pm

Further information: Pall Singh 0121 523 8726

Jubilee Debt Campaign

Shrove Tuesday 21 February

7.30pm at Selly Oak Methodist Church, Langleys Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6HT

Come and hear how responsible businesses can make a difference

Allies in the Campaign: How is tax justice and responsible business relevant to the Jubilee Debt?

Speakers: David McNair, Principle Economic Justice Advisor to Christian Aid and Peter Ullathorne, a Quaker, who has been Financial Director of an international steel company.

Wednesday 7 March

7.00pm for 7.30pm at St Philip's Cathedral, Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 9BQ

JDC Multi-faith Project Film Night

A film night to mark International Women's Day, "Pray the Devil Back to Hell" about Muslim and Christian women protesting together about violence and dictatorship in Liberia.

Mondays: 12 March—2 April

12noon - 3pm at The Faithful Neighbourhoods Centre, 10 Court Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham B11 4LX

A Series of Workshops, for women of different faiths and none.

To express an interest in taking part, please contact Audrey Miller 0121 471 4175

Email: jubileedebt@blueyonder.co.uk

Friday 16 March

7.30pm at Selly Oak Methodist Church, Langleys Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6HT

Debt Justice for Zimbabwe

Tim Jones, JDC Senior Policy & Campaigns Officer, will speak about the report he wrote on Zimbabwe's crippling \$7 billion debt—how did it come about and what can be done about it as the country moves forward? JDC is working together with debt campaigners in Zimbabwe who are calling for a "debt audit" of the past and for greater popular scrutiny of all borrowing decisions in the future.

See: JDC Report on Zimbabwe's Debt <http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/zimbabwereport>

We hope to be joined by some of the Zimbabwean community in Birmingham

Saturday 17 March, 10am - 6.30pm at Manchester Metropolitan University

JDC & World Development Movement National Conference: "An Economy for the 99%"

For further details and to register for this free event, email Maddy at events@jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk

Jubilee Debt Campaign Updates: JDC London email a monthly Debt Update.

To receive this, please email your details to johnnightingale@btinternet.com



For information about your local Birmingham JDC Group
Chair: John Nightingale 0121 458 6182 johnnightingale@btinternet.com
Secretary: Ruth Tetlow 0121 449 4892 ruthtetlow@btinternet.com



Churches Together in Central Sutton Coldfield



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER, 2nd March

Theme: "Let Justice Prevail", prepared by the Christian Women of Malaysia

Times of services in Sutton Coldfield on 2 March for Women's World Day of Prayer

- 10.30am All Saints Church, Belwell Lane, Four Oaks B74 4TR,
Speaker: Revd Rachel Mann, Rector of Parish Church St Nicholas Burnage Manchester
- 2.00pm Sutton Coldfield United Reformed Church, 1 Brassington Avenue, B73 6AA
Using a Meditation alternative
- 2.00pm Chester Road Baptist Church, Chester Road, B73 5HU
Speaker: Revd Manda Howett (Curate at St Michael's Church Boldmere)
- 2.30pm St Chad's Parish Church, Hollyfield Road B75 7SN
Using a Meditation alternative

Refreshments will be served afterwards at all the venues with opportunity for fellowship

Do come to one of the services - All welcome – men, women and young people!

Friday 16 March at 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Lenten Lecture

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

ANDREW MITCHELL MP

(Member of Parliament for Sutton Coldfield and
Secretary of State for International Development)

"KEEPING OUR PROMISES: TACKLING GLOBAL POVERTY
DURING TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES"

Light refreshments will be served from 7.30pm
and there will be the opportunity for questions at the end.

Admission free

Saturday 24th March from 7.30am

A PRAYER BREAKFAST

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

Arranged under the auspices of CTCSC, but open to all



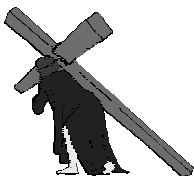
Speaker: PETE KELSALL

"The Work of Christian Aid"

Hot drinks available from 7.30am, cereals and hot croissants
and rolls at 7.45am. Parking on site. £3.00 per head inclusive.
Please pre-book to assist with catering arrangements.

Tel: 0121 355 5018 or

E-mail: cantabile@freeola.com (the King-Smiths)



GOOD FRIDAY – 6 APRIL

Walk of Witness

An opportunity to witness to the local shoppers etc. Leaving from Holy Trinity Parish Church
around 11.15am and walking down into The Parade and The Mall Shopping Centre

EASTER SUNDAY 8 APRIL

Easter Son Rise service

at Wheatmoor Farm, 301 Tamworth Road, Sutton Coldfield B75 6JP.

Meet at 5.30am to walk to the top of the hill where the service is held.

All are welcome to attend.



Eco-Menical Day

Saturday May 12th 10am to 3 pm

at St Peter's Church, Maney Hill Road, B72 1JJ

Conference on how green your church can be, with children's activities

Cost: £3.00 per adult, £1 per child. Please bring packed lunch; drinks provided.

Book with John Heywood on 0121 241 5830 or stpetersgreenday@gmail.com by April 30th.

Events in Date Order

Birmingham City Mission's Sponsored Sleepout

Friday 24th February

Spend a Friday night in... a cardboard box Raise funds for Birmingham City Mission's work with homeless people and find out what it's really like to sleep rough. REGISTER NOW! All welcome.

Call 0121 766 6603 or email office@birminghamcitymission.co.uk. More details at www.birminghamcitymission.co.uk

THE BIG BREAKFAST FOR MALAWI

25 FEBRUARY at 8.30am

You are invited to a Big Breakfast for Malawi at St Columba's Church Hall, Banners Gate Road, B73 6TX,

The guest speaker is Andrew Mitchell MP, Secretary of State for International Development.

Andrew will speak for 5-10 minutes about support for Malawi, both official and non-official, and will then take questions.

You're promised a delicious breakfast with fairtrade ingredients and stimulating company. Please book in advance to help us plan the catering, by phoning Liz Carr on 354 3769 or emailing her at liz.carr@blueyonder.co.uk. The suggested donation is £5.

The Big Breakfast is sponsored by the Malawi Birmingham Partnership and Medic Malawi and will benefit both charities equally. Other Big Breakfasts are being arranged in homes and halls across Birmingham and more widely.

The Order of St. Leonard are hosting a Conference

'The Church and Mission'

Saturday 3rd March

featuring the UK's best known evangelist, **J. John**, and his special guest, the remarkable Revd. Tim Saiet.

At the Renewal Christian Centre,
Lode Lane, Solihull, B91 2JR.

The event will commence with an optional full English Breakfast served from 8.30-9.30am, with the conference itself commencing at 10.00am and finishing at 3.00pm. Light refreshments will be available for purchase during the lunch break. Conference tickets can be purchased from the Renewal website www.renewalcc.com or phone Renewal church office on 0121 711 7300 during office hours. Ticket prices are £12.50 Conference only, or £20 to include full English breakfast. We anticipate a high demand, so urge those wishing to attend to book early as this is a ticket only event and the box office will close on the 28th February.

A Warm welcome is extended to all to the Queen's Theological Forum

Thursday 8th March 6-7.30pm

Professor Janet Soskice, Professor of Philosophical Theology, Cambridge University

'Knowing God and Knowing the Self: Why Augustine is not Descartes?'

Queens Foundation, Somerset Road, Birmingham, B15 2QH. Please confirm attendance at: adminsec@queens.ac.uk

Marriage by Design

The new ONE DAY Marriage Preparation Course from foundations

Designed to help you focus on your relationship

Gives you time to think about your future together

There is no role play or group work

Led by trained facilitators

Lunch provided plus refreshments throughout the day

Saturday 10th March

at Sutton Coldfield Baptist Church

Call coordinators Rob & Pam

on 0121 378 1422 or email

rob-pam@foundations-westmidlands.org.uk

foundations
marriage and relationship support

Romero Mass, 7.00pm Friday 16 March

3rd annual Mass to celebrate the life and legacy of

Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador

St Chad's Catholic Cathedral, Birmingham

There will be a reception to follow hosted by CAFOD with refreshments and a short talk by Sarah Smith-Pearse from

CAFOD's Latin America team, ending by 9.30pm.

For any more details do contact the CAFOD office on

01922 722 944 or Birmingham@cafod.org.uk.

All welcome, with a special invitation to groups from secondary schools.

Fulfil Youth Night for 11-16s. Friday 16th March, 7.30-9.30pm

at St Luke's Church Centre, Great Colmore Street, Lee Bank, Birmingham B15 2AT

Café, music, video, games, prizes. Cost: £2 Presenting 'UK's hottest break dancers' **Fireforce**

Call 0121 766 6603 or email JohnP@birminghamcitymission.co.uk

for more details www.birminghamcitymission.co.uk

Events in Date Order

Mozart's Requiem

Come and sing with Birmingham Cathedral Chorus

Programme also includes 'Messiah' (excerpts from Pt 2) and 'I bind unto myself today' arr. Stanford

17 March at 7.30pm

£7.00 to sing, £5.00 to listen (concessions available)

To join the chorus please fill in a form available from the Anglican Cathedral or email Jan Marsters
jan@greenhill.powernet.co.uk

www.birminghamcathedral.com

West Midlands Institute of Psychotherapy Spring Conference

Saturday 17th March

"Erotic Transference & Countertransference in
Psychotherapy & Supervision"

Professor Joy Schaverien (Professional Member of the Society of Analytical Psychology and a Training Therapist and Supervisor for BAP).

Cost: Members: £80; Non-Members: £90; WMIP Trainees: £70

Includes lunch and coffee, CPD certificates and book stall

Birmingham Medical Institute, 36 Harborne Road, Birmingham B15 3AF

IMPORTANT – booking forms and more detailed information on the Website: <http://www.wmip.org/index.html> or phone – 0121 455 7888

Invitation to a TLG Church Leader Day

Tuesday 20th March 11am – 3pm

at Birmingham Christian Centre, Parade, Birmingham, B1 3QQ

The Lighthouse Group (TLG) is a Christian charity that works through local churches to support young people who have been excluded from school, are at risk of exclusion or are at a crisis point in their education. Our vision is to help teenagers growing up in some of the toughest circumstances. By combining education with personal development we address behavioural difficulties and the issues that have put a young person in crisis. Our purpose is to work with those who are missing out not only on an education but more often than not on a childhood.

Check out our latest video of stories of transformation at www.tlg.org.uk

We work in partnership with the local church to support the young people in their community. We empower and equip churches to set up Education Centres where young people can come and continue their education outside of a school environment. We are also now launching Early Intervention Centres – training local church volunteers to provide a one on one mentoring service for children and young people in local primary schools. We would love you to attend a church leader day that we have coming up and be inspired by this vision to see the lives of young people transformed. These days are completely free, a great opportunity to connect with the work that TLG is doing and explore how your church could become involved.

If you would like to attend one of these days please call David Horsfall on 01274 900 384 or email david.horsfall@tlg.org.uk

Week of Prayer and Awareness for Dementia 12th – 19th March

A week devoted to prayer and dementia awareness begins on 12th March leading up to the National Day of Prayer for Dementia on 19th March.

This will provide an opportunity for more people to hold an event around their own weekly calendar. Recent statistics indicate that there are 820,000 people in the UK with dementia. Of these, it is estimated that 1 in 1,400 cases are aged 40-46, rising to 1 in 100 aged 65-69 and 1 in 25 aged 70-79 years.

Visit the website dayofprayerfordementia.org.uk
To order Prayer Cards or to let us know about a Prayer or Awareness Event, please email pastoralcareproject@gmail.com or telephone 01675 434035.



Disabled Christians Fellowship

You are invited to the meetings of the Disabled Christians Fellowship Hay Mills/Yardley
All ages and abilities are welcome

**Saturdays at 10.30am
on 10th March, 19th May & 14th July**

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

Events in date order

SOLO PLUS THEATRE COMPANY

Presents **THE MARY MEMORIES**

at Coleshill United Church, 2 Coventry Road, Coleshill B46 3BE on **Saturday March 24th at 7pm.**

Tickets £5 including refreshments.

Written by Linda Mae and directed by Mike Bower this new play 'The Mary Memories' focuses on the life and ministry of Jesus as seen through the eyes of others.

A good tool for both outreach purposes and fund raising - this production can be booked at any time.

Master copies of posters and flyers are available on request and a 50/50 box office split is acceptable.

Any moneys from raffles, refreshments etc belong to the organisation involved in the booking of the play.

For further details please contact Linda Mae (MA Contemporary Theatre Practice; Cert Ed; LLAM; LGSM;

Equity; Dip Theology) on 0121 770 8893 or lindamae@talktalk.net



BALD STATEMENTS - GOOD GRIEF

An exhibition of sculptures by Jean Parker exploring themes of **loss - change - bereavement.**

CHRIST CHURCH URC, WARWICK ROAD, SOLIHULL (opp House of Fraser)

17th April - 6th May

Opportunities for personal or group reflection on the themes or on the art process.

Contact Mark Fisher to book a group visit -

Email: mjf.urb@me.com or Tel. 07950399615

Details of opening times will be published nearer the time at

<http://christchurchsolihull.wordpress.com>

The Amos Trust presents

GARTH HEWITT IN CONCERT

'Songs of Liberation'

on **Thursday 26th April 2012, 7.30 pm**

at 55 Colmore Row, (opposite the Cathedral)

Tickets £5

Further details from Warren Bardsley on 01543 255292

or email: w.bardsley39@btinternet.com

Garth Hewitt is an internationally renowned Christian singer/songwriter who until recently was Director of the Amos Trust, which works in Nicaragua, Palestine/Israel, South Africa and India seeking justice and hope for forgotten people.



Birmingham Mothers' Union

Annual Diocesan Festival Service
at St Philip's Anglican Cathedral on

Saturday 28 April at 11am.

This year it will have an Olympic theme
and be suitable for all ages. Everyone welcome.

Unity International

'Standing together, moving as one' An Ecumenical group serving in the one body of Christ

Meet on the last Saturday of the month at St. Peter's Church Hall Tile Cross at 7.30pm

March 31st - April 28th - May 26th - June 30th - July 28th - October 27th - November 24th - December 15th

September 29th Unity Conference: All day event, 10am – 3pm

The Purpose of our Meetings is to praise and worship God, to pray for Christian Unity to encourage and enable Christian of all denominations to share about their Churches and to work closer together in one accord in order to enhance their mission of proclaiming the Good News of Salvation and to fulfil the prayer of Jesus in: John 17: 20-23 'that they may be one'

Open meetings ALL ARE WELCOME come along and join us in fellowship.

For further information www.unity-international.org.uk or contact us T: 0121 603 3842 E: info@unity96.org.uk

Advance notices

New Testament Church of God, Handsworth District Men's Weekend

8 – 10 June 2012

Friday 7pm - Courageous (The Movie)

Saturday 2pm – The 1000 Men Conference featuring Papa San (Jamaica)

Sunday 6pm – Papa San in Concert with live Band

For more information and costs Tel. 0121 554 1358 and www.georgest.com

'1662': Historical and Ecumenical Perspectives

A 3-day conference to be held at the University of Exeter, 28-30 August 2012

The year 1662 saw the restoration of the Book of Common Prayer and of episcopacy in the Church of England after they had been abolished in the 1640s. As a result, it also witnessed the departure or ejection of hundreds of ministers who could not accept these changes. The divisions among Christians that stem from 1662 remain to this day, for churches have long memories.

The conference will revisit the events of 1662 in this 360th anniversary year and assess their significance for the ecumenical movement.

For queries relating to registration and hospitality, please contact the College of Humanities Conference Manager by phone on 01392 72329 or email at c.e.keyte@exeter.ac.uk.

Visit the website: <http://humanities.exeter.ac.uk/research/conferences/1662/>

Praxismidlands presents a day on Lament

Thursday 20th September at Birmingham Cathedral (St Philip's) 9.45am for 10.30am

The Right Reverend Gordon Mursell, former Bishop of Stafford: "Lament in the Bible and Liturgy"

& The Reverend John L. Bell, Wild Goose Resource Group & Iona Community leads a workshop on "The Lost Tradition of Lament"

Cost £15 (£12 for members of Praxis) for more information and to book www.praxismidlands.org.uk/next_event.html

& in the evening Thursday 20th September at St Chad's Cathedral, 7-9pm

RSCM (Birmingham Area Group) presents a singing workshop led by The Reverend John L. Bell, Wild Goose Resource Group & Iona Community

"Shorter Songs and Psalms" aimed at parish choirs, singing groups and members of congregations.

Tickets £5 in advance through www.rscmjohndbell.eventbrite.co.uk

or from Mr Mick Perrier, 7 Melbury Grove, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 6BN
Tel Cheques payable to RSCM (Birmingham area) e-mail mick@mperrier.freeserve.co.uk tel 0121 604 8218

Tickets £7 on the night

Make a day of it and come to Shorter Choral Evensong at Birmingham Cathedral 5.45 - 6.15pm!

www.birminghamchurches.org.uk

Events in this newsletter are listed on the 'events' pages of our website.

Our 'events' and 'news' pages are regularly updated with information too late for BEN.

Be informed - subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter - enter your email address on our 'newsletter' page.

Christian Training for ministry and mission



No educational background?

No prior ability?

No money?

Contact us at

New College, 145 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B16 8UH

Telephone 0121 454 8230 or 07983400401

Email: office@new-college.org Website: www.new-college.org



Vacancy



Vacancy for a Liturgical and Administration Assistant
(30 hours per week)

£14,000 - £16,500 dependant on experience (pro-rata)

We require a part time Assistant to provide Liturgical and Administrative support to the Senior Cathedral team.

This is a varied and interesting role, which plays a key part in ensuring the day to day work of the Cathedral runs smoothly.

This would suit a highly organised and flexible individual with experience of working in a busy office. Full training will be provided.

For the full job and person description and more details please contact Carol Currier on 0121 262 1840 or Carol.Currier@BirminghamCathedral.com

The closing date for applications is 5pm, **Friday 9th March 2012.**

Building opportunities

Acocks Green Methodist Church in S.E.

Birmingham, has a building next door to the church of about 9,000 square feet over 3 floors which has become vacant through Council cut backs. We are looking for new tenants for this newly redecorated spacious building which has on site car parking and good bus and train connections. The building can be let as a whole, or sub divided in a number of ways. We will consider community, charitable, educational or commercial uses.

For more information please contact

Chris Peutherer, Shepherd Commercial, 01564 778890, email chris@shepcom.com (website www.shepcom.com)

Or Kate Harding, Acocks Green Methodist Church, 0121 711 2362, email hardinghorde@btinternet.com

Highgate Baptist Church

has for many years shared its buildings with another church after our worship on Sunday mornings.

The church is again available to rent for Sunday afternoon, evening and / or mid-week.

The address is:

Highgate Baptist Church, Conybere Street, Highgate, Birmingham B12 0YL.

The church is easily accessible by public transport on the 35 bus route and is close to the 8, 45, 47 and 50 buses.

Please contact Betty Golding on 0121 440 3471 or e mail pfwalker.hbch@yahoo.co.uk

West Midlands Fire Service

West Midlands Fire Service offers a completely free service for vulnerable people. If you or anyone you know are vulnerable from fire due to certain conditions, they can perform a home safety check. This service involves fire fighters coming to the home and providing fire safety advice tailored to individual circumstances or needs. As part of this they provide free smoke alarms to help keep the person safe. If you wish to book a visit for a vulnerable person call the following number and speak to our dedicated team of staff today. **0800 389 5525**

Lent

Lent Lectures at the Anglican Cathedral

St Philip's Cathedral is running a Lent course entitled '**Confident Christians in a Multifaith city**'

Come and learn about our Christian faith... how to live alongside members of other faiths with confidence and respect ... discuss a range of opinions to help you form your own...
hear Christian practitioners and theologians reflect on their experience...come and worship

The course runs in the Cathedral on Thursday evenings from 1st March, 7.30 - 9.00pm

Speakers include Canon Paula Gooder, the Bishop of Birmingham, the Dean of Birmingham
and Dr Andrew Smith, Director of Interfaith Relations for the Bishop.

This is a great opportunity to set time aside to engage our minds with vital issues that touch all of us who live, work and worship in this vibrant city.

Everyone is invited to attend Ash Wednesday worship at 7.30pm with preacher, Andrew Smith, 22 February 7.30pm.

The sessions will end at 9.00 and the evening will include a time of worship. There will be a small charge for the course.

To book places call the Cathedral Office on 0121 262 1840

Churches Together in Britain & Ireland

Lent 2012 The Way to Freedom

Each week begins with Sunday Worship on BBC Radio 4 from 8.10am to 8.50am
complemented by additional programmes on the Daily Service (0945-1000 BBC R4 LW),
and Sunday morning BBC local radio programmes carry special items based on the themes of the course.

Full details visit: <http://www.ctbi.org.uk/572/>

BEN database is being updated

If you are listed on our database as a contact person for a church or organisation
you may receive a reminder letter with this edition of BEN asking you
to confirm or amend your contact details.

Please reply to ensure your church/organisation continues to receive BEN
If you do not respond, this will be your last edition of 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 June to August edition: 5pm Thursday 3rd May 2012

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