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## There can be no turning back

In her closing [reflection](#) at the CTE Forum, Dame Mary Tanner spoke of "a renewed conviction that the ecumenical task is not to create some great architectural construction of the Church based on brilliant agreed doctrinal consensus statements, or cleverly constructed ecumenical joinery, though I am the first to acknowledge that we do need doctrinal statements on those things that were the causes of our division; we do need structures that enable us, structures of grace; and we do need to intensify our action together for the hurting and violent world.

But what we most need is a new confidence that, in spite of our ecclesial separations, we really do have a common belief in God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit and we really do believe in that mysterious relationship of mutual giving and receiving love that binds the persons of the Trinity in one, that mutual attentiveness, that perfect conformity of minds and wills that is the very life of God – evocatively captured in the way words can't in the Rublev icon of the Holy Trinity, a gift of the Russian Orthodox Church to us. That life has been poured out in love for the life of the world, in the dying of Jesus. In that act everything has been changed for all time, for all eternity. We share in that life as we abide in his love. We need to go on re-assuring one another that in spite of our ecclesial separations, our different views of Eucharist, or ministry, or primacy, or our different responses to the perplexing, complex ethical issues of our day, we really do believe in the same God and we believe that the unity of the Church has everything to do with making God's own life of love visible in such a way that new possibility is seen in the way we live together, for the life of the world.

We are to reveal to the world, by the way we live and love, God's loving intention for the whole world. Remember those qualities of love Paul talks of in Corinthians 13: patience, kindness, not insisting on our own way; not irritable or resentful but enduring all things – qualities that judge our personal lives and our communal lives. These are ecumenical virtues. We can only live in that way as far as we participate in the very life of the Triune God. God's life is the source of our loving attitudes and actions and the ground of our unity and the source of forgiveness when we fail. We belong to one another for no other reason than that we are enfolded in God's life of love, in the communion of God's love. Love binds the persons of the Trinity in one; love binds God to us; love binds us to God; and love binds us to one another in the love of God. It is God's life, God's life of love, that is the source of our unity and it is that love we are to show in the world. That's why, as Rowan Williams keeps telling us - 'The Church and its unity have to look like God and radiate and speak of God's own life.' To live apart from one another is to contradict the very nature of God's own being, to contradict love. To be visibly one is the only truly credible way to manifest God's love in our broken and hurting world.

That is our ecumenical vocation: there can be no turning back."

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## 118th Pope Announced for the Coptic Orthodox Church

The 118th Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of All Africa on the holy Apostolic See of Saint Mark was announced on 4 November 2012. Bishop Tawadrous was chosen in an altar ballot, concluding the Papal Selection Process for the Coptic Orthodox Church.

Bishop Tawadrous succeeds the late Pope Shenouda III, who departed on 17 March 2012. In a process that has taken nine months, the new Pope was selected in an altar ballot during a Liturgical service at The Grand Cathedral of St Mark in Cairo on 4 November 2012. The enthronement of the new Pope will take place on Sunday 18th November 2012 at the Grand Cathedral of St Mark, Cairo.

From St Mark Cathedral, His Grace Bishop Angaelos, General Bishop of The Coptic Orthodox Church in the United Kingdom said, "The atmosphere was wonderfully joyous in the Cathedral, as people not only here but all over the world raised their hearts asking God's selection for our new Pope and Patriarch. There was such a euphoric reaction when the name of Bishop Tawadrous was announced, and we now shift our prayers from God's selection to God's guidance and grace upon him to lead our beloved Coptic Orthodox Church as it continues its mission to be light and salt in Egypt and throughout the world."

For full details of the Papal Selection Process please visit [www.CopticCentre.Blogspot.com](http://www.CopticCentre.Blogspot.com)

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## Pope announces Year of Faith

On Sunday, 16 October 2011, Pope Benedict XVI, announced a 'Year of Faith'. The Holy Father said: "...it would be opportune to remember the beauty and the centrality of the faith, the need to strengthen and deepen it, both at the personal and the community level, and to do this in a perspective that is not so much celebratory, but rather, missionary -- precisely in the perspective of the mission ad gentes and the new evangelisation."

The 'Year of Faith' will begin on 11 October 2012, the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council and also the twentieth anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The beginning of the Year also coincides with the Synod of Bishops which will meet at the Vatican between 7 and 28 October 2012. The Year will end on 24 November, 2013 - the Solemnity of Christ the King.

His Holiness has issued an Apostolic Letter initiating the Year which states: "We want this Year to arouse in every believer the aspiration to profess the faith in fullness and with renewed conviction, with confidence and hope."  
(Paragraph 9).

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### **International affairs, justice and peace are key to the ecumenical future**

It is not imaginable for the World Council of Churches (WCC) to have a future "without a much stronger emphasis on international affairs and peace with justice," said Martin Robra, programme director for the study of ecumenism in the 21st century, at a consultation on "churches and the rule of law" in Geneva. The consultation, sponsored by the John Knox International Reformed Centre and the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) was held 28-31 October at the John Knox Center.

Robra observed that churches "have been wrestling in recent decades with a more substantive understanding of the rule of law. They were challenged to redefine their thoughts concerning the role of states, of national and international law, the use of force, human rights and impunity." He suggested that the time has come for the WCC to focus on discussion of these matters in order to "harvest the results of its Decade to Overcome Violence and renew the mandate of the Churches' Commission on International Affairs."

Other speakers at the conference included the WCRC general secretary Setri Nyomi, John Langlois of the World Evangelical Alliance, Elizabeth van der Heide of the Centre for Terrorism and Counterterrorism in the Netherlands, Carlos Lopez of the International Commission of Jurists, and Harmen van der Wilt, professor of international criminal law at the University of Amsterdam. A book-length report of the proceedings is in preparation.

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### **EU Member States urged to support the most deprived in Europe**

Eurodiaconia, Caritas Europa, Red Cross/EU Office, the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN), the European Federation of Food Banks and FEANTSA call on EU Member States to show commitment to the Europe 2020 Strategy and fully support the European Commission's proposal of a Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived.

More Europeans than ever before are finding themselves in extreme poverty. About 40 million people in the European Union are not able to meet their everyday basic needs, including a lack of food, adequate housing and other basic necessities. Overall poverty is increasing in Europe with more and more people falling below the poverty line and struggling to access basic goods and services. Material deprivation has a severe impact on the well-being of people and denies them a life lived in good health, in dignity and with respect for their fundamental rights.

Across Europe our members work daily with an increasing number of people experiencing extreme poverty. We know that without significant action that number will increase and the demand for assistance will increase. Providing assistance and support to meet basic needs requires substantial resources. Our members mobilise a broad spectrum of instruments including public funds and private sector funds. Yet there is much more need for solidarity with those living in extreme poverty and for making a real difference to their living conditions.

Specific means must continue to be available for food aid along with other assistance if we are to ensure social inclusion. The presentation of this proposal acknowledges the need for the European Union to provide some concrete support to address extreme poverty and deprivation and work towards social cohesion in Europe. We welcome the proposed Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived as a strong signal to step up such efforts at EU and national level.

A clear overarching strategy to prevent and combat poverty and social exclusion at EU level, combined with similar approaches in Member States is needed if we wish to reduce poverty and social exclusion by the Europe 2020 goal of 20 million by 2020. However, the Commission proposal would contribute to fighting extreme poverty and could serve as an entry point for people experiencing extreme poverty into complementary longer term inclusion and activation programmes such as the European Social Fund. Member States must support and adopt this programme in the context of the Multi Annual Financial Framework, ensure its funding at a minimum of 2.5 Billion Euros over the proposed programming period. Most of all, Member States must show their commitment to fundamental rights, reducing poverty in Europe and European solidarity.

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## Global Christian Forum programme continues

The Facilitation Group of the Global Christian Forum, which met in Strasbourg, France, in early July, confirmed the decisions of the GCF Committee in adopting a forward-looking programme of consultations, regional team visits and theological reflection.

A number of areas will receive high priority, including:

- Continuing close consultation with key global Christian World Communions and other bodies that were founding or early supporters of the GCF, including the World Council of Churches, the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, the World Evangelical Alliance and the Pentecostal World Fellowship. A key matter in these consultations thus far has been reflection on the 'journey with Jesus Christ' as each Forum encounter offers new insights and challenges in the common task of working for unity and understanding.
- The talks with these global pillar groups have highlighted the GCF's role in being a helpful leadership group where other avenues do not exist for discussion and reconciliation between Christian churches or organizations in matters of mutual interest.
- The formation of a GCF Theological Working Group (TWG) to reflect on and articulate the meaning of the GCF experience for the present and future church.
- Developing plans for one or more global thematic gatherings on issues that are a 'common challenge' to all Christians. For example: proselytism and mission, the persecuted church, or the future shape of global Christianity.
- To facilitate regional meetings and visits to help bring the GCF vision and method of inviting all Christians to the same table into focus. In relation to this, a team visit to Bangladesh took place in early October.
- The GCF is also assisting the Pentecostal Forum of Latin America and the Caribbean in its proposed meetings over the next several years. Other initiatives in the planning stages include a Middle East visit - following up on earlier consultations -- and a Caribbean Consultation, where a gathering of the full spectrum of Christian churches in that region will take place in 2013.
- The GCF Committee will meet in Accra, Ghana November 26-30, 2012. Plans are being drawn up for a meeting with national church leadership and local church visits by the committee members in association with the meeting. The GCF Facilitation Group is also aware, within the African context, of the hope for a Francophone gathering in the future.
- Importance of communications, including website update, logo and stationery designs and acceptance of a communication strategy.

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## World Communion of Reformed Churches to leave Geneva for Hanover

The Executive Committee of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) has voted to relocate its offices from Geneva, Switzerland to Hanover, Germany. The results of the vote taken via email were announced by WCRC President Jerry Pillay. "We welcome the move to Hanover which allows WCRC to continue to live out its mission as a Communion of churches. We will remain focused on our mandate of seeking church unity and justice in society and the economy and respect for the environment," he said.

The move comes in response to concerns about the cost of running an organization in Switzerland. These include staff salaries and the high value of the Swiss franc. Most WCRC membership fees and donations are made in Euros or American dollars that have dropped in value in the past several years against the strong Swiss franc. The move to Hanover is scheduled for the end of December 2013. The new offices will be located at the Calvin Centre owned by the Evangelical Reformed Church of Germany where the Reformed Alliance has its offices. WCRC has a seven-member staff.

WCRC general secretary, Setri Nyomi, says: "I am grateful for the dedicated staff team of the WCRC who have faithfully given themselves and their professional gifts to the Reformed family of churches worldwide and have been at the forefront of making a difference in the world. They are the ones called upon to make new sacrifices at this time of relocation." The Reformed church movement has had its offices in Geneva since 1948 when the World Presbyterian Alliance (a WCRC predecessor organisation) moved from Edinburgh, Scotland. At the time the World Council of Churches was in formation and Reformed church leaders felt it important to be close to colleagues in the global ecumenical movement.

In responding to the decision, WCRC Vice-President Yvette Noble-Bloomfield says: "The World Communion of Reformed Churches in making the decision to relocate from Geneva to Hanover, has demonstrated the desire to place itself in a position to deepen its core calling and interpretation of character that can further its response to the history, life and purpose of member churches. There must be a desire and a hope for a future that is redemptive and passionate even in the face of the challenges of change and the costly risk of relationships." According Nyomi, the move to Hanover is expected to save WCRC CHF200,000 per annum.

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## Christian unity is intrinsic to God's grace

"Christian unity is an intrinsic dimension of God's grace to us. It belongs to our faith, as we also confess it together in the creeds of the early church. To belong to Christ means to belong to the body of Christ, the church," said Revd Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, general secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC). He was referring to the covenanting process of five church denominations in Wales.

Tveit was reflecting on Christian unity in his keynote address at a conference called "The Gathering" on 13 October at Aberystwyth University in Wales, United Kingdom. He went on to say the "WCC needs new initiatives like the ones you are undertaking. We are called to be what we are in the mysterious fellowship in Christ, members of the same body, branches on the same tree, living stones in the same building. Unity is something that we have received and yet something always to be fulfilled, as grace, as the other values of the kingdom of God, like justice, peace, joy in the Holy Spirit, as life itself".

At the conference Tveit introduced the theme of the WCC's upcoming assembly 'God of life, lead us to justice and peace'. The assembly will take place next year in Busan, Republic of Korea. The conference was attended by representatives from the Covenanted Churches in Wales – the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church, the Presbyterian Church of Wales, the Church in Wales and some Covenanted Baptist congregations. [Back to top](#)

## WCC calls churches to pray for children

To promote children's rights and eliminate violence against children, the World Council of Churches (WCC) invites its member churches to join an inter-religious call for prayer and action on 20 November. The call is part of the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children, an initiative launched by the Arigatou International Foundation in 2008.

The World Day connects people of faith and goodwill around the Universal Children's Day on 20 November each year, for prayer and action on behalf of children. "We invite our member churches from around the world to take a moment on 20 November to pray for children around the world," said the Revd Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, general secretary of the WCC. "No matter what the situation is, war, disaster, disease or poverty, children suffer the most injustice. They are the innocent ones and we must lift them up to God in prayer. While we pray, we must also work to end the injustice that brings so much tragedy and pain to children. Without providing our children with safe and healthy environments, it is not possible to achieve peace in the communities."

The World Day's current campaign "Stop Violence against Children" is focused on ending all forms of violence, including domestic violence, child abuse, violence in schools, in community centres and places where children work. The World Day puts a special emphasis on positive parenting, ending child marriage and encouraging universal birth registration. The World Day has brought together several religious and international organizations to be engaged for children's rights and hold activities in their national contexts. To date around 189 World Day initiatives have been held in 82 countries. The initiative is co-chaired by the Revd Dr Hans Ucko, the WCC's former programme executive for inter-religious dialogue and cooperation.

Churches can also share prayers and plans via [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). [Back to top](#)

## New report by CAFOD partners

Plans for a massive expansion of Colombia's mining industry could cost the country dear in terms of human rights violations, environmental damage and lost tax revenues, a new report warns. British companies, already major investors in the country's oil and mineral wealth, are warned they face major challenges if they want to be seen to be investing responsibly, and respecting human rights.

*Giving It Away: The Consequences of an Unsustainable Mining Policy in Colombia* says safeguards are urgently needed as the country moves to triple the size of its mining industry in the next decade. Colombia supplies 55 per cent of the world's emeralds, as well as being a significant source of gold, silver and platinum, and a leading coal producer.

The report, by CAFOD partners ABColombia, says: 'Colombia risks giving its natural resources away at immense social, environmental and human rights cost.' Of particular concern is the way expansion could be used to legitimise the forced displacement of many thousands of people during decades of civil conflict. Much of the land they inhabited has now been parcelled up into mining concessions. 'The drive to have Colombia known regionally as a 'mining country' is being undertaken before land restitution policies have been implemented, increasing the difficulty of returning stolen lands to those who have been forcibly displaced,' says the report. Present expansion policies, which include the creation of Strategic Mining Areas to be auctioned off to foreign investors, could also put at risk the rights of indigenous and Afro-Colombian peoples, as well as threaten ecologically sensitive areas, and compromise land reserved for agricultural use.

CAFOD's Colombia expert Barbara Davies said: "The Colombian government is promoting mining as one of the main engines of economic growth in the country but so far the communities affected by the mining have seen little economic benefits. Many indigenous and Afro Colombian communities have spoken to CAFOD about the lack of consultation by mining companies and the government's disregard of the protection of areas of environmental importance. It is also worryingly that mining concessions have been awarded in areas of conflict where illegal armed groups continue to operate and threaten local community leaders."

Proposals to cut corporation tax for mining companies from 33 per cent to 25 per cent are also condemned, the report pointing out that even with the higher tax rate, mining companies made more from tax exemptions than they paid in tax and royalties in 2007 and 2009. The report says the risk to companies of reputational damage by benefitting from human rights abuses is 'high'. Case studies it carries 'demonstrate that despite well-elaborated Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policies, UK-based mining corporations do not always operate in a socially responsible way.'

ABColumbia's Programme and Advocacy Manager Louise Winstanley explained: "Despite the context of human rights abuses and the risk of corporations inadvertently infringing human rights, some British corporations investing in Colombia already appear to be benefiting from weak governmental institutions to make even higher profits. Given the potential for human rights violations, environmental degradation and the destruction of ecological capital that mining corporations can cause, it is essential that corporations are held to account for their behaviour overseas." If the UK is to uphold the spirit of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the report adds, it needs to introduce new legislation providing access to the UK judicial system for communities in developing countries to protect them from corporate abuses by UK companies. [Back to top](#)

### Looking Back at the CTE Forum

Janet Scott, Moderator of the Forum, writes 'About 270 people, representatives of member churches, of intermediate ecumenical bodies and of bodies in association, together with staff and guests, met at Swanwick for the CTE Forum in the year which has seen the 50th anniversary of the opening of the second Vatican Council and the 25th anniversary of the Swanwick declaration which brought CTE into being. We were reminded of how the ecumenical movement has changed over those years, with more diversity as more churches come into membership, but also with steadily growing friendship and trust. We have a story to celebrate.

Our worship and study was grounded in the scripture, chapters 12 and 13 of Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth. Based on this we celebrated the connection between unity and diversity in the one body, and appreciated the gifts which are found in traditions different from our own. From this scripture came our overall theme, 'What does love require of us?'

Helped by our Presidents' panel we began to consider the way forward for the ecumenical movement in England, recognising that at the moment there is often a tension between the local where there can be a freshness of energy and activity, and the national where progress can appear to be slow. We were reminded of the importance of prayer. We need to pray together more intentionally and more deeply. In being faithful to our own traditions we need to recognise and honour each other's faithfulness and commitment to seeking the will of God. It may be time to revisit our understanding of visible unity, realising that it is God's gift which we can only make visible together.

As we considered what love requires of us we trusted that our relationships were strong enough for us to look at questions which have the potential to divide our churches. We tried to do this in ways which encouraged us to listen to each other and to find the gifts of the Holy Spirit in ways and views which differ from our own.

Helped by this and by all our conversations together we were able in our final session to agree the following minute of the Forum which we send to CTE for the Trustees and the Enabling Group for consideration, and to all participants to be shared with their local churches and the bodies which they represent, trusting that the loving Spirit which was present with us will also guide those who read and hear it.' [Back to top](#)

### Intermediate Body Chair made Ecumenical Canon

At an Evensong in September, Canon Keith Judson was installed. "I hadn't known quite what to expect" he said. "In the event it was wonderful occasion, full of joy and for which I'm deeply grateful to God and to all the friends who shared it with me". The Rt Revd John Inge, Bishop of Worcester noted how the new canon does a great deal for ecumenism in this county in his capacity as Chair of Worcestershire Churches Together and added that he has come to value Keith not just as a colleague but as a friend.

In his sermon, Bishop John spoke of the 'great ejection' when many ministers left the Church of England on theological grounds 350 years ago. "Installing Keith as an honorary Canon was one small way of making amends and bringing healing to the Church which was ruptured at that time".

Canon Keith Judson, who is a Baptist Regional Minister, reflects on the experience: "As I walked towards the Bishop, accompanied by the Cathedral Steward, I recalled that exactly one hundred years ago my maternal great great grandfather, Alfred Turner, died in Bromsgrove Workhouse. My ancestors were nailmakers, among those dubbed the 'white slaves of England' in the 19th Century. They could surely never have imagined that a son of theirs would one day be presented to the Bishop of Worcester and made a Canon of the Cathedral. Thanks be to God!" [Back to top](#)

### Frontline Generation take back the City of Birmingham

"Three regions, twenty churches or organisations represented and an incredible twelve hours! Frontline Birmingham, gathered 250 young people to pray for and in the city centre of Birmingham under the mandate Take Back The City!

The afternoon experience of praying in strategic locations on mass through the city was compelling, starting at the Rep theatre praying for Arts and Entertainment, we progressed to the Council House and then on to St Philips Cathedral where we were confronted by hundreds of Manchester City fans being escorted to Snow Hill station! The youth chanted 'Jesus' in reply to their singing! The prayer space in the cathedral grounds partnered with Healing on the Streets and saw an incredible afternoon of prayer, opportunity and witness!

The next leg saw prayer outside the law courts, the children's hospital in front of the teenage cancer trust (very moving), University campuses and the Bull Ring at 3:40 Saturday afternoon in such a huge crowd they all knelt and declared the Lord's Prayer in the middle of that area! The fruit is yet unseen but the significance compelling for how God can mobilise and move for the future! A young generation on the Frontline!" writes Jonny Lee of Birmingham Christian Centre. [Back to top](#)

### One World Week in Bideford

Christians Together in Bideford and District, North Devon, held a One World Week Exhibition at St Mary's Church, Bideford, on Thursday October 25<sup>th</sup> with the title **Reaching Out** – a showcase of local groups who are reaching out into the community.

Exhibitors included Bideford Food Bank, Bideford Sustainability Group, Christian Aid, Edukid, Harbour-Bideford, Maintained Churchyard, North Devon Biosphere, St Margaret's Knit and Natter Group, St Mary's Children's Music Group, Small Dog Rescue, Street Pastors, School Pastors, Wings South West, and more.

People said "Can we do this again? Can we invite schools (since what is going on in the community is part of the curriculum)? Can we do better advertising? Can we involve more people who would like to showcase what they are doing: Police, Fire Brigade, Social Services, Volunteer Bureau, Play Groups, Church Groups, Choirs, Transport, Support Groups, Carers, Sure Start, etc? Can we have an active evening with the Wings Group, Music Makers and the Open Book acting out what they do? We shall need to plan ahead..." [Back to top](#)

### World Record Carol Singing Attempt

Do you want to raise the profile of your church and make sure you fill it this Christmas? Then why not use the world record attempt to help attract local press coverage? Premier is once again coordinating an attempt to break the World Record for the largest number of carol singers in multiple locations. If you've signed up your church to participate we can help you tell your local press!

Last year, many church leaders experienced the benefits of telling the local press about their world record service including being interviewed for the local paper and also inspiring journalists to come along and find out what all the fuss is about! "We had a great evening and the numbers exceeded our expectations. Even the press photographer came along..." Revd Smith – Weston Super-Mare

Similarly, by promoting the service in your local press you are more likely to reach more people, in particular those who would not otherwise come to church. What a legacy this will create for your church - being known in the local community for doing something innovative, inclusive and uplifting at such an important time of the year! If you have not entered your church for the Guinness World Record Attempt, then it's not too late - just visit:

[www.premier.org.uk/worldrecord](http://www.premier.org.uk/worldrecord)

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### Taking the Good News to the Streets

A new and exciting mission opportunity as developed for ISR in Bristol to work within our calling of taking the Gospel message out into the world and serving people where they are. From the 9th November to 29th December 2012, Bristol Shopping Quarter will be welcoming the return of The Bristol German Christmas Market. Alongside this will be the Local Christmas Market will be open every day from 6th December until 23rd December. In addition to the wide

range of stalls, the Christmas festivities in Broadmead Shopping Quarter include a skating rink located at The Podium and Santa's Grotto in The Galleries.

During this busy period for the stall owners, and retail outlets, a group of Chaplains from ISR, will be working alongside, the permanent Retail Chaplain, Revd Andy Sewell, to offer pastoral support and a listening ear to staff and customers of the Christmas Market. Andy believes it is; "a very important way to serve and support people, often working away from home, during a busy time of the year". The team are excited to have the opportunity to get alongside people where they are, and serve our local community in a very practical way.

For more information about this new initiative of chaplaincy to the Christmas Markets, and or information on Retail chaplaincy please contact [admin@ccisr.org.uk](mailto:admin@ccisr.org.uk) or [retailchaplain@gmx.co.uk](mailto:retailchaplain@gmx.co.uk) [Back to top](#)

## Prisons Week 18-24 November Taking the Path of Life

The idea of a path as opposed to a motorway is one of degree; the path is gentler, better suited to human feet and often harder to find; so we may need more sensitive guidance than the 'sat nav' which seems regularly to lead us astray, as it seeks to send heavy lorries down bridleways with disastrous effect. Jesus, as John's gospel tells us, is the Way; he is also our companion and guide on the journey. Seeking to follow the "path of life" is not always straightforward, but with his help and companionship the way becomes clearer and the path more obvious. We do not make the journey alone, but in the company of the faithful, our brothers and sisters, and of Jesus himself; though like those on the road to Emmaus, we may not always recognise him in one another. We pray this week for all those engaged in any way in the criminal justice system, for guidance, inspiration and refreshment on their journey, and for a vision of God's justice and mercy that sustains them on their way.

***The Prisons Week Prayer:** Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day. Amen*

The Christian life is often described as a journey, and we are the travellers or pilgrims on that journey. Our theme for this Prisons Week comes from Psalm 16:11, "You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures for evermore." [Back to top](#)

## Interfaith Week 18-27 November

There is a growing need for Christians to be connected with their neighbours of other faiths in a spirit of coherent witness and friendly exchange. There is good ecumenical collaboration nationally and locally. A generous donation has enabled the printing and circulation of the postcard on the theme *My neighbour is another me*. View the postcard and resource on [www.cte.org.uk/myneighbour](http://www.cte.org.uk/myneighbour) or via the CTE website front page.

Inter Faith Week 2012 will take place from Sunday 18 - Tuesday 27 November 2012. This special extended Week is in anticipation of additional activities taking place because of the Diamond Jubilee, including some with a link both to the Week and to the '[A Year of Service](#)' programme.

Inter Faith Week:

- **Highlights** the good work done by local faith, inter faith and faith-based groups and organisations
- **Draws** new people into inter faith learning and cooperation
- **Enables** greater interaction between people of different backgrounds
- **Helps** develop integrated and neighbourly communities
- **Celebrates** diversity and commonality
- **Opens** new possibilities for partnership

Building good relationships and working partnerships between people of different faiths and beliefs is part of the year-round work of many people and organisations across the UK.

Having a special Week provides a focal point, helping to open inter faith activity up to a wider audience so that more and more people are made aware of the importance of this vital work and are able to participate in it.

### **The three aims of the Week are:**

- Strengthening good inter faith relations at all levels



- Increasing awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society
- Increasing understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs

**Anyone can take part in Inter Faith Week** and hold Inter Faith Week events. **Inter Faith Week is for everyone.** Some of the many kinds of organisations who have participated in previous Weeks include:

- faith communities and their places of worship
- community and voluntary groups
- inter faith bodies
- youth groups
- schools and SACREs
- institutions of further and higher education
- local authorities and other public agencies
- sports organisations
- museums
- businesses and workplaces
- TV and radio stations
- and many others

The Week in England is led by the [Inter Faith Network for the UK](#), working with its [member bodies](#). [Back to top](#)

## Human Dignity and Faithful Discipleship

Is there a common Christian vision? For all those who need to find ways of communicating Christian ethics with grace!

- Two well respected theologians within the setting of Lee Abbey.
- A wonderful opportunity to hear and engage with Keith Ward and Andrew Goddard, exploring sensitive issues from different Christian perspectives.
- A time to learn, grow, worship, pray and be re-energised to face our changing and challenging world.

Keith Ward is ordained and a Professional Research Fellow in Philosophy of Religion and a Fellow of the British Academy. He was formerly Regius Professor of Divinity and a Canon of Christ Church, Oxford. He is on the Council of the Royal Institute of Philosophy and is a member of the Editorial Boards of Religious Studies, Journal of Contemporary Religion, Studies in Inter-Religious Dialogue and World Faiths Encounter. He is the author of numerous books including *The Philosopher and the Gospels*, *Is Religion Irrational?* and *What the Bible Really Teaches*.

Andrew Goddard is an Anglican Minister who has taught Christian Ethics at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford and Trinity College, Bristol. He is the editor of the Anglican theological journal *Arvill*, a fellow of the Anglican Communion Centre, and a member of the Church of England's Faith and Order Advisory Group. He is also a member of the Leadership Team of *Fulcrum* (renewing the Evangelical centre within the Church of England). He is currently working on a book on the retiring Archbishop of Canterbury, *Rowan Williams: his Legacy* to be published in 2013. In November 2012 he will be installed as an Honorary Canon of Winchester Cathedral in recognition of his service to the Anglican Community. If you want to know more about this special event give us a call on 01598 752621, email at [relax@leeabbey.org.uk](mailto:relax@leeabbey.org.uk) or [book online](#) today! [Back to top](#)

## Building Social Harmony

The conference of Faithnetsouthwest will be on Thursday 22 November 2012 at Taunton Central Library, Paul Street, Taunton, TA1 3XZ from 9.45am to 3.00pm. 'The theme will be the contribution of faith in the current financial climate: Building Social Harmony'.

What role should faith groups play in the community, as community resources come under increasing financial pressure? With our range of speakers we hope to answer this question and also to demonstrate the difference that faith groups are making to community life in the south west.

For a booking form contact: [info@faithnetsouthwest.org.uk](mailto:info@faithnetsouthwest.org.uk) or [alistair@faithnetsouthwest.org.uk](mailto:alistair@faithnetsouthwest.org.uk) [Back to top](#)

## Following the Missionary Spirit: going forward with fresh expressions

On Thursday 22nd November 2012 from 11.00-16.00 at HTB Brompton Road, London, SW7 1JA there will be a national event to review the fresh expressions movement so far and to look to the future, with a keynote address from Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, plus talks from Martyn Atkins (Methodist Church), Val Morrison (URC) and Graham Cray (Fresh Expressions) plus discussion, resources, prayer and worship led by Tom Smith, Moot, re:generation and others. Please book places (£15) [here](#). [Back to top](#)

## 'Getting to know Jesus'

A [Led Quiet Day at Ammerdown](#) with Euan Tait on 23 November

Following a gently rhythm of prayer, teaching and silence, the aim will be to go deeply into the words of Jesus, to live with them in prayer and quiet, to look at the way we respond and thus seek to deepen our relationship with Him. There will also be time to enjoy Ammerdown's lovely surroundings, and reconnect with the beauty of God's creation. Our hope is that you will leave with new insights and new understanding of what Jesus is saying to you, and how He is working in your life. [Back to top](#)

## Rural Days in Devon and Cornwall

There are two opportunities to explore faith sharing in the West Country next month.

**Reflecting on Rural Mission** is a one-day consultation at Chacewater Village Hall on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. It will be ideal for rural church leaders, lay or ordained, of any denomination and others concerned for the life and witness of rural churches. Experienced speakers include Barry Osborne, author of *The Key to Effective Rural Evangelism* and *Rural Evangelism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, and Gordon Banks, Church Army Officer, Rural Link Officer and author of the Arthur Rank Centre *Rural Evangelism Course*.

The day will include the opportunity to hear about and explore various contemporary, sustainable, practical and relevant rural mission strategies, to meet with other rural church leaders, enjoy fellowship and learn from one another and see useful resources. It will be a great opportunity for only £5.00 including lunch. To book, or for further information, contact Rosey Sanders, Truro Diocesan House, Kenwyn, Truro TR1 1JQ ☎ 01872 274351. Useful websites are [www.ruralmissionsolutions.org.uk](http://www.ruralmissionsolutions.org.uk) [www.ruralevangelism.net](http://www.ruralevangelism.net) and, for the venue, [www.chacewater.net/villagehall](http://www.chacewater.net/villagehall)

A **Rural Vision Day**, hosted by Fresh Expressions, the Diocese of Exeter and the Plymouth and Exeter District of the Methodist Church, will be held at Cullompton Community Centre on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. Imagining church for those who 'don't do church', this will be a day of insight, prayer and shared experience exploring new ways of growing Christian community in rural settings.

It will be led by Anna Norman-Walker (Diocesan Missioner), Ian Adams (Fresh Expressions Missioner and author of *Cave Refectory Road: monastic rhythms for contemporary living*), Dave Martin (Methodist Mission Enabler) and Simon Martin (Arthur Rank Centre). To book a free place, please e-mail [justine.tear@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:justine.tear@exeter.anglican.org) ☎ 01392 272686 and bring your own lunch. [Back to top](#)

## A Day of Reflection for the Season of Advent

Sr Mairead Quigley, senior chaplain at Sarum College where her role includes spiritual direction, retreats and supervision, leads a gentle day of prayer, stillness and quiet reflection in Salisbury's Cathedral Close. Friday 7 December from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm, the cost is £45 including lunch and refreshments. For booking enquiries, contact Alison Ogden [aogden@sarum.ac.uk](mailto:aogden@sarum.ac.uk) ☎ 01722 424826 [Back to top](#)

## Think – Speak – Act

### Equipping Christians for mission and justice

A one-day conference of inspiration and practical advice to help join the dots between action, politics and discipleship

**Saturday 2 February 2013** 10.30am - 4.00pm at Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham B4 7SX

#### Speakers:

Revd Dr Giles Fraser, priest, writer and broadcaster

Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, General Secretary of the Methodist Church

#### Workshops to include:

- Preaching and praying for justice
- Getting your message across to your local media
- Ten top tips for running a campaign
- Lies, damned lies and statistics!
- What are the needs of my local area?
- Praxis: From theology to action using the pastoral cycle
- A local politician's guide to changing your community

Cost £10 to cover the cost of lunch and coffee; Places will be limited, so [register](#) early

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## Widening our Gaze

Ever wondered about supervision in your ministry but not been sure how to go about it? If so, the short introductory workshop at [Sheldon](#) next February may be just what you need.

In two days it will give you a good understanding of the supervisory process and its benefits, and equip you to choose and contract with a supervisor. Amidst the sometimes overwhelming and isolating demands of modern ministry it can be really helpful to have a regular safe place to reflect on the experience of the service you are providing to others.

Led by Tony Nolan MSC, an APSE accredited Pastoral Supervisor with 25 years' experience working reflectively with groups and individuals, from 9.30am Monday 18th to 4.30pm Tuesday 19th February, £100 resident, £70 non-resident. [\*Back to top\*](#)