

## **Reflection of the Month: Listening to Young Adults**

This month we invite you to watch a video reflection.

It was prepared for Forum 2015, and was shown at the beginning of the session 'Listening to Young Adults' about the ecumenical journey and their experience of a week together at a summer camp with the Chemin Neuf community, called 'Welcome to Paradise', in France.

Churches Together in England paid for the team to attend the summer festival in August and Forum 2015 in September. The team of 12 were asked to reflect on their experience from different traditions, Pentecostal, Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Church of England, Independent church etc.

Thanks go to Rev Tim Watson for the preparation/hosting the team for the week with the Chemin Neuf community, and to Jenny Bond/Lorraine Shannon for coordinating re CTE.

To watch, click the photograph or the link: <https://vimeo.com/141340362>



05:32 01:13 HD

Other people may view this video via the Video Review Page: <https://vimeo.com/user35298179/review/141340362/cadd8c7691> (Change Settings)

 **CTE Forum 2015 Young Adults Opening Video**  
from **CTE Website Administrator** (PRO) 3 days ago (ALL RIGHTS RESERVED)

Chemin Neuf festival 2015 and interviews with young adults CTE supported: [cte.org.uk/forum2015](http://cte.org.uk/forum2015)

## **'They Also Served' CTE project re WW1 in the West Midlands**



'They also served' is a project which spotlights First World War's Black African and Caribbean men and women in the First World War. It will be commemorated in the West Midlands, thanks to a Birmingham-based project and a grant of nearly £62,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

Caribbean soldiers first joined the Allied troops in 1915 and, although there was an initial reluctance by British Army commanders to let them fight in the front line, massive losses among white troops, and the intervention of King George V, saw this attitude change. The project will also gather information on how the involvement of Black African and Caribbean troops altered perceptions in their home countries and in the diaspora.

The stories discovered will be shared through a new website and on 1000 DVDs to be distributed throughout the region's archives and libraries. There will also be ten community engagement sessions; a touring exhibition that will visit locations such as the MAC, the Drum in Aston and Birmingham Library; a colour booklet will be published and a commemoration event organised in October 2017.

Anne Jenkins, Heritage Lottery Fund's Deputy Director of Operations, said: "Thanks to National Lottery Players we have been able to support many hundreds of projects marking the centenary of the First World War, the impact of which touched every corner of the UK and far beyond. We are delighted that so many communities and organisations have been able to uncover hitherto overlooked histories of the conflict and this project is one such. It will help to put the record straight and will assist young people in particular to broaden their understanding of how the War has shaped our modern world."

Bishop Dr Joe Aldred of Churches Together in England, said: "Black churches in Britain, including the Midlands, have tended to look to the landing of the SS Empire Windrush in 1948 for their point of reference. However, many from Africa and the Caribbean came to Britain in the centuries before. Some contributed to the First and Second World Wars, including those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for liberty with their lives. This project will bring these unsung heroes and heroines into view and what better place to begin shining a light on this 'hidden history' than in the Black Churches. This is an exciting project."

For further information

Phil Cooper, HLF press office, on: 07889 949173. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)

Dr Joe Aldred, Pentecostal and Multicultural Relations, Churches Together in England, on: 020 7529 8131, mobile: 07775 632288

## **Hope relaunched 'Towards 2018'**

At a relaunch of Hope Together in September 2015, a fresh challenge was given to the churches in England – to equip every member to share their Christian faith in relevant ways, particularly with friends and family. More than 100 Christian leaders from a cross-section of denominations, ministries and regions of the UK, gathered in London for



HOPE's Vision Day, hosted by Rev Yemi Adedeji, HOPE's Associate Director, with Roy Crowne, HOPE's Executive Director, and Steve Clifford, General Director of the Evangelical Alliance, who chairs the HOPE Board.

Describing HOPE as a catalyst for mission, Roy Crowne said, 'Being together in mission has a great impact in our communities.' Looking back to 2008, he explained that the original dream had been to mobilise the whole Church: 'But we didn't do it.' Even in 2014, when many more churches worked together, the whole church in the UK was not mobilised for mission. 'Let's build towards 2018 and mobilise the whole Church in mission together – in words and action – for the whole year.'

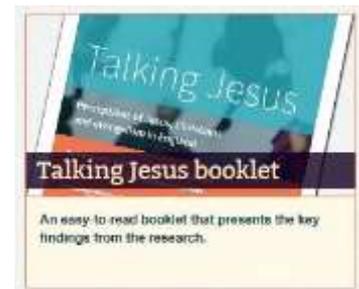
### **HOPE research report from Theos**

Nick Spencer from the think-tank Theos, which published a review of HOPE 2008 and HOPE 2014, reported to delegates: 'The HOPE network is broader and more diverse than in 2008. We were told that "HOPE has brought ecumenical connection into relationship and away from structure". 67.5% of survey respondents who represented churches reported that they had collaborated with other churches through HOPE 2014. Of these, 85% were working with churches of different denominations.'

### **Talking Jesus: research on evangelism**

To define the task ahead, HOPE, the Church of England and the Evangelical Alliance commissioned the Barna research group to survey people's perceptions of Jesus. They asked people living in England what they know about Jesus? Do they know someone who actively follows Jesus? Have they ever had a conversation about Jesus?

The findings were presented by Dr Rachel Jordan, the Church of England's, national mission and evangelism advisor who is part of HOPE's leadership team, and Gareth Russell from the Barna research group. Dr Jordan said: 'We are not losing our reach – younger people know as many practising Christians as older people do. Our greatest opportunity is right up close. Not the people we don't know, but friends and family; the people who are right next to us and know us really well – 67% of the population know a practising Christian.' (For the purpose of the survey that is someone who prays and reads the Bible regularly and attends a church service at least once a month.)



The survey results are available at [www.talkingjesus.org](http://www.talkingjesus.org) and include an animation which churches can show to congregations.

### **Towards 2018**

Roy Crowne said that the research will shape how HOPE moves forward to 2018 building on what we do to help the Church be more effective in mission.

Call to pray. Jane Holloway from the HOPE leadership team announced that HOPE and its partners are calling the Church to prayer on the first Sunday of 2016 – Sunday 3rd January to pray through the themes from the Talking Jesus research.

HOPE Revolution is providing the training already launched this summer as 70,000 young people were given copies of the Chatterbox and invited to try the Fun-size Mission Academy. The goal is to build towards 2018 with thousands of young people mobilised to share their Christian faith with words and action.

Try Praying ([www.trypraying.org](http://www.trypraying.org)) - encouraging churches to 'use and lose' a simple seven-day practical guide to praying.

Care for the Family, in partnership with HOPE, is developing the Wisdom House book into eight discussion-starters for churches to use in conversation with people in their communities.

Sing Christmas. Following on from the success of Silent Night Carols, HOPE, Tearfund and Sports Chaplaincy UK are supporting churches holding Sing Christmas community carols events in stadia and pubs; karaoke carols are a new option for 2015 following a pattern tried and tested in Leicester and Lancashire with their local BBC radio stations. [www.singchristmas.org](http://www.singchristmas.org)

The Queen's 90th Birthday. In 2016 HOPE is inviting churches to hold parties to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday; a 64-page book highlighting the Queen's Christian faith is being prepared as a give-away for churches to use. Steve Clifford concluded the day with the question: 'What can we do over the next five years that could impact the next 50 years of the Church?'

Contact the HOPE office (01788 542782 or email [office@hopetogether.org.uk](mailto:office@hopetogether.org.uk)) if churches in your area would like a HOPE presentation of the Talking Jesus research and HOPE's vision of mission to 2018.

HOPE and Churches Together in England are working closely together, at national level and through many HOPE initiatives run by local Churches Together groups. For more information re CTE, [contact Jim Currin](#).

## **Corrymeela at St Paul's Cathedral**

Faith, Prayer, Learning, Poetry, Mystery, Conversation,  
Questions...

07 Feb 2016  
St Paul's Cathedral, London, Wren Suite  
Sunday 7th February, 1 – 2pm

Pádraig Ó Tuama, Leader of the Corrymeela Community draws on everyday stories, poetry, gospel reflections and Celtic spirituality to open up ways we can make our lives a place of welcome, both for ourselves and others, and live well together in a troubled world.



This lunchtime series is held on the first Sunday of the month in the Wren Suite in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral. Some of the liveliest contemporary theologians and spiritual writers speak about the challenges, contradictions and joys of being a Christian in the world today. Each event includes plenty of time for questions and answers. Admission is free and un-ticketed. Seating is first-come, first-served: please come early to ensure your place!

<http://www.corrymeela.org/events/29/faith-prayer-learning-poetry-mystery>

The Corrymeela Community is a [Body in Association of Churches Together in England](#)

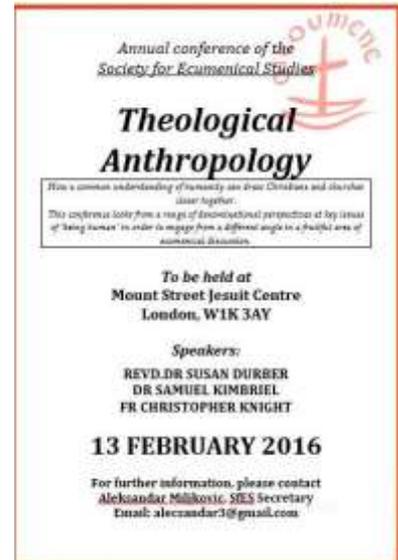
## Theological Anthropology .. drawing churches closer together

### Annual conference of the Society for Ecumenical Studies

Theological Anthropology: How a common understanding of humanity can draw Christians and churches closer together. This conference looks from a range of denominational perspectives at key issues of 'being human' in order to engage from a different angle in a fruitful area of ecumenical discussion.

To be held at Mount Street Jesuit Centre, London, W1K 3AY:  
13 FEBRUARY 2016

For further information, please contact Aleksandar Miljkovic,  
Secretary: [alecsandar3@gmail.com](mailto:alecsandar3@gmail.com)



#### Speakers:

Revd Dr Susan Durber, is a minister of the United Reformed Church, formerly Principal of Westminster College Cambridge, presently serving as Theology Advisor at Christian Aid. Fr. Christopher C. Knight, is rector of the Orthodox parish of the Holy Transfiguration, Great Walsingham, Executive Secretary of the International Society for Science and Religion, and a Research Associate of the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies in Cambridge. Samuel Kimbriel, is a teaching fellow in philosophical theology at the University of Nottingham and holds MPhil and PhD degrees from the University of Cambridge. His primary research interests are in the areas of metaphysics and anthropology and he embodies a certain degree of ecumenical diversity himself (raised in a strict Calvinist home, married to a Danish Lutheran, worshipping as an Anglican, broadly Catholic in theological sensibility).

#### [More information and booking form](#)

#### CALL FOR SHORT PAPERS

Participants are invited to give short papers at the conference on the Saturday afternoon. The papers are to be 20 minutes long, followed by 10 minutes discussion, linked to the theme of the conference.

If you wish to give a paper, please send a 200 word abstract, with title, to the Secretary for a decision about inclusion. The deadline for receipt of abstracts is Christmas 2015.

## New evangelism resource: 'Second Chance'

Press Release, 15 September 2015.

BILLY GRAHAM Evangelistic Association debuts trailer for new 'My Hope UK' film called "second chance".



The film available this autumn is a free evangelism tool for churches and Churches Together groups.

The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has debuted a trailer for "Second Chance", the 2015 instalment of evangelistic films from My Hope UK available for use free of charge. The new film

comes on the heels of the success of its previous release called "The Cross", which debuted late last year and has been requested by more than a quarter of UK churches.

"Our focus is on encouraging and equipping the local church to simply share Jesus," said Steve Wade, national director for My Hope UK. "We want to help local congregations by providing high-quality, free resources – like 'Second Chance' – that can be used to reach out with a message of hope in their communities."

"Second Chance" features a powerful message from Billy Graham and compelling stories of transformation from Chris Llewellyn, lead singer for the popular Irish Christian band Rend Collective; Nathalie MacDermott, a doctor from Cardiff who served in Liberia to help people with Ebola and is now at Imperial College, London; and pro-skateboarder Brian Sumner, who was brought up in Liverpool and found fame with Tony Hawk. "Second Chance" chronicles their stories of faith and how an encounter with God gave their lives new purpose.

The film will be on general release from Monday, 2 November. Churches and organisations are encouraged to join with others across the nation in planning events using the film for a collective "day of proclamation" on Saturday, 7 November to coincide with Billy Graham's 97th birthday. The film will pre-release in early October, as churches and organisations will be able to view the full programme online and download it to prepare for showings in November.

A free DVD of "Second Chance" will also be available to each church or organisation that requests it, with shipment expected in October. More than 1,500 have already pre-ordered. Individuals will also be able to order online as soon as the DVDs are ready.

For more information on My Hope, including tips on how these resources can be used, visit [www.MyHopewithBillyGraham.org.uk](http://www.MyHopewithBillyGraham.org.uk) and click "Get Started".

You can participate by pre-ordering a copy of "Second Chance" on the website, downloading prayer cards and encouraging everyone to pray and prepare to show the film in your community from Saturday November 7th.

## **Faith Leaders urge PM re People in Poverty**



Christian, Islamic and Jewish leaders gathered at St Paul's Cathedral in London to urge the Prime Minister to ensure the UK plays its part in achieving new international goals to tackle poverty and inequality and protect the environment in every country.

The event took place one week before Heads of State gather at the United Nations in New York, to approve Sustainable Development Goals for the next 15 years. His Holiness Pope Francis will also visit the UN just before the Goals Summit meeting.

"We are here to ask Prime Minister David Cameron to use his power at home and internationally, to keep his promises and ensure that these new Goals change the lives of millions of people for the better," said Dr Husna Ahmad, CEO of Global One.

"The Goals have tremendous potential to do good but it will only be realised if leaders such as Mr Cameron put serious resources and determination behind them, as well as making plans for how they will implement them within their own countries."

Dr Ahmad was joined at St Paul's by Reverend Steve Wild, President of the Methodist Conference; Dr Jill Barber, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference; Remona Aly, media

consultant and former deputy editor of Emel magazine; Major Heather Poxon, Director of International Development, Salvation Army; Very Revd Michael Persson, Vice Chairman Lutheran Council of Churches and Rector of the Swedish Church in London; Margaret Morris, Congregational Federation Chair of Council; Francis Brienens, Deputy General Secretary, United Reformed Church; Canon Mark Oakle, Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral and Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg, Senior Rabbi to Masorti Judaism and Rabbi of New North London Synagogue.

The St Paul's gathering was organised by Christian Aid. Dionne Gravesande, Head of Church Advocacy at the charity, added: "One of the most important aspects of the new Sustainable Development Goals is their insistence on 'leave no-one behind'. In other words, no Goal should be considered met unless it is achieved across all groups in a society. "In a world so stricken with inequality and discrimination, that is a precious promise and I hope all faith communities will help to hold world leaders to it."

Helen Dennis, Senior Adviser on Poverty and Inequality at Christian Aid, said: "There is a pressing moral imperative to address the global crises of poverty, inequality and climate change. "We hope the Sustainable Development Goals will translate into meaningful action for the communities with which Christian Aid works around the world, and we are delighted to see faith leaders fully backing the new Goals."

The Sustainable Development Goals will replace the existing Millennium Development Goals from the start of 2016. Around 130 Heads of State will attend the United Nations General Assembly in New York next week (25th – 27th September), to finally approve the new goals. People of faith may be interested in the Prayer For Everyone action, which takes place from 24th September until 1st October and involves praying for the Sustainable Development Goals.

For further information please contact Joe Ware on 00 44 (0)207 523 2418 or [jware@christian-aid.org](mailto:jware@christian-aid.org) or 24 hour press duty phone – 07850 242950.

Christian Aid is an Agency of Churches Together in England. For more information about the work of Christian Aid, visit <http://www.christianaid.org.uk>

## Partnership in Mission

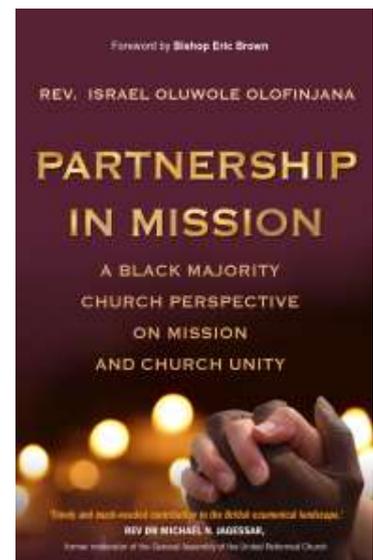
Book exploring Black Majority Churches and ecumenism  
by Rev. Israel Oluwole Olofinjana

Church growth in the UK is argued by some commentators to be dominated by the myriad of black majority churches (BMC) which continue to spring up in this country. These churches have played and continue to play a significant role in the history of the British church, encompassing a wide range of theologies, structures, missiologies, cultures and ethnicities.

Yet many in the wider church are unfamiliar with BMC and while some might welcome the energy and creativity they bring others might equally take the view that they can be divisive.

Of chief importance is the question of unity and what impact BMC are having in the area of ecumenism, vitally, how they will partner in mission with the wider UK church.

Written from a black Majority Church perspective the primary purpose of this book is to look at the intercultural ecumenism emerging between BMC and historic Churches. Israel Olofinjana



explores how Black Majority Churches at national, regional and local level are working together in unity and partnership with non-African Christians in the historic and mainstream churches in Britain. In doing this he asks 'What is the BMC? How heterogeneous is the movement? What opportunities are there for partnership with the wider church?'

He covers the history and diversity of BMC in London and their development from being migrant sanctuaries to undergoing a theological shift that is enabling them to engage in holistic mission. Readers are invited to jointly experience the riches of multicultural Christian expressions in faith and practice.

Dr Kate Coleman, founder of next Leadership, says: 'Israel's latest offering goes the extra mile, beyond documentation, by proposing insightful and pragmatic ways that UK Christians can further express the prophetic nature of what must inevitably be increasingly creative and diverse expressions of mission and ministry in the unfolding history of the United Kingdom'.

This book challenges us to rethink our understanding of mission in light of Britain's fast-changing social landscape. How can Black Majority Churches and other churches partner to effect structural and institutional change in our culturally and ethnically diverse society?

Israel Oluwole Olofinjana is the pastor of Woolwich Central Baptist Church, a Black Majority multicultural, multi-ethnic intergenerational church in south east London, and director of Centre for Missionaries from the Majority World. He has authored several books on the subject of reverse mission.

Partnership In Mission (ISBN 978-1-909728-35-6) by Israel Oluwole Olofinjana is published by Instant Apostle and is available from Lion Hudson c/o Marston and [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)

## **Bishop Eric Brown re-elected as CTE Pentecostal President**



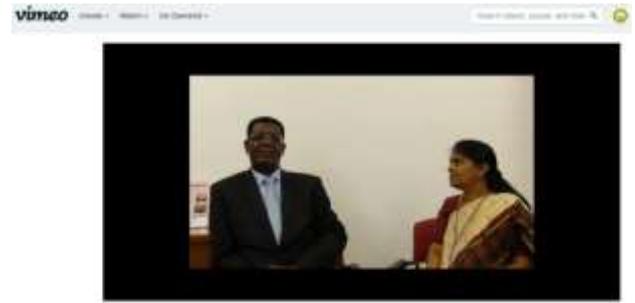
Bishop Dr Eric Brown, a bishop in the New Testament Church of God (known world-wide as 'Church of God'), has been re-elected as CTE Pentecostal President for a second term; to run from October 2015 – September 2017.

Bishop Dr Eric Brown has over 40 years of ministerial experience and is currently: a member of his church's World Missions Board responsible for co-ordinating the international missions in over 188 countries; pastor and superintendent in the borough of Lambeth. Until August 2014 he served as Administrative Bishop in the United Kingdom for an unprecedented three four-year terms, as well as Regional Superintendent for Ireland and Norway.

Bishop Brown was elected as the first Pentecostal President of CTE in 2013 and has worked assiduously to ensure that Pentecostalism is fully recognised and respected within and beyond the Christian community. He is Co-Founder of the Haringey Peace Alliance, Co-Founder & Chair of Trustees for Citizens UK, Former member of the Parole Board, Former member of Her Majesty's Commission for Racial Equality, Former member of the General Council of the Evangelical Alliance, Former General Secretary/Treasurer for the Afro West Indian United Council of Churches, Alumnus of the European Theological Seminary (Germany), Member of the Evangelical Alliance's One People Commission. He has been married to Millicent for 44 years and is a father to three sons and grandfather of seven.

## Bishop Brown on Churches Combating Modern Slavery-Human Trafficking for Freedom Sunday

Bishop Eric Brown is the District Bishop of New Testament Church of God, Brixton, and [Pentecostal President of Churches Together in England](#).



Here Bishop Brown speaks to Elizabeth Joy, from Churches Combating Modern Slavery-Human Trafficking (CCMS-HT) in a series of short interviews on Vimeo.

Click the links below:

[What is the driving force for Churches Combating Modern Slavery-Human Trafficking?](#)

[How do you respond to slavery and human trafficking today?](#)

[How do you see slavery in the Bible and today?](#)

[What do you say to black Pentecostals about slavery today?](#)

[What advice or comfort do you have for people caught in modern slavery and human trafficking?](#)

## Honey and Thistles

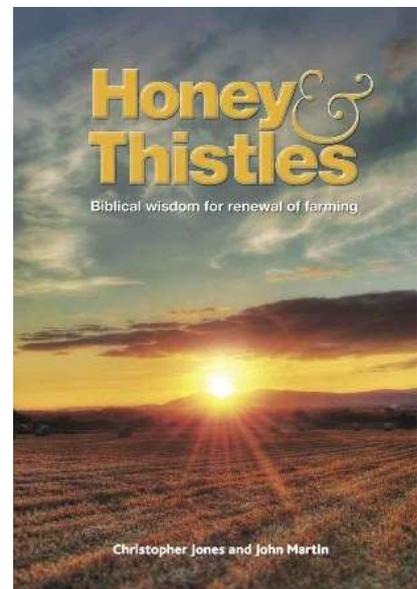
New book: 'Biblical wisdom for renewal of farming'

Jim Currin, Evangelisation, Mission and Media at Churches Together in England, reviews the new book by Christopher Jones and John Martin, written as part of the Agriculture and Theology Project.

I may be a staff link person for the Churches Rural Group, and once lived in a small village in Cumbria for 11 years as an evangelist and mission advisor, but I still learnt a great deal from this book exploring the biblical narrative and farming today.

Although I wasn't altogether sure about some comments, eg 'It is doubtful that most people make decisions about their lives purely on grounds of financial advantage' (p59), points are well made and clearly written, with plenty of apt illustration and ample evidence offered.

Having scoped the importance of farming and food for all people, and some of the key issues facing the world, the authors take care to say what their approach to the biblical narrative is. They start by saying 'Let's be clear. The Bible is not a manual for farming today' (p13) but then look at 12 great biblical themes eg God's world; Stewardship, Fairness, the Poor, Festivals and Feasts etc. to explore farming then and now. The Bible, they say, 'contains inspired principles with which we can set our moral compass by'. (127)



Looking at consumers and farmers, with current practice and environmental issues, free trade, ethics and technology, this book is informative and highly commendable. Farming may not be the subject uppermost in people's minds but questions explored like biodiversity, bees, soil erosion, farm chemicals and public health affect us all. As Christians we do well to read a book like this and dig deeper (pardon the pun) to apply scripture, faith and practice.

What the authors have done here is a good exercise that others could replicate in their own disciplines. We are used to books about relationships and family life, but what about exploring the biblical narrative for finance and work? As the title, 'Honey and Thistles' implies, this book looks at all aspects good and bad in the farming world and offers a cogent exploration of issues hidden from view for many of us.

This is a thoughtful book that prompts further questions. Throughout, the reader is conscious of the positive approach stated at the start, 'The authors firmly believe that when society's values and attitudes are in line with God's purposes, it is good for the planet, good for the global community and good for farming too.' (p15)

Honey and Thistles; Christopher Jones and John Martin. Agriculture and Theology Project.  
[www.honeyandthistles.uk](http://www.honeyandthistles.uk)

## **And finally ..**

We welcome contributions from a wide variety of people to write our Reflection of the Month, but we don't know of all the potential contributors. If you would like to offer a text for consideration in 2016, email [jim.currin@cte.org.uk](mailto:jim.currin@cte.org.uk).

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