

Reflection of the Month: Homelessness Brings Churches Together



It's quite difficult for churches to avoid homelessness. First because there are some pretty clear instructions in the Bible about sheltering the homeless poor and welcoming the stranger (try Isaiah 58:6 and Matthew 25:35 for a start). Secondly because homeless people come to church, especially to vicarages, presbyteries and manses. They turn up and ask for help – even sometimes in rural and suburban areas where street homelessness is not a visible problem.

However, homelessness is a complicated and difficult problem to tackle; what starts as handing out a few sandwiches at the presbytery door can quickly morph into a steady stream of hungry, need people. Allowing one rough sleeper to rest in the church porch can become a small encampment that the congregation need to negotiate on their way into services. People are not always easy to help and the support to which they are entitled from local authorities is not always forthcoming. Finding partners and working together is an obvious, practical solution.

One way forward, which Housing Justice promotes and supports, is the setting up of a Church and Community Night Shelter (CCNS). A CCNS is a fairly big operation, even if it only runs through the winter months, and it's not worth doing unless there are at least ten potential homeless guests. The typical shelter involves seven churches (the largest we know of has more than 29 venues and some shelter circuits include synagogues and mosques), each of which hosts a different night of the week. The homeless guests are provided with a hot dinner, a bed for the night, breakfast and generally welcomed into each host church. There are usually one or two paid staff but most of the work is done by volunteers – last year the ratio of guests to volunteers in a typical shelter was about 1:10.

OK you are thinking, this is a great example of Christian social action and pragmatic working together but what has it got to do with the ecumenical journey? Think about an ecumenical service, like the ones we've been holding for the week of prayer for Christian unity. The people who go to those are people who are already committed to ecumenism, but they are rarely the majority in our congregations. The homeless guests, as they move from venue to venue, clearly do not judge us on our liturgical practices or style of music, let alone our beliefs about particular doctrines; they will tell you that your puddings are the best but your room is not as warm as Monday night, or how they like Thursday because you can sleep in the church itself, or Saturday because they have a big screen TV for the football.

And the volunteers are rarely all from the same church. Some churches (like mine at the moment) don't have a suitable hall but do have enthusiastic volunteers who want to help out. Other folk are just not free on their church's night but can do another one. And others have a lovely building but a small elderly congregation who really could not manage without help. So thanks to my volunteering I now have a working knowledge of the local Methodist and Anglican churches. I am familiar with their kitchens and toilets and I've slept in their hall and church. I have friends in their congregations and I recognise and greet Christians from other denominations in the supermarket and at the health centre.

This is the experience of a CCNS project. Through our volunteering and attempts to help homeless people we have learned more about each other and our churches. By eating and talking together we have got to know each other in quite a deep way. We have built community amongst ourselves and our homeless guests, all members together. In making places of welcome for the homeless guests we have been made to feel at home in each other's churches and have come to really understand that we are all labourers in the one vineyard.

For more information about CCNS projects go to:
<http://www.housingjustice.org.uk/pages/shelters.html>.

Alison Gelder (picture above)
Director, Housing Justice (a Body in Association of Churches Together in England)

Cumbria Floods - thanks to all who helped

The February 2016 Newsletter of Churches Together in Cumbria carried the following report and thank you:

As many parts of Cumbria were devastated by floods, several times, churches joined others in a magnificent response to the emergency and are continuing to provide valuable support to those who have been affected during the long recovery period. Especial thanks for their inspiring work and hours of dedicated service go to:

- CTiC Emergency Planning Coordinators - Rev Nicola Reynolds (senior) and Rev Martyn Coe
- The emergency response Area Team Leaders: Nick Ash, Sudharshan Savanathan and Alun Jones
- The Churches Together groups and local churches who have provided practical help, refreshment and a listening ear

A big thank you too for all those from different faith communities around the country who have given so much help and support, prayer and flood appeal funding. The response from Muslim, Sikh and other communities, as well as Christians of many denominations, has been heartening and humbling.

In addition, Helen Boothroyd, the Development Officer for Churches Together in Cumbria, said, 'I am really impressed with Churches Together groups and our Churches Emergency Planning Team, led by Rev Nicola Reynolds - they have been amazing. Thank you to all involved and who have supported the response'.

[Cumbria Community Foundation Flood Appeal](#)

[Churches Together in Cumbria](#)

Photo credit: Rachel Ellis



Some of the many donations to the Flood Relief Centre in Kendal, managed by King's Food Bank (credit: Rachel Ellis)

Churches urge Government re Funding Syria's Displaced people

Joint Public Issues Team

[View this email in your browser](#)



'Governments must do more to meet the immediate need of Syria's people' say Churches in a Press Release from the Joint Public Issues Team 3rd Feb 2016.

Four major UK Churches have called on governments to provide substantial new funding to alleviate the suffering of the people of Syria including refugees in the neighbouring countries of Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan.

The call from the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church comes on the eve of the 2016 international pledging conference for Syria, taking place in London. In 2015, following the last international appeal by the United Nations (UN), less than 60% of the required funds were raised. The UN have stated that a further \$7.7 billion will be required in aid to effectively help the vulnerable people in Syria and support Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, who host the vast majority of Syria's 4.6 million refugees.

Ethnic and religious minorities, including Christians, in Syria are particularly vulnerable to attack. The four churches maintain close links with partner churches in the region. Mr John Ellis, Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church said: "We welcome the UK's commitment to aid for Syria, and our Government's initiative in hosting this international pledging conference in London. We want every refugee child in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey to have the opportunity to attend school - but this aim, as outlined by the United Nations, needs funding. It is our sincere hope that the international community as a whole will substantially increase its commitment to a situation that is worsening as we speak. Increased funding will mean that those currently affected by the hostilities will not have to suffer even more in the years to come."

[Full article link for quotes and comments on CTE website](#)

Notes:

The Joint Public Issues Team combines the expertise of the Baptist Union, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church in the area of public issues. The team aims to enable our four Churches to work together in living out the gospel of Christ in the Church and in wider society. It aims to promote equality and justice by influencing those in power and by energising and supporting local congregations. For more information, [click here](#). For further information on the donor conference on international aid, [click here](#). To read the combined statement on Syria, [click here](#).

Related links:

HG Bishop Angaelos addresses WCC/UN 'High Level Conference' in Geneva on the Refugee Crisis in Europe: <http://copticcentre.blogspot.co.uk/2016/01/press-release-bishop-angaelos-speaks-at.html>

Mapping Migration: New publication from CCME and the World Council of Churches 18 January 2016. <http://www.ccme.be/>

Walton Parish Nursing, Felixstowe

A presentation by the Walton Parish Nursing Team was a feature at one of the events held in Felixstowe during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The team have quite a story to tell.



This was an appropriate event to hold, as the work of Walton Parish Nursing has become a genuine ecumenical service to the local community. When it all began, back in 2003, it was a small project started by Maidstone Road Baptist Church, with a District Nurse from the church working voluntarily for one day a week. Parish Nursing was very new to the UK at that point, and our founding Parish Nurse, Jane, was one of the first to train with what is now Parish Nursing Ministries UK.

The work grew from being a ministry to church members to a service to the wider community - providing wholistic care that met spiritual, emotional and social needs as well as the more obviously medical. A team of volunteers was built up, and a management structure, and a link was made with a local residential home. One of the volunteers was trained in chair-based exercise work, which has become very popular. Others became 'sole mates', providing foot and leg care in clients' homes. We were literally following Jesus' example by washing feet. Courses on healthy lifestyle were developed. Close links were made with local health providers, enabling two-way referrals to take place. Our focus was on Walton, one of the poorer areas of Felixstowe. Funds were raised that enabled us to employ Jane for two days a week. And we were recognised nationally when we won a Faithworks Award, with a presentation ceremony at the House of Commons.

[See the full article on the CTE website](#)

More information about Walton Parish Nursing: <http://www.waltonpn.org.uk/>

Parish Nursing Ministies UK: <http://parishnursing.org.uk/>

Pictured: Wendy Hubbard (Occupational Therapist) and Lorna Bellamy (Parish Nurse) with the Acting Chair of Churches Together in Felixstowe, Andrew Marfleet, and Secretary, Sue Hockenhuill.

Volunteer Chaplains to Ambulance Service in East Anglia

The East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust is looking to extend and develop its chaplaincy service throughout the six counties of East Anglia. Currently, some volunteer chaplains exist in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire but it is hoped that not only will more volunteers come forward to fill vacancies in these two counties, but that others will feel called to work in Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex.



This exciting new initiative provides the opportunity for volunteers to assist in the overall development of the chaplaincy work which provides spiritual, emotional and pastoral support to

staff members, regardless of their faith, belief or lack of faith or belief. Each chaplain will be appointed to one of the larger ambulance stations where they will be expected to develop an up-to-date awareness of the structure and culture of the ambulance service and come to appreciate the pressures and stress under which members of the ambulance service work.

This will require appropriate contact with operational, administrative and maintenance staff and the regular accompanying of operational crew as they undertake their shifts. There is the opportunity for one chaplain within each county to be appointed as the volunteer co-ordinating chaplain. In addition to usual duties, this role will also require maintaining and developing a network of chaplains across their given area. All chaplains will be expected to attend a course on chaplaincy and an East of England Ambulance Service Induction Course. Furthermore, they will be expected to update training to enable them in their duties.

As the chaplaincy develops, chaplains may find themselves training and working alongside chaplains from the other two blue light services. Under JESIP (Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme), all three emergency services are required by the Government to work more closely with each other and other organisations, especially when responding to major multi-agency incidents involving mass casualties.

Applications are invited from lay and ordained people from Churches in membership of Churches Together in England. Appointments are subject to the usual checks, including enhanced DBS. To speak informally with the Lead Chaplain ring 01582 585400.

For full details see the NHS website after the 15 January: www.jobs.nhs.uk and either search on key words i.e. volunteer chaplain or reference number 247-SSXCHAPLAIN1601.

Closing date 28.02.16

Premier Radio 'Society Sunday'

Premier Radio last year launched an initiative that many churches participated in. It was called Society Sunday. It was an opportunity for churches across the UK to pray for the Queen and her Elected Representatives on the Sunday nearest the Queens Official Birthday. This year Society Sunday will coincide with the Queens 90th birthday and will provide an ideal opportunity for churches across the UK to come together to pray for, and be a blessing in, communities. More information is available on the Society Sunday website: <http://www.premier.org.uk/SocietySunday>



Note: Society Sunday will be on Sunday 12th June 2016 - on the Queen's official birthday weekend when 10,000 people will have a street party in the Mall and many local Churches Together groups will have a 'Big Lunch'. Society Sunday is an opportunity to bring people together and celebrate all that is good about your local community.

Premier is a Body in Association of Churches Together in England.

Interchurch Families as Domestic Churches

8th John Coventry Memorial Lecture
2.30pm 19th March 2016 in London



The Association of Interchurch Families invites you to celebrate the launch of the book *Being One At Home: Interchurch Families as Domestic Churches* edited by Thomas Knieps-Port le Roi and Ray Temmerma, (published on January 25, 2016). Please join us on 19th March 2016 at 2.30pm at Farm Street Church, 114 Mount Street, London W1K 3AH.

Professor Thomas Knieps-Port le Roi will give the lecture introducing the book and reflecting on the outcomes of the Roman Catholic Synod that took place in October 2015. Professor Thomas Knieps-Port le Roi holds the INTAMS Chair for the Study of Marriage & Spirituality at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies of the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium.

The lecture will be chaired by Elizabeth Davies, Secretary to the Bishops Conference of England and Wales Committee on Marriage and Family Life. This is a public lecture and will include an opportunity to ask questions and meet members of the Association of Interchurch Families as well as our speakers.

Refreshments available.

[Web link for more information and contact](#)

[Download PDF Press Release](#)

'Who Cares?' day conference Ryedale Christian Council



'WHO CARES?' Christian Care in the Community

Keynote Speaker: Bishop James Newcome, Anglican Bishop of Carlisle.
Church of England led Bishop on healthcare.

Saturday 16th April 2016 at Alban Roe House, Ampleforth Abbey,
North Yorkshire. 9.30am - 4pm bring a packed lunch

Workshop Leaders:

1. End of Life Care - Rev. Dr Jonathan Singh was Chaplain and Spiritual Care Team Manager at St. Michael's Hospice, Harrogate. He became a Bereavement Support worker and is now Clinical Manager of the Sunflower Centre at St. Leonard's Hospice, York. He helps patients with long term progressive and life-limiting conditions. He is also House-for-Duty priest at Bishop Monkton and Burton Leonard.
2. Mental Health Issues - Dr Nick Land was a Consultant Psychiatrist and is now Medical Director of Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys' NHS Foundation Trust. He will lead discussions about how we can better understand mental health problems and how our Christian churches can be places where such people can be lovingly supported.
3. Dementia (especially Alzheimers) - Rev. Dr Pat Malham is a Methodist Minister for 8 rural Yorkshire churches and as a GP she had a special interest in Psychiatry, particularly people with mental illness who have become marginalised in society. The isolation people with Dementia

feel needs to be addressed by our churches so that these people feel included in fellowship and worship.

4. Stress - Rev. Andrew de Smet is Vicar of Kirkdale Benefice, North Yorkshire, and Archbishop's Adviser in Pastoral Care. He is a BACP accredited counsellor/psychotherapist, a mediator and a spiritual director.

Cost - £15. To book ring Mike Gray 01751 431338 or visit: www.ryedalechristiancouncil.org.uk

[Download PDF flyer](#)

ACAT Training Foundation Courses for Church Treasurers 2016



The Foundation course gives a good overview of all the issues a treasurer might meet. Whether you are new to the role or have been in post many years, you will find much in the course to benefit you.

The cost is £45.00 and includes all course material, refreshments and a buffet lunch. The training starts at 9.30 am and finishes at 4.00 pm. These courses are always very popular and we recommend that you book early to ensure your place.

The Course will cover: The Role of the Treasurer; Budgeting; Charity Accounting; Systems & Records; VAT & LPWGS; Employment; Gift Aid & GASDS; Computer Packages; Year-end Routines; Legal & Financial Overview. *Foundation Courses are primarily for treasurers of churches with an income of less than £250,000.*

Workshops for Church Treasurers 2016

ACAT Workshops are designed to pick up where our Foundation course leaves off and go into detail about how to deal with some important issues that are frequently encountered by treasurers. The cost is £45.00 and includes all course material, refreshments and a buffet lunch. The training starts at 9.30 am and finishes at 4.00 pm.

This series of Workshops will each cover three topics:

- Changing Treasurers
- Coping with Independent Examination
- How to be an Independent Examiner

To book a place on any of the above courses please visit the [ACAT website](#) where you can book instantly online or download a postal booking form.

You can also request a booking form by telephoning 01246 767787. You do not have to be a member of ACAT to take part in our training.

ACAT is the national charity for treasurers of churches and Christian charities, providing training, advice and information to members. ACAT is a Body in Association of Churches Together in England.

Rev Paul Rochester, New General Secretary, Free Churches Group



The chair of trustees for the Free Churches Group (Rev Dr Hugh Osgood) has announced the following appointment of a new General Secretary in a press release of 27th January 2016.

I am pleased to release the following statement to you that is being circulated to the General Secretaries/Heads of Denominations/Ecumenical Officers of the Members of the Free Churches Group, and to those of the other Member Denominations of Churches Together in England.

The Free Churches Group has pleasure in confirming that the Revd Paul Rochester (pictured), who was appointed as Free Church General Secretary in July 2015 and has been serving in a part-time voluntary capacity since October 2015, will be taking up the post full-time from March 2016. Paul brings to the post the experience he has gained within the Civil Service, as well as his experience from serving as an ordained minister with the Church of God of Prophecy. He has a heart for ecumenical engagement and looks forward to participating fully in the breadth of Free Church life. Paul can be contacted by email at paul.rochester@freechurches.org.uk or via Free Church House, 27 Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9HH, telephone 0203 651 8334/8.

We are delighted that Paul is taking up this post and are confident that he will serve us well as we continue to work together with you all to increase our unity and enhance our joint Christian testimony and service in the public domain.

More information about the Free Churches Group: www.freechurches.org.uk

Pioneer Church Planter and Leader

The Methodist Church 

Exciting opportunity for a Pioneer Church Planter and Leader to start a new Christian community in the new Wellesley housing development in Aldershot.



You: A relational evangelist with a heart to create Christian fellowship from scratch.

We: Aldershot Churches Together with funding from the Methodist and Anglican churches

The job: Based in the house provided in Wellesley, to lead a seed team to build a Christian community able to grow into a full church.

For more information and an application pack contact: [Mrs Frances-Anne Cross](mailto:Mrs.Frances-Anne.Cross), Tel: 01483 790352 or at Diocesan House, Quarry Street, Guildford, GU1 3XG

Closing date: 18th February, 2016

Interview dates: 8th/9th March

This post is subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure.

We prefer an ordained person, but will consider applications from lay people with appropriate gifts and experience.

Report on Anglican-Pentecostal Consultation 2015

The Church: Common Vision, Common Mission?

Organized by the Church of England's Council for Christian Unity and Churches Together in England, 5 November 2015

Background to the consultation

In 2014, the World Council of Churches' Faith and Order Commission released *The Church: Towards a Common Vision*, as a 'convergence text' for consideration and response around the world. This provided a potentially significant opportunity for churches to talk with one another about their understanding of the church in relation to key themes, including mission and unity. Following its debate on the text at the July sessions of General Synod, the Church of England's Council for Christian Unity (CCU) approached Churches Together in England (CTE) to help set up a consultation event for representatives from the Church of England to meet with representatives from Pentecostal churches. The broad aim was to discuss how the document might help to deepen mutual understanding and theological dialogue as part of growth in unity in mission in this country between the Church of England and Pentecostal churches, building on the strong relationships that already exist at many levels, expressed for instance in the message of greeting sent by the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Elim regional centenary celebration in London in October.

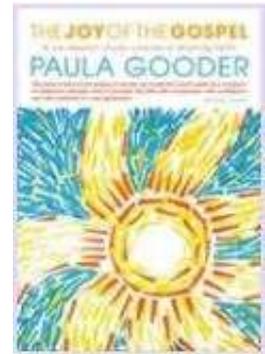
At the start of the consultation, three particular questions were noted:

1. How useful is the document for Anglicans and Pentecostals seeking to grow closer together?
2. How do we bring together focus on practical collaboration with attention to theological issues?
3. Do we have a 'common vision' of the church, and how much does it matter?

[Link to the report on the CTE website, including PDF download](#)

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL: STUDY COURSE FOR LENT

This year's Lent Course from Church House Publishing takes its inspiration from Pope Francis's reflections on mission and evangelism *Evangelii Gaudium*. It is sponsored by English Anglican - Roman Catholic Committee known as 'English ARC'.



Written by Dr Paula Gooder (Theologian in Residence at The Bible Society) *The Joy of the Gospel* is a six-part course for parishes and Lent groups. A short film has been produced and released this week to promote the study guide and is now available to watch online. Widely recognised as offering wisdom and vision for all Christians in a culture that can be hostile to the Church, *Evangelii Gaudium* offers a positive and realistic approach to sharing faith in the modern world. Paula Gooder introduces its key themes to readers in all denominations and challenges them to consider its application in their own contexts.

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Birmingham, The Most Reverend Bernard Longley and the Bishop of Truro, The Right Reverend Tim Thornton, Co-chairs of the English Anglican-Roman Catholic Committee, both write in the preface of the study guide about the impact it will have on deepening relationships between Catholics and Anglicans.

In the film, Archbishop Bernard said: "Paula's background, her scriptural expertise, the way in which she's presented this material; I think is going to enable groups to really get to the heart of what Pope Francis is setting out, and I think we'll see some fruits from this, particularly in coming together with a joint understanding of the churches mission and enabling us to look for practical ways of reaching out with the truth of the Gospel, into the societies where we live and that we've been called to serve together."

The study guide is available to purchase online as a book or ebook from Church House Publishing: <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/books/9780715147313/the-joy-of-the-gospel>

The film is available online at:

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/152706011>

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/K9qq-Dw87kU>

Free audio files accompanying each session are also available on:

SoundCloud: <https://soundcloud.com/the-joy-of-the-gospel>

iTunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/gb/podcast/the-joy-of-the-gospel/id1077775647?mt=2>

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity- A report from Plymouth

This is a report from the website of Churches Together in Plymouth: reproduced with thanks.

In the preceding hour, the rain hammered down with such vigour that people paddled into Mutley Baptist Church. Nevertheless, the crowds started to gather and one brave Mutley-ite went constantly between the pavement and the door with a huge golfing umbrella ushering people in. By 7.30pm there were over 270 hardy, enthusiastic souls gathered; and we are delighted to say, 'the heavens opened in more ways than one!'

Ian Turner, Churches Together in Plymouth's (CTiP) trusty Administrator opened with humour, warmth, welcome and prayer. Following a hymn, Chairman Chris Clewer went round the hall eliciting the churches represented and found members from over 35 different churches there – breadth and unity indeed! The Mutley band led us in a wonderful time of praise and worship. Then 12 new leaders who had taken up the call to Plymouth came up to share their: Vision in a sentence and Passion in phrase (most managed to keep to the brief!).

It was wonderful to hear the heart of God's Kingdom that beat through these contributions. New to Plymouth also, Mutley's Minister Clive Burnard preached on 'Unity with a Purpose' from John 17. After a hymn and collection, during which more than £700 was given to support the unity agenda in the coming year, CTiP Chaplain Jackie Yates led the service into a time of prayer. We broke into clusters of 4 or 5 and prayer arose across the sanctuary seeking God's blessing upon the city and one another. Bishop of Plymouth Nick McKinnel rounded off with a word of encouragement and a blessing. So fervent was the fellowship that for a full hour after the service ended, groups were still enjoying the refreshments laid on by Mutley and chatting with one another. What a great evening and a good start for Unity in 2016.

[Additional comments and quotes on the website of Churches Together in Plymouth](#)



Summary of Churches Rural Group meeting 15.12.15



Farming issues. Matt Caldicott spoke about the Farming Community Network, particularly re flooding; new farm payments, and reprint of 'Fit for Farming'. More information and bulk orders from matt@fcn.org.uk

Honey and Thistles book. If you would like to be part of a local group discussing some of the issues identified in 'Honey and thistles: Biblical wisdom for renewal of farming', please contact Christopher Jones at cj@agriculturalchristianfellowship.org.uk He would also be interested in reflections on the relationship (or lack of it) between food poverty and the poverty experienced by farmers. [Book review on the CTE website.](#)

Germinate Enterprise: helping villages thrive. Rural business start-up course available, free of charge, at www.germinate.net/go/enterprise

Resourcing Rural Ministry' Insights and ideas, resources and background theology for those involved in the rural Christian community. <http://www.brfonline.org.uk/9780857462626/>

Tackling rural isolation. A paper for churches with ideas from the Rural Pastoral Support Network Project. www.germinate.net

'Germinate listening event.' 16 key people engaged in rural mission spent 24 hours together, listening to God and each other. Eight themes were identified for challenge / action: Deepening discipleship; Developing prayer; Developing ecumenical and partnership working; Communicating vision and facilitating change; Pruning, simplification and creating capacity; Developing and empowering the ministry of lay people; Developing and supporting lay and ordained leaders, team building, and reducing isolation); Communicating what we already have. Examples of good practice or gaps in provision in these areas welcome!

17 July. Rural Mission Sunday. This year's theme will be 'Sow and Grow'. Look out for resources on www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk

15 October. Germinate Conference in Coventry. 'Making it Happen' will focus on the challenge of deepening discipleship to inspire, encourage and equip flourishing rural mission. Keynote speaker – Revd Dr Roger Walton, President of the Methodist Conference 2016/7. Programme and booking forms available late January from www.germinate.net

[Link to report summary on CTE website](#)

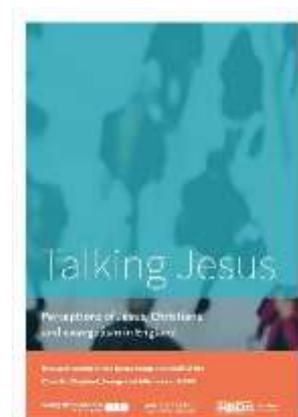
'Talking Jesus' research A discussion guide

'Perceptions of Jesus, Christians and evangelism in England' was the remit given by the Evangelical Alliance, the Church of England and Hope to the Barna Group and ComRes in 2015 for research called 'Talking Jesus'.

The report along with introductory video and supplementary resources/downloads is available on the website www.talkingjesus.org

Alongside a wide variety of articles about various aspects of the research described as 'extraordinary, 'gloomy', challenging', 'rubbish', 'interesting', 'surprisingly encouraging', and 'amazing', here is a discussion guide to the research intended for groups of individuals and churches for themselves.

Written by CTE staff member Jim Currin, the discussion guide gets the group to find the statistics from www.talkingjesus.org and come to their own conclusions with the use of 20 questions.



[Download Discussion Guide to Talking Jesus as a Word document \(to copy text\)](#)

[Download Discussion Guide to Talking Jesus as a PDF \(to distribute\)](#)

[Commendation to read from CTE Presidents](#)

Quick link for the web page re the Discussion Guide: www.cte.org.uk/talkingjesus

And finally ..

A United Reformed Church/Methodist ecumenical church in Stone, Staffordshire, have taken a brave decision to move out of their building.

Members tell their story in a video you can see here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJdPqFf3fOQ&feature=youtu.be>



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