



### Reflections on a Personal Pilgrimage Robin Trew

Part paper, part shared pilgrimage.  
Some reflections and some questions to share.

In May 2014 I started a Pilgrimage from Iona to Lindisfarne as part of a sabbatical from my role as Rector of Allesley, a suburban church in Coventry and as Area Dean of Coventry North Deanery. This paper is my own reflection on that journey.

Writing this reflection prompted a lot of questions – questions you may find helpful in reflecting on your own pilgrimage, wherever you are, and whatever you are doing. As you read, take time and pray. Maybe write down your own experience and reflect on your own lessons in life and journey of following Jesus. If used in a small group, consider your own personal journey and compare notes when you come together.



**Contents:** Preamble / Pilgrimage / Paths and Borderlands / Failure / Resting / Angels and Demons / Creation / Stress / Amen and Alleluia / Preening

“We see the world not as it is, but as we are” Talmud  
“Let everything be Amen and Alleluia” Augustine

Download 'Reflections on a Personal Pilgrimage' by Robin Trew  
[www.pilgrimways.org](http://www.pilgrimways.org)    <http://www.allesley-church.org.uk/>

### CTE Website

We are pleased that the new look CTE is ready for release in September and we hope that the 'News' area; the news from the churches on Twitter; the links to all areas in the footer menu; the way the folders work etc, will help you find all the news and resources available. Comments are welcome as we review the first month - by Sept 31<sup>st</sup> please to [website@cte.org.uk](mailto:website@cte.org.uk).

### Your Church + Housing Crisis

Housing Justice, a Body in Association of Churches Together in England, is holding a day conference in Gloucester as part of a national tour: **Gloucester 29 Sept.2014 9:30 – 16:00.**

The unfolding housing crisis – shortage of affordable housing + benefit cuts – is growing the ranks of the homeless, as well as badly housed people and is set to cause great harm to many this coming winter. Your church CAN make a difference.

[Book your ticket](#)

[Download flyer](#)

[Download poster](#)



## Faith Leaders urge Government re Iraq



This is from the website of the CofE Diocese of Coventry:

The Right Reverend Dr Christopher Cocksworth, Bishop of Coventry, is pressing the UK Government to take action over the humanitarian crisis in Iraq. In a letter published in the Daily Telegraph, Bishop Christopher is the first of over a dozen inter-faith leaders who are united in calling for such action. He is the Church of England's Lead Bishop on Foreign Affairs, and this letter follows his recent House of Lords speech in which he addressed the lack of religious freedom in Iraq.

The letter sent to the Daily Telegraph said:

*"What we are witnessing in Northern Iraq today is a tragedy of historic proportions in which thousands of innocent people are at immediate risk of death for no other reason than their religious beliefs. Freedom of religion and belief, a right set out in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is being denied in the most gross and systemic way possible through the attempted extermination of religious minorities. There is no religious justification for the violation of this inalienable human right.*

*Such violations as are currently taking place are crimes against humanity that must be both stopped and punished. The culture of impunity within which these dehumanising atrocities have been committed needs to be challenged most vigorously. Given that Iraq is not a state party to the International Criminal Court, the Government must now work towards a United Nations Security Council Resolution that refers this matter to the International Criminal Court for investigation and where necessary prosecution. The international community must send a clear signal of intent to those who are committing such atrocities that at some point they will be held accountable for their actions.*

*These violations are, however, sadly part of a wider global pattern of increased societal hostility and government restrictions against freedom of religion or belief. Governments, international institutions and non-governmental organisations need to recognise this wider crisis and commit the necessary time, energy and resources to ensure greater respect for this fundamental freedom in order to attempt to forestall such further tragedies.*

This letter was signed by:

The Rt Revd Dr Christopher Cocksworth, Lord Bishop of Coventry, Church of England's Lead Bishop on Foreign Affairs  
Commissioner Clive Adams, Territorial Commander, Salvation Army  
His Grace Bishop Angaelos, General Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church in the United Kingdom  
The Rt Revd Richard Atkinson, Bishop of Bedford  
Dayan (Judge) Ivan Binstock, Court of the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth  
Malcolm M Deboo, President, Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe  
His Eminence Gregorios, Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain  
Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner, Senior Rabbi to the Movement for Reform Judaism  
The Rt Revd Declan Lang, Bishop of Clifton, Chairman, International Affairs Department, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales  
Ayatollah Dr Sayed Fazel Milani, Imam al-Khoei Islamic Centre, London  
Ramesh Pattni, Secretary General, Hindu Forum of Britain  
Moulana Mohammad Shahid Raza, OBE, Principal Imam, Leicester Central Mosque, Leicester  
Dr Shuja Shafi, Secretary General, Muslim Council of Britain  
Lord Singh of Wimbledon, Vice-Chair, All Party Parliamentary Group on International Freedom of Religion and Belief

**Further information on the website for Bishop Christopher Cocksworth / CofE Diocese of Coventry**

## Statements, Prayers and Resources re the Middle East



The CTE website records statements, prayers and resources from leaders of member churches of Churches Together in England - in date order in which they were made public. These include:

His Grace Bishop Angaelos, on the anniversary of the unprecedented attacks on Churches in Egypt, and the current situation in Iraq, Syria and the Middle East

Joint Public Issues Team: Crisis in Iraq – responses must be rapid and wise

A statement on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict made by Quakers in Britain

Statement by the Archbishop of Canterbury on Iraq

Statement on Gaza by Cardinal Vincent Nichols

Statement of the Archbishop of Canterbury on Gaza

Statement by His Grace Bishop Angaelos, General Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church in the United Kingdom regarding the situation in Mosul, Iraq

Statement from the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East

Prayers from Christian Aid, linked to their Appeal

Church of England Prayer for Gaza

Prayer for Peace in the land we call Holy - Revd John Proctor, United Reformed Church

Methodist paper: Theological Issues re Israel-Palestine

CTBI Conference papers re Middle East Bible Studies re Continuity and Conflict

[http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/411103/Home/News/News\\_articles/Statements\\_Prayers\\_and.aspx](http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/411103/Home/News/News_articles/Statements_Prayers_and.aspx)

## Faith Through a Lens 2014

Faith plays a positive role in many peoples' lives and this competition encourages people from all backgrounds and beliefs to engage with the subject of faith in its wider context.



Whether it's showing compassion, capturing a precious moment or supporting a community we're looking to uncover personal experiences which can be shared through the medium of photography.

We are inviting entries from across the UK and giving entrants the chance to take home not only an array of great prizes for themselves but also to donate a superb package of photography / audio visual equipment worth up to £1000 to their chosen charity or community group.

10 nominated finalists will be invited to an exclusive awards ceremony in Central London during Inter Faith Week (w/c 17th November 2014) where the winner and highly commended photographers will be announced.

More information can be found [here](#)

## Vatican II. A Methodist Reaction.

David Carter is a Methodist Local preacher and Secretary of the Theology and Unity Group of Churches Together in England. This paper was first given to the British Roman Catholic-Methodist Committee in November 2012 and subsequently published in *Ecumenical Trends* 2013.

[Download the PDF of Vatican II. A Methodist Reaction.](#)

## County Ecumenical Officer for Essex and East London

Churches Together in Essex and East London is looking for a new County Ecumenical Officer due to the move of the former Officer to full-time pastoral ministry. The post is open to lay or ordained members in good standing of a Church eligible for membership of Churches Together in Essex and East London.

All help advertising this post will be welcome. There is a **short advert** which can be pasted into a newsletter and an **A4 flyer** giving outline information which can be posted on a noticeboard.

Click the links below for

- a job description
- a person specification
- a statement of terms and conditions
- a paper outlining the application process
- an application form

Please see [this website](#) for information about legal eligibility for the post. Shortlisted candidates will need to bring to the interview a passport or a birth certificate, and a driving licence or other document with evidence of their address.

Closing date for applications: 9.00 am on 23 September 2014.

Interviews will be held during the afternoon of 15 October 2014, probably at the Beds, Essex & Herts Methodist District Office, Stansted House, Stansted Airport, Essex CM24 1AE.

*An Occupational Requirement exists for the post-holder to be a Christian in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.*

## Invitation to Faith

A panel of speakers will Explore Christian approaches to mission, Muslim approaches to Dawah and the possibility of shared witness with time for questions and discussion on the 9th September 2014 at Wheeler Hall, St Anne's Street, Leeds LS2 4BS from 7pm.

To book a place, please email [events@leedschurchinstitute.org](mailto:events@leedschurchinstitute.org) or telephone 0113 391 7928



## Worship and background material for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2015



Jointly prepared and published by the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity and the Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2015 is rooted in the experience of the churches in Brazil.

Jesus said to her: "Give me to drink" (John 4:7)

Page link: [Annual brochure \(pdf\)](#) jointly prepared and published by the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity and the Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches.

The two bodies that co-sponsor the Week of Prayer invited the National Council of Christian

Churches of Brazil (CONIC) to prepare the resources for the week of prayer 2015. CONIC appointed a working group formed by representatives from its member churches and affiliated ecumenical organizations to produce the material. The working group met in February and in April 2012, and completed its work in July. The International Committee appointed by the two co-sponsor bodies met 22-27 September in São Paulo, Brazil, to finalize the preparation of the material.

The biblical gesture of offering water to whomever arrives, as a way of welcoming and sharing, is something that is repeated in all regions of Brazil. The proposed study and meditation on the story of Jesus meeting a Samaritan woman at the well is to help people and communities to realize the dialogical dimension of the project of Jesus, which we call the Kingdom of God.

Please note: This is the international version of the text. Kindly contact your local Bishops' Conference or Synod of your Church to obtain an adaptation of this text for your local context.

## Roger Sutton: new unity networks for mission



Roger Sutton is a Baptist minister. For 14 years he led Altrincham Baptist Church and had links across Manchester in a new network for mission. Roger now works for the Evangelical Alliance and researches / supports / resources the national network under the umbrella known as We Gather: <http://www.wegather.co.uk/>.

Many of the new networks have good links with groups of Churches Together. Here Roger Sutton speaks to 'Churches Together' about 'We Gather' and the growing unity movements for mission which, increasingly, coordinate initiatives serving the local community on behalf of the churches, and with a growing diversity of churches.

[http://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/242173/Home/About/New\\_networks/Roger\\_Sutton\\_new/Roger\\_Sutton\\_new.aspx](http://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/242173/Home/About/New_networks/Roger_Sutton_new/Roger_Sutton_new.aspx)

## The Alliance of Town and City Chaplaincies



Michael Campbell speaks about his work as the town centre chaplain in Luton, and the new network called the Alliance of Town and City Chaplains that will be meeting in a conference 16th April 2015. The conference is being organised with other chaplaincies. Anyone interested in town centre chaplaincy work is invited to attend. Details will be posted on the Luton Town Centre Chaplaincy website [www.lutontcc.org.uk](http://www.lutontcc.org.uk) nearer the event. For more information in the meantime contact Michael Campbell.

[http://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/243837/Home/Resources/Mission/Town\\_and\\_City/Town\\_and\\_City.aspx](http://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/243837/Home/Resources/Mission/Town_and_City/Town_and_City.aspx)

## National Estates Network conference

### Annual Conference 2014: Farewell to Welfare!?



1st October St James Church Thurland Rd, Bermondsey, London, SE16 4AA

15th October St Michael in the City Upper Pitt St, Liverpool, L1 5DB

This year's annual conference explores the effect that the Cuts are having on the people of our poorer housing estates. We are really excited that our keynote speaker at both venues is John Battle the brilliant long-time campaigner and advocate for those who are marginalised. As well as high quality input, there will be time to share and reflect together. What does our Christian Faith demand of us who live and work with those who really feel the impact of benefit reform? Can we make the system better or is it really 'Farewell to Welfare'? Come and join people like you who are struggling to find answers. Book online or you can phone or text 07933 438304 giving us your contact details We can send you a booking form and answer any questions about the conference. A whole day conference at just £20 including lunch.

**National Estates Network website for more information and booking 'Conferences'**

## CTE Christmas card picture competition - an invitation to all

Each year the staff at Churches Together in England have a Christmas card printed with a copyright free picture on the front. Several hundred cards are sent to a wide variety of people in the national, county and local networks of Churches Together.

This is an invitation for any artist to submit their work for consideration in the competition. The prize is to have a picture printed on the CTE Christmas card, with the work referenced on the card with thanks, acknowledgement, and a link to the artist's blog or web site if there is one. The picture will also be used on the CTE website for Christmas too, so be seen by all our web visitors.



This invitation would be an opportunity to profile the work of a new or amateur artist who has not had a picture in print before - or it may be an opportunity for a professional to add to their portfolio. We would like to consider work from people of all ages, backgrounds, and theological persuasions.

The competition is open for 4 months before and after Christmas one year in preparation for the next. Pictures can be submitted between 31st September and 31st January. We will judge, announce the winner in February, and use the picture 9 months later. We reserve the usual right for 'judges decision to be final'. Up to 3 pictures can be considered from any one individual.

The picture itself MUST be the original work of the person who emails us, or (in the case of a person under 18) a parent or guardian who confirms that the work is original to the young person to whom copyright is to be acknowledged.

The subject matter of the chosen Christmas card will be the season of Christmas / Incarnation / birth of Jesus Christ. We shall be looking for originality in interpreting the Christmas account with any links from the biblical narrative for our modern day context, especially as it may relate to

our journey together. The picture on this web page here was chosen for our 2013 card. It is called 'Little Flower' and is in the Gallery / New Work from Constantina Woods: <http://www.cosamara.com/> and is here used with permission. Each year we have a different card, picture and style and we like original ideas.

[www.cte.org.uk/christmaspicture](http://www.cte.org.uk/christmaspicture)

More information: [http://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/245382/Home/News/CTE\\_Christmas\\_card/CTE\\_Christmas\\_card.aspx](http://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/245382/Home/News/CTE_Christmas_card/CTE_Christmas_card.aspx)

## Racial Justice Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September



Racial Justice Sunday 2014

A Celtic journey:  
a Celtic welcome



<http://www.ctbi.org.uk/680>

## Freedom Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Oct 2014



A message from Bishop Dr Joe Aldred of Churches Together in England re Freedom Sunday:

Following a recent email on the subject of 'Human Trafficking/Modern Slavery' I am forwarding to you for distribution to churches and contacts Freedom Sunday worship material for Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2014. Involvement is voluntary and as you will see from the material a large number of Churches, Ecumenical Groups, and anti-slavery campaigning groups are involved.

Please help by circulating as widely as possible and by encouraging local churches to consider highlighting the plight of the millions of children and adults around the world, including in this country, who are victims of modern forms of slavery and human trafficking.

Many thanks for your help in this serious matter. Below are resources and related documents:

**Leaflet** **Poster** **PPT images** **Briefing for clergy** **The issue and case studies** **Advice line information**

**Spot the Traffik booklet** **Modern Slavery Bill in House of Commons** **Modern Slavery Bill briefing**

**Passage through Parliament** **Support organisations**

[http://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/243798/Home/Resources/Pentecostal\\_and\\_Multicultural/Freedom\\_Sunday\\_2014/Freedom\\_Sunday\\_2014.aspx](http://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/243798/Home/Resources/Pentecostal_and_Multicultural/Freedom_Sunday_2014/Freedom_Sunday_2014.aspx)

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