

Reflection of the Month: The 1918 Education Act

Janet Scott writes:



As the Great War wound its weary way to peace through exhaustion, the Minister of Education, the historian H A L Fisher, successfully steered through Parliament a Bill which increased the length of school attendance, regulated child labour, and made provision for physical activity and health.

The Friend, a Quaker weekly journal, commented on the Bill:

The new conditions of the time - the growth of knowledge, the coming of democracy, the arresting circumstances of the War, the awakened social conscience - have exerted their profound and penetrating influence. New occasions teach new duties; new evidence, manual, social and physical, leads to new conclusions. Perhaps not of least effect have been the findings of the school doctor in every community in the land, that health is the primary need and comes before intellect, that premature juvenile labour injures the body and mind of the child, that fresh air and exercise build up its body, that neglect of the little child produces disease in the older child, and above all that the child must be dealt with as an individual.....

In this Bill the nation decides to bring to an end, once and for all, the false and mischievous principle that the education of the child may be subservient, or even sacrificed, to its premature labour; it decides to unify the whole system of education, to improve and safeguard the physical condition of the child and thus of future generations, to secure that the child does not leave school at the critical juncture when its education is of highest value and potentiality, to supplement its training both by more practical instruction and by continuance to adolescence, and to make a highway in England for true learning; and above all in this Bill there is the spirit of man's right to know and to enjoy the treasures of the mind as the basis of good citizenship and of good life.

Supporting these improvements in the public system of education was not without problems for Friends. There were numerous schools, often small day schools, founded and run by Quakers, the existence of which was threatened by a better public system with more highly paid teachers. The dilemma was whether Friends should continue with an education for their own children which inculcated their own principles, or whether as the public system adopted more and more of those principles they should abandon their own schools and use the public provision. In the eventuality, parents 'voted with their feet'; only six of the schools present in 1918 (all with boarding) now survive, and very few Quaker children attend them. The gains for which Quaker MPs (among others) had worked, and which the Society supported were accompanied by loss.

An easy way to cause a conflict in a Quaker meeting is to mention Quaker schools. There are those who are wedded to principles of equality in provision who see independent schools as socially divisive; and there are those who value freedom and the ability to experiment which comes from independence. Some are wary of total state control of the curriculum. All however would probably agree with what Fisher wrote about the purpose of education: it rests upon the right of human beings to be considered as ends in themselves and...entitled, so far as our imperfect social arrangements may permit, to know and to enjoy all the best that life can offer in the sphere of knowledge, emotion and hope.

Whilst things have changed in education over the past hundred years are we any nearer achieving this aim?

Janet Scott is a member of the Society of Friends and a Director of CTE.

Education Sunday 9th September 2018



Resources are used by churches, schools, colleges, individuals and groups. The 2018 theme is 'Faith and Works'.

The resources are written by a group representing a range of traditions and agencies, listed on the [Education Sunday page](#).

The resources are free to use. Each is a download document or graphic:

[Theme Introduction](#)

[Bible Readings](#)

[All Age Worship outline](#)

[Sermon Notes](#)

[Lewis FE Case Study](#)

[She is the tree of life hymn](#)

[Hymns and Songs](#)

[Commissioning prayer](#)

[Primary Collective Worship](#)

[Publicity Style Guide](#)

[Logo small for web pages 300px](#)

[Logo medium for brochure 700px](#)

[Logo larger for display 1000px](#)



The above links go to a download file which you can save and use for Education Sunday. The images on this page are copyright free and there is no need to credit. We hope everyone involved in education is richly blessed this Education Sunday.

[More information about Education Sunday](#)

[Archived resources from previous years can be found here.](#)

The short link is www.cte.org.uk/educationsunday2018

Spirit of Windrush service Westminster Abbey 22nd June

David Cornick, General Secretary of CTE writes:



A glorious June, not a cloud in the sky. London at its entrancing best. Westminster Abbey packed with the families, friends and church communities of the Windrush generation and their children and spiritual descendants. This service of thanksgiving for their contribution to multicultural Britain, like all ecumenical celebrations, has been a long time in the planning. Unlike most, it got overshadowed in recent weeks by political storms about migration and the dreadful treatment of some members of the Windrush generation by the State which gave it a whole new meaning and significance.

That hurt was not ignored, but it was placed in the broader story of the mix of racism, caution, fear and, yes, some genuine kindness, that the first settlers experienced, and in the longer sweep of the history of a people who grew their culture from the adversity of African slavery and a passionate belief in a God who sets his people free and never forsakes them. A fine group of teenage actors wove those themes through the worship.

The God who loves and liberates, the God who has sustained and empowered the Windrushers, was felt and set free in their music. In a gloriously infectious anthem, 'As I travel through this pilgrim land', Karen Gibson's choir had the whole Abbey swaying and clapping! And the specially commissioned 'Psalm to Windrush', finely interpreted by four soloists, reminded us all of the dreams and hopes of the migrants and the compassion of God.

Joel Edwards, one of the gifts of the Windrush generation to the English churches, probed the relationship between the experience of the Israel's captivity in Babylon and that of migrant communities. He underscored Jeremiah's advice (Jer 29:4-11) - settle down, marry, have children, pray for the city's welfare, for in its welfare lies your own. The final prayers, led again by the teenage actors, combined a litany which gave thanks for the contributions of so many men and women of Caribbean descent to our life in politics, sport, culture, the arts, spirituality and church life with prayers for openness to God's future, and a willingness to take the pain of the past and use it to help build a future where we learn to put hatred behind us and value each and every child of God.

The presence of the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary and the Mayor of London was in itself a tribute to the contribution of the Windrushers to our life, but also a reminder that the gospel speaks into the very heart of policy making. This was a service about the future as much as the past. The second lesson, read beautifully by young schoolboy Jayden Hamilton, reminded us that God places the treasure of the gospel into earthen vessels. The stories of the Windrush generation remind us of that reality. All of us should take heart from the ways in which, through their lives and churches, the children of the Windrush generation have borne witness to the power of God who helped them triumph over so many adversities.

Photo credit: Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Link to all available pictures, newspaper articles, Sermon Notes by Joel Edwards:

https://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/525196/Home/News/Latest_news/Spirit_of_Windrush.aspx

Methodists to continue exploring a relationship of communion with Anglicans



Press Release from the Methodist Church
2nd July 2018:

The Methodist Conference, meeting in Nottingham until July 5, has welcomed the Mission and Ministry in Covenant joint report by the Methodist Church and the Church of England. The report outlines proposals for bringing the Methodist Church and the Church of England into communion with each other. If accepted the proposals would enable interchangeability between presbyteral ministries and see increased missional opportunities as the two churches work closer together to support the communities they serve.

The report was positively received by representatives at the annual Methodist Conference, the governing body of the Methodist Church which is currently meeting in Nottingham. The Church's Faith and Order Committee, with the Church of England's Faith and Order Commission, will now undertake further work on the issues detailed in the report and bring its response back to the Conference in 2019 for consideration. The joint report has already been welcomed by the Church of England at its General Synod in February 2018 and the Bishop of Carlisle and the Bishop of Aston were invited to address the Methodist Conference before it received an update on the work, which included responses from the Church's ecumenical partners.

The discussion gave members of the Conference an opportunity to consider the Mission and Ministry in Covenant report and the impact of its proposals, including what difference the proposals could make and whether they are consistent with Methodist theology. The Conference asked for further work to be done and for a further report to be brought to the 2019 Conference.

The Revd Canon Gareth J Powell, Secretary of the Conference, commented: "These proposals seek to articulate common ground and to honour the differences between our Churches. This is not about each partner becoming more like the other but about discovering ways of being in a closer relationship with integrity, grace and generosity. "The path towards reconciliation is of great significance to all within our Churches and there are many steps that will be required to be undertaken by both Churches as we continue on this process of discernment."

The full Faith and Order Committee [Report can be found here](#).

Photo Anglican Bishop Rt Rev Anne Hollinghurst speaking at the Methodist Conference.
Photo credit Alexbakerphotography.com

New links between Church of England and black-majority churches



Church of England congregations will be able to share mission and ministry with a range of churches in their area more easily under plans due to receive final approval by the General Synod next month. A long-anticipated overhaul of rules underpinning ecumenical relations is expected to open the way for parishes to take part in joint worship with more churches than previously possible.

For the first time this will include churches without a large national structure – something which will particularly affect newer independent evangelical, Pentecostal and Charismatic groups including many black-led churches. The move - part of a drive to simplify ecclesiastical law - is among several significant legislative changes being considered at Synod which meets in York from July 6-10.

Dr Joe Aldred of Churches Together in England, who serves as an Ecumenical Representative for Pentecostals on General Synod and is a bishop in the Church of God of Prophecy, welcomed the change. He said: "This is a great moment for relations between the Church of England and Pentecostal and Charismatic denominations and congregations, including many black-led churches, as we share the task of building the Kingdom of God in this country.

In working together and worshipping together our churches have the potential to transform their neighbourhoods. The shape and style of the Church in England has changed considerably over the years and this legislation reflects the new reality on the ground. Through the work of the Pentecostal Presidency in Churches Together in England, I have seen just what is possible by strengthening relationships, engaging in prayer and mission together and I hope and pray this change in legislation will mean we can do even more together."

This article was first published by the [Church of England](#) from a longer article. Additional press from [the Times](#)

How churches can be involved in the Local Plan



Carol Richards is a member of the [Churches Group for New Housing Areas](#) of Churches Together in England, and has written about how churches can be involved with the new housing agenda re the Local Plan. It was written for the [website of the Diocese of Chelmsford](#) in which she is the Mission in Regeneration Adviser, and the resource document is applicable for all churches and Churches Together groups.

With 300,000 new homes estimated to be built in Essex and East London over the next

20 years, Carol is advising church-goers to get involved in local authority plans, saying "It is vital for churches to get involved in consultations on local plans at the earliest stage. Churches have a significant role in providing activities to meet community needs from toddlers through every stage of life. But local planning authorities often omit to mention places of worship in their plans. If clergy and church-goers don't mention churches, who will? I am advising church people to respond to the consultation on the local plan as individuals. This is because every response counts but a response from a church group only counts as a single response."

The National Planning Policy Framework takes a positive view of places of worship. It states that local plans should aim to keep and develop these as part of sustaining healthy communities where people can live well. The Garden City principles make it clear that residents should be able to walk to places of worship. "The local plan is not exactly an action-packed novel to read on the beach but it contains lots of really useful information. Don't let the planning jargon put you off," Carol says. "It is hardly surprising that clergy and church-goers have so much to contribute to local authority plans given they live in the local area 24/7."

Carol's advice accompanies the resource document, [Planning Matters - How churches can be involved in plans for new housing areas](#) (direct link) can be [downloaded from the regeneration web page](#) (general link) of the website for the Diocese of Chelmsford.

Ecumenical leader appointed President of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland

Debbie Hodge writes:

On July 1st every year the leadership teams of Rotary International change, at local, national and international level. In the UK and Ireland some 48,000 Rotarians welcome in their new club president, in each geographical region a new District Governor takes the helm and in the territory that is known as Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland the new President is installed. This year I have the privilege of taking up that post.

Rotarians see a world where people come together to take action and make lasting change across the globe, in their communities and in themselves. Through projects and community initiatives Rotary makes a difference in the lives of many people: through their support of Memory Cafes they support those with dementia and their carers; in local schools Rotarians are often School governors, but will also be found supporting reading schemes and helping with outdoor activities. The Rotary Peace Scholars are impacting on both the global and local challenge of building peace, with community programmes that bring people together and by working with the UN and other such organisations to bring in policies that bring peace. From sand dams in Africa, Eye Hospitals in India, to Blood Pressure Awareness days in the local high street of the UK and Ireland Rotary is indeed taking action and making lasting change.

A lasting legacy that has taken over 30 years to build will be the eradication of Polio



across the globe. The eradication project began when one Rotarian decided that the newly developing vaccines created an opportunity to immunise his village. Out of that has grown the largest global humanitarian project that brings together Rotary, WHO, UNICEF, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Office for Communicable Diseases, who are working to ensure that polio is eliminated. This year there have been just 11 cases worldwide – but it needs to drop the zero, and Rotary is committed to making that happen!

With the job comes the opportunity to support Rotarians in their work and to share Rotary's story with anyone and everyone, for Rotary is doing amazing work in every corner of the globe, and is active in your local community!

For further information look at <https://www.rotarygbi.org>

Debbie is URC Minister, Secretary for Health Care Chaplaincy for the [Free Churches Group](#), Chief Officer of the Healthcare Chaplaincy Faith and Belief Group and has a leadership role for Healthcare Chaplaincy with the NHS.

Archbishop of Canterbury: Called to be workers for peace in Europe



Some might find it ironical that one of the speakers on the question of the future of Europe at the Conference of European Churches (CEC) General Assembly, convening in Novi Sad, Serbia, should be a representative of the Church of England, a bit over two years after the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union.

Speaking to the 450 participants on the future of Europe, Justin Welby, archbishop of Canterbury, dared to say that "Europe is not in danger. And there is no reason why I would suggest that Brexit or any other current crisis would derail the European Union or bring about the fall of Europe."

Responding to a question from a journalist at the subsequent press conference, who asked him to explain a bit more—particularly regarding the young people who represent this future—Welby used a football metaphor, just before the World Cup kicks off: "If you want to get the ball, you have to be on the ground! I think that we first have to talk about these things with young people."

Going beyond this appeal to civic commitment, the archbishop of Canterbury above all appealed to the commitment of Christians and churches. "The church crosses boundaries and borders as though they did not exist. Being in Christ, I am united by God and a family that extends around the world and crosses cultural, linguistic and ecumenical borders, led by the Spirit that breaks down all the walls that we seek to set up," he said.

Obviously, this appeal to cross borders resounds in a special way in the context of Novi Sad, (the scene of NATO bombings in 1999), Serbia (a country at the gates of the

European Union), and during the central gathering in the life of CEC. “The gift of reconciliation must call the churches to unity and, in that, we attach great importance to CEC and ecumenical work. Reconciliation is also much more than that: it draws us forward in our quest to become workers for peace,” he said.

Recognising the still smarting wounds on the continent of Europe, and in the churches, Welby recognised that reconciliation and peace-building were arduous paths, saying, “It is the journey of several generations, when our historical resentments and hatreds rise up in rebellion from the bottom of our hearts. It is not a matter of agreeing on everything—that is impossible—but of accepting diversity, and even discord, while still retaining love in all things.”

Acknowledging and accepting these disagreements, while retaining our love for one another, is also something to teach the youth of our countries. Welby invited his listeners to take young people to the places that recall the divisions of Europe and to accompany them so that they get involved in the places that have recently suffered fratricidal wars. “I took my own children to the Memorial at Caen,” he noted. “They discovered that, in conflicts, there is always a sharing of responsibility; that is the very poison of conflict. They also got involved in humanitarian action, which changed their lives.”

Photo: Mladen Trkulja/CEC.

Article originally posted on <https://www.ceceurope.org/archbishop-of-canterbury-called-to-be-workers-for-peace-in-europe/>

British ecumenist writes a book for WCC 70th anniversary

WCC writes:

The World Council of Churches ((WCC) has published a book by British ecumenist Rev. Dr Donald W. Norwood presenting the story of the global church network since its creation in 1948. *Pilgrimage of Faith: Introducing the World Council of Churches* offers a lively and informative historical sketch of the organization and is a key resource to mark WCC’s 70th anniversary.



The book traces the history of the WCC in a fresh and vivid retelling of its ten global assemblies held on five continents in which key ecumenical themes were explored such as church unity, ecumenical prayer, care of creation, anti-racism, and support of women’s role in church and society. The book includes a gallery of historic photos, reproductions of assembly posters, and a timeline showing the ten assemblies and their themes.

Pilgrimage of Faith was launched by WCC Central Committee moderator Dr Agnes Abuom during the recent meeting of the committee in Geneva. In introducing the publication, Abuom told the 35 Central Committee members and guests gathered for the event: “This book is a welcome addition to the record of this vibrant, ever-evolving

fellowship." The book is intended for people who are aware of the WCC and would like to learn more and is also a useful reference for heads of churches, ecumenical officers, and students of ecumenism.

Norwood, who is a minister of the United Reformed Church in Britain, is active in a local ecumenical congregation in England. He is a longtime participant in ecumenical affairs and has written for Churches Together in England about WCC assemblies and Central Committee meetings since 1993. He is currently engaged in ecumenical research in Oxford, England. His recent publications include *Reforming Rome: Karl Barth and Vatican II*, and says, "The WCC is not here in Geneva. It's where you are," Norwood said in remarks made at the launch. "This book is a reminder that we are part of the world church."

[Link to order book from World Council of Churches](#)

Churches urge end to 'hostile environment' policies



JPIT Press Release:

A group of major Churches is launching a campaign to challenge the government's approach to illegal immigration, which they say is leading to destitution, discrimination and distrust.

The Baptist Union, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church have joined forces to call on the government to review entirely the web of policies that have created the hostile environment. In a new report for church members, [*Destitution, Discrimination and Distrust: the web of the hostile environment*](#), they set out how aspects of the policies run counter to Christian teaching.

Speaking on behalf of the denominations, the church leaders the Revd Lynn Green, General Secretary of the Baptist Union, the Revd Richard Frazer, convenor of the Church and Society Committee of the Church of Scotland, the Revd Loraine N Mellor, President of the Methodist Conference and the Revd Kevin Watson and Alan Yates, Moderators of the United Reformed Church, said:

"As a group of Church denominations, the injustices of the hostile environment alarm us. The impact of the hostile environment has gone well beyond immigrants who are in the country illegally. It is of deep concern that people who do not look or sound 'British' are now facing increased levels of discrimination in finding homes and employment. We believe it is inhumane to use the threat of destitution as a policy tool to encourage people to leave the country and we call for an immediate end to indefinite detention. This is not about who we do or do not allow into the UK, but about how we relate to one another inside our borders. Due process, justice and the proper implementation of immigration policies should not require us to live in suspicion of our neighbour. The hostile environment spins a web of distrust and encourages suspicion. As Christians we believe that God calls us to offer welcome to the stranger and care for the vulnerable, whoever they are. Many of our churches support those who have suffered hardship as

a result of the hostile environment. Our churches include some of the very people who are at risk of destitution and discrimination. Our Christian faith moves us to pray and work for a society where people are truly hospitable to one another. We are therefore calling for a review of immigration policy and practice to examine the damaging effects that the hostile environment is having on the whole of society."

This was originally posted on the JPIT website, for more about the campaign please see their guidance on how to be involved.

"A failing benefit system" say four Churches



Speaking on behalf of the Baptist Union, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church, Paul Morrison commented on the release of the National Audit Office (NAO) report, Rolling out Universal Credit, saying,

"Churches have repeatedly expressed concerns about Universal Credit and the damaging effects it is having on communities. The NAO's findings are deeply concerning but not a surprise." [1] The NAO report states that that Universal Credit is not value for money, failing to meet its financial objectives. Most importantly it is the first official document to take seriously the concerns of claimants and acknowledge the problems they are facing.

Churches around the country are supporting people who are affected by Universal Credit. It is clear that lives are being damaged by Universal Credit. Paul explained:

"I met a single mum at a parent and toddlers' group in West London. She cried when she told me about her experience of Universal Credit. She is worse off, struggling to make ends meet and as a result has to stop her childcare course at college. "The policy that cut her benefits was intended to "incentivise work". In reality it made her life more difficult and closed down her opportunities. Her story is sadly unexceptional.

"Half of people receiving Universal Credit report going into debt. This is the result of delayed, inadequate, and irregular payments. It makes budgeting impossible and can make debt inevitable. The DWP's own figures show that 4 in 10 people reported serious financial difficulties, whilst 1 in 10 waited more than 11 weeks for payment. In Universal Credit areas foodbank use went up 52% [2], whereas in other areas it was 13%. The case is incontrovertible. Universal Credit is failing, and the poorest are suffering the consequences. "A benefit system which drives families into debt and leaves them hungry is a failing benefit system.

The Churches call on the Government to:

- halt the roll-out of Universal Credit
- commission independent research into the effects of Universal Credit
- engage with the people who use the system to design an approach that meets their needs.

[1] Churches detailed briefing on Universal Credit <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/uc-poverty-by-design>

[2] <http://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/latest-news/all-news/universal-credit-is-driving-families-to-food-banks>

This article was first published by the [Methodist Church](#)

Liverpool Seafarers Centre

LSC writes:

The Liverpool Seafarers Centre, is a partnership between the Catholic Apostleship of the Sea (Liverpool) and the Anglican Mersey Mission to Seafarers and reports rise in demand for 'on-board' church services ahead of Sea Sunday 8th July – an annual celebration held on the second Sunday in July - when Christian churches of all denominations remember and pray for seafarers, giving thanks for their lives and work.



During Sea Sunday, charities such as the national Apostleship of the Sea, The Mission to Seafarers and the Sailors' Society as well as non-denominational groups such as Sea Cadets carry out fundraisers, hold parades, and run awareness campaigns about life at sea.

LSC CEO John Wilson said Britain has a heavy dependency on the invisible army of brave seafarers with 95pc of everything we consume transported by sea. And with the cruise season well underway, Liverpool is also expected to welcome 58 ships each carrying between 120 and 1350 crew from now until September. However, many seafarers on board cruise vessels are only permitted up to two hours shore leave making it difficult to attend church services. Crew on merchant vessels too are precluded from attending church services, even when in port due to operations on board.

"We are one of the few port cities to have a seafarer welfare centre located in the actual cruise terminal," said Mr Wilson. "So, we are able to interact directly with seafarers as soon as they leave the vessel. Merchant vessel crew have often been at sea for many days often weeks, working extended hours. Many of these crew are people of faith, often desperately in search of spiritual nourishment, and we are witnessing an increase in requests for church services to be delivered on board. This affords seafarers the opportunity to practice their faith in a way many of us take for granted.

"We welcome seafarers from all over the world including countries like Bangladesh, Indonesia, India and the Philippines. We can provide them with spiritual support aligned to whichever Christian denomination they follow – Catholic, Protestant, Methodist. The important point is that we are here to support their spiritual and emotional needs in equal measure to their physical and more practical requirements."

Liverpool Seafarers Centre's roots date back to the 19th century and is funded by

donations from parishes as well as general donations. It recently introduced a new port levy inviting shipping lines to contribute directly to service provision which is now extending across North West ports including Silloth, Workington, Barrow and Glasson.

The Right Reverend Paul Bayes, Anglican Bishop of Liverpool, said: "As the Anglican Bishop of Liverpool I understand the importance of seafarers to the life of this city and nation. I warmly welcome the work of the Seafarers Mission and support their initiative in bringing faith and welcome to those whose work takes them far from home. Having a strong Christian presence reminding them of the bigger difference that having God in their lives brings is of tremendous importance. I encourage all in our diocese and across the Anglican communion to remember, pray for and support this vital ministry on Sea Sunday."

Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP, Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, said: "Sea Sunday gives us the perfect opportunity to recognise and give thanks for the invaluable work of the Liverpool Seafarers Centre in providing spiritual, emotional and practical support to seafarers from across the world throughout the year. They provide for the needs of those who are far from home and loved ones for long periods of time and are often in port for only a few hours. The ability to respond to those needs immediately is vital and the work of the Centre merits both our prayerful and practical support."

www.liverpoolseafarerscentre.org

New p.t. Admin Assistant at CTE

To work alongside Lorraine Shannon in the office of Churches Together in England, Amelia Sutcliffe has been appointed for a 6 months contract. If you phone the office or email it may be either Lorraine or Amelia who answers your enquiry. This is a part time post and Amelia works Tuesdays and Wednesdays as a usual pattern.



Amelia comes to CTE having been an intern with the Council for Christian Unity for which she continues to also work till the end of September. Her work with CCU has been researching Church of England local ecumenism and supporting the CCU staff and Faith and Order Commission. Amelia therefore comes with her experience of ecumenism, and this follows her own personal undergraduate study in Divinity and a Masters in Sacred Theology which included a focus women and the church.

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