

LENTEN BREAKFASTS

Organised by Churches Together in Balsall and Berkswell

The Breakfasts are a series of Talks and Discussions that have been developed jointly by the six churches in Churches Together in Balsall and Berkswell. They are held in the Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, Balsall Common, CV7 7EE on Saturday mornings of Lent. The first of the Breakfasts will be held on Saturday 17th February 2018.

The Breakfasts have established themselves in the village as a lively intelligent forum. Themes are taken for which straight forward answers are not available. The intention is to encourage people to think through the difficulties and so to strengthen a religious faith in one's ordinary daily life. They are enjoyed equally by people who attend one of the churches, as well as by many others who are not church members.

Breakfast begins at 8.30 am and consists of cereals, croissants and tea or coffee. At 9.00 am, after a short introduction, the Guest Speaker introduces the theme for the session and usually speaks for about 20 minutes. The meeting is then thrown open for discussion, and a Question and Answer session ensues. The discussion will close no later than 9.45 am to allow the hall to be cleaned and cleared by 10.00 am.

There is a small charge of £2.00 for the breakfast and the surplus after deduction of costs will go to a mutually agreed charity.

**So why not put these dates in your diary
and come along and enjoy the discussion.**

You will be very welcome

*For information about Churches Together events please contact
Hon Sec, Claire Laland on clmap18@gmail.com*

CHURCHES TOGETHER
IN BALSALL AND BERKSWELL

LENTEN BREAKFASTS 2018

17th FEBRUARY – 17th MARCH

**“WHAT DOES CHRISTIANITY HAVE TO SAY
ABOUT...?”**

“... since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (Romans 3:23-24)

Most of us take western liberal values for granted. We are deeply committed to values of equality, freedom, democracy, the rule of law and tolerance. But where do these values come from? Many people assume that they have their source in the so-called ‘age of reason’, also known as ‘the Enlightenment’, when the power of the Church was fiercely challenged, and Christian doctrine came under sustained intellectual attack. Ironically, there is a good case for claiming that these so-called ‘secular’ values are actually a fruit of the Gospel. The biblical view that God made all human beings in his image, that before God all humans are equally sinful but also apt to receive God’s forgiveness and grace underpins the moral equality of all men and women. If this is true, will the death of Christianity spell the death of liberalism? Will the secular values most hold dear remain viable?

Saturday 17th February

What does Christianity have to say about ... Equality?

Speaker: Mrs Veronica Greer Spencer

Veronica has a B.Ed. (Hons) in Art & Divinity. She taught RE for thirty-five years in mixed comprehensives. Veronica was responsible for Catholic Ethos at Hagley Catholic High for twenty years. She now works part time for The Reader (a charitable organisation based in the North West) as a Shared Reading Facilitator in Criminal Justice.

Saturday 24th February

What does Christianity have to say about...Freedom?

Speaker: The Rt Revd John Stroyan, Bishop of Warwick

Bishop John is the Anglican Bishop of Warwick. His roots are in Scotland. He has a varied background. He has written and directed plays for the Edinburgh Fringe. As a priest and bishop, he has developed a profound interest and understanding of Eastern Orthodox spirituality and theology and is a member of the Anglican-Orthodox International Commission for which he has written a number of substantial papers. He is UK President of the Community of the Cross of Nails and a member of the House of Bishops Group on Human Sexuality. He has also served as Co-Moderator of Coventry and Warwickshire Churches Together.

Saturday 3rd March

What does Christianity have to say about ...Democracy?

Speaker: Dr Will Jones

Will is a mathematics graduate with a PhD in political philosophy and a diploma in biblical and theological studies. He works in the Coventry Diocesan office, blogs at www.faith-and-politics.com and is author of *Evangelical Social Theology: Past and Present* (Grove, 2018). A long time ago, he spent a year as an intern at the University of Warwick Chaplaincy under the scrutineering eye of Mark Bratton.

Saturday 10th March

What does Christianity have to say about ...the Rule of Law?

Speaker: HH Judge Stephen Eyre QC

Stephen Eyre QC is a circuit judge. He has been Chancellor of the Diocese of Coventry since 2009 and of Lichfield since 2012. As a barrister, Stephen specialised in Chancery and Commercial disputes. He was appointed a circuit judge in 2015. Stephen initially sat on the Midland Circuit trying criminal cases. He now sits in Manchester as a judge of the Business and Property Courts. Stephen has law degrees from Oxford and Cardiff Universities and formerly taught law at Oxford. Resident in Warwickshire Stephen is on the PCC of St. Peter's Church, Balsall Common and has served on the Birmingham Diocesan Synod.

Saturday 17th March

What does Christianity have to say about...Tolerance?

Speaker: Revd Pauline Warner

Pauline Warner is a Methodist Minister who has served in various posts in Warwickshire in the past 25 years. She is currently health care chaplain to the South Warwickshire hospitals and the Methodist Homes for the Aged in Coventry. She is interested in expressions of contemporary spirituality and especially keen to explore how the Spirit seems to be guiding people who are not members of the church but are interested in following Jesus.

Good Friday

Walk of Witness

Commences at 10 30 am at St Peter's Church

(You may join at any point – route includes Balsall Primary School, Heart of England School, White Horse Inn, Blessed Robert Grissold Church, Co-op, Village Shops, and Methodist Church)

Simple Lunch at Methodist Church 12 noon

All welcome