



January 2013

Electronic, ecumenical news from Churches Together in England
Click headings for more...

First a Reflection...

Walking Together

John Bradley reflects on the material for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Now here's the news from around the world...

President Obama urged to act on hunger and immigration

by Church World Service

Nuclear tragedy finds a human face in Fukushima

listening to local residents

Complexities of current Jewish-Christian dialogue highlighted

by Clare Amos of WCC

How to build a European Model of the Social Market Economy

Dialogue seminar in Brussels

And here's the news from around the land...

Churches come together to worship

at Wotton-under-Edge

Anglicans and Methodists in Kidderminster

reach out together

Poverty and Homelessness Action Week

26th January to 3rd February

Professor Brian Gates MBE

Chair of RE Council

The Giving Shop

Penzance

Making Sense of Salvation

Bedford, 16 February

Freedom to live the life you choose

Livability's new campaign

Resources for people in ministry at Sheldon

Devon

Yorkshire & the N.E. Welsh Hymn-Singing Festival

May 11

What does the Church have to do with The Trinity?

Leeds

Pastoral Liturgy Day

Mothering Sunday

Sarum Theological Lectures: Encountering God with the Whole of our Being

8-11 July

[Back to top](#)

For the current list of forthcoming events on the website, click [here](#).

To add your e-mail address to the list for an alert when CTe-news appears, click [here](#).

For your address to be removed from the alert list, click [here](#).

For news of the Churches Co-ordinating Group for Evangelisation of CTE, click [here](#).

Walking Together

In this month's CTe-news, the Sheldon Centre on Dartmoor invites us to 'Rambling with God – mindful walking 5-8 miles'. These days my walking is limited to about 5-8 yards! Recently in the church to which I belong we were challenged to not only 'talk the talk' but also to 'walk the walk.' At least I could promise to 'wheel the deal!'

The metaphor of walking links the prayer themes for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This year's title and Bible passage come from the Churches of India where the majority of Christians are from the Dalit people. Formerly called the 'untouchables', they were given by Mahatma Gandhi the name 'Harijans' meaning 'children of God'. But a change of name does not necessarily mean a change of attitude. Most of them prefer the name Dalit, meaning 'crushed', because that is how they feel. Although some Dalits have received education and been able to make economic progress in the vibrancy of 21st century India, most are labourers who walk wherever they go.

In his book *Three-mile-an-hour God*, Kosuke Koyama reminded us that in his incarnation our Lord travelled at walking pace. In the western world today we are often racing around at breakneck speed from one thing to another. Are we going too fast to see what God is doing? It strikes me that most progress in the ecumenical journey takes place at walking pace. We seem to have hardly moved at all until we glance back at where we once were. That is, as long as we are not walking around in circles! Bill Snelson warned us against 'calendrical ecumenism' - repeating the same things we do together every year but just swapping hats!

The Octave, Abbé Paul Coutourier insisted, is not just Christians praying together for unity (in which case we might begin to wonder if, after all this time, God's answer is no!) but Christians praying together for the 'whole inhabited earth', the oikoumene. This is one reason why the plight of the Dalits is a particularly appropriate focus for our prayers in England today. They seem far away from us and our daily concerns but they are members of the same Body of Christ who come to pray at the same Throne of Grace. We often say that our goal is unity, not uniformity, but the uniform of every Christian, symbolised in baptism, is that we have each 'put on Christ'. Discrimination of any kind is a sin against the mark of baptism.

One of the remarkable 'walks' in the Gospels is the walk to Emmaus. Why did they fail to recognise immediately that the stranger was the risen Christ? Were they so caught up in their dashed hopes of the crucified Redeemer that they could not recognise God's answer to their unspoken prayers walking alongside them? Ever since, when Christians walk together they may catch a glimpse of the risen Christ in one another. Perhaps he looks a bit like you... and even a bit like me.

So walk well in 2013. Two of the hazards I try to avoid on busy pavements are people holding lit cigarettes right at my eye-level (!) and, increasingly, people striding towards me while totally focussed on texting and/or totally insulated from the sounds around them by whatever their earphones are plugged in to! Why don't they look where I'm going? Why don't they hear me before they walk into me? As we walk together, there may be glimpses off-camera and still, small voices in the distance by which God leads us towards the goal. *[Back to top](#)*

President Obama urged to act on hunger and immigration

In a letter aimed at bringing attention to major issues of concern for humanitarian agency Church World Service, President and CEO John L. McCullough urged President Barack Obama to seek increased foreign assistance for hungry and impoverished people and to lead the way to "fair and generous" immigration reform.

Church World Service made its recommendations, on issues ranging from humanitarian aid and conflict resolution in the Middle East and policies and actions that reduce tension and increase dialogue between the U.S. and Cuba in a January 9 letter to the President. At the top of the hunger-fighting agency's agenda is the request that the United States ramp up global efforts to ensure that children receive sufficient nutrition – including nutritional supplements in areas of high malnutrition. Such initiatives are particularly important for young children because malnutrition in the early years can result in stunted physical growth and poor mental development.

In earlier statements, McCullough has called the provision of nutritional assistance to young children, impoverished people and disaster survivors not just an integral part of creating lasting food security, but "an act of faith." And, the agency has heightened its advocacy for greater world attention and funding for vulnerable children as well as intensifying the nutrition focus of its own food security and agriculture programmes abroad. The letter also commends the President's Feed the Future Initiative, which directs U.S. international agricultural assistance to small-scale farmers, especially women, as part of a global commitment to increase food security for low income communities across the world. McCullough also applauded President Obama for vowing to pursue immigration reform during the second term. He recommended that the reforms include initiatives aimed at providing a pathway to citizenship, reuniting families and improving the refugee resettlement programme. McCullough said, "The highest priority is to create a fair and generous process by which undocumented immigrants can earn lawful permanent residency, with a pathway to citizenship."

CWS, which provides refugee resettlement and immigration legal services, is one of nine national voluntary agencies that work with the federal government and a nationwide network of local agencies to resettle refugees across the United States. On other issues, McCullough asked the President to set a goal to end hunger within 10 to 15 years; to use the diplomacy and resources necessary to support a "just and sustainable" resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and provide relief for the millions of people suffering inside embattled Syria and the hundreds of thousands forced into neighbouring countries.

[*Back to top*](#)

Nuclear tragedy finds a human face in Fukushima

The everyday effects of radiation borne by survivors of the 2011 Fukushima disaster in Japan add up today to an involuntary experiment with public health, community life and environmental affairs. An ecumenical conference, called to listen to local residents, found that last year's chain reaction of earthquake, tsunami and nuclear calamity has generated a "live" human tragedy, across a province, with no end in sight.

The Geiger counters that priests and parishioners pull out of their pockets like cell phones made the local anxieties and fears real for their visitors. "I cannot tell my children that there will be something good if they live," one mother told a Buddhist priest. "A middle-aged man committed suicide in the temporary housing. Tomorrow it might be me." The priest, Revd Daiki Nakashita, told her story to the Inter-Religious Conference on Nuclear Issues organized by the National Christian Council in Japan in December 2012. "The figure is surprising when we check the radiation around the house," another woman told Nakashita. "My husband wants to have children, but I think we cannot raise children in Fukushima anymore."

The science in play is not fiction. Children are growing up forbidden to play outdoors, young women worry that no one will want to marry them, a mother tests her rice harvest to see if she can share it with her children, families are paying off loans on radioactive homes they will never use. These are the kind of stories heard every day at a parish radiation information centre in Aizu Wakamatsu, Japan. The centre is one of many signs that citizens are not receiving full and reliable information about risks to their health. They blame government and power company officials, starting with the haphazard evacuation plans that exposed many to radiation when the disaster began.

Tohoku HELP, an ecumenical project which includes the United Church of Christ in Japan, runs food radiation measurement centres in disaster-stricken communities. Besides testing food and farm produce, the project also measures radiation levels in breast milk and urine, a service not readily available to many residents. Counsellors and chaplains are available to assist the people who come in for testing. "We cannot get correct information about exposure to radiation...but, if we say so, then we are the ones criticized by others who want to believe that Fukushima is safe," one survivor said. "The most serious issues are divorce, suicide, domestic violence and violence in general. Radiation damaged not only our bodies, but also the relationships in our families and communities," said another survivor.

The conference concluded that "there is no safe use of nuclear power, no safe level of exposure to radiation, and no compatibility between nuclear power, life and peace." Speakers noted that the official fumbling is reminiscent of other nuclear disasters, like Chernobyl, and that the health risks and the stigma suffered by survivors are reminders of Hiroshima.

Hoping for a nuclear-free world

Christian and Buddhist clergy, as well as laypersons, told the 87 conferees from Asia, Europe and North America of their struggle to support families and communities, to cope with the disaster themselves and to challenge the official disaster response. Conference participants resolved to initiate discussions in faith communities about "civilian and military uses of nuclear energy", and to develop plans of action "including lifestyle changes". The conference began in the city of Koriyama, 100 kilometres from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant and well beyond the official disaster exclusion zones. Radiation hotspots there—created when a reactor building exploded and contamination was spread by prevailing winds—are as dangerous as areas in the town nearest to the nuclear plant.

Radiation leaking from the damaged power plants has laid bare national policies and economic choices that have long gone unquestioned in Japan. "Please imagine!" one man told a priest. "A rural town, where there were no jobs, no money and no industries, was able to receive a chunk of money suddenly just by welcoming the construction of nuclear power plants." Fukushima's fate puts a human face on the actual risks and consequences of nuclear energy use in Japan, and anywhere, the conference showed. "We Japanese committed a serious sin against our Creator and our children's future," said Terumi Kataoka, a parishioner who directs the parish radiation centre in Aizu Wakamatsu. "We do not have the luxury of a reprieve any longer." Kataoka fled early in the disaster to a safer part of Japan but later returned. She said, "We realized that we couldn't be selfish and couldn't close this church. We had to stay and help others who were escaping the disaster, too." "We are all here to help build a nuclear-free world together," she told the conference. The conferees pledged "to pray for and with the people of Fukushima and other communities suffering the harms caused by nuclear power" and to send the conference's final statement to next year's WCC Assembly in Busan, Republic of Korea.

[*Back to top*](#)

Complexities of current Jewish-Christian dialogue highlighted

Core religious issues of Jewish-Christian relations intertwine with current political realities, asserts Dr Clare Amos, programme coordinator for inter-religious dialogue and cooperation at the World Council of Churches (WCC).

The just-published issue of *Current Dialogue*, 53, edited by Amos, explores the ramifications of Jewish-Christian dialogue for Christian self-understanding. The issue has been developed from papers offered in June 2010 in Istanbul, at a consultation organized by Amos's predecessor, the Revd Dr Shanta Premawardhana, who now serves as president of the Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education in Chicago, United States.

The meeting itself, its introduction recounts, "brought together Protestant and Catholic theologians from Germany, other parts of Europe, and the USA who work intensively on Jewish Christian dialogue concerns, to engage in conversation with Middle Eastern and Orthodox theologians. In a significant and unusual development, there were also three Jewish observers present." It was also apparent during the course of the gathering that theological reflection by Christians in this field cannot be entirely separated from political pressures and concerns relating to the Middle East, said Amos, and the publication reflects that reality. Moreover, said Amos, "there is the fundamental question of the relationship between Christianity and Judaism – what can briefly be summed up as the question of 'supersessionism' or 'replacement theology.' It was obvious at our meeting that the Christian world does not yet speak with one voice on this issue."

Along with Amos and Premawardhana, feature contributors include Philip A. Cunningham, Bernd Schröder, Robert O. Smith, Demetrios E. Tonias, and Jesper Svartvik, as well as a host of specific denominational and regional perspectives. The issue is sent to subscribers and is also available [online](#). [Back to top](#)

How to build a European Model of the Social Market Economy

This was the topic of the Dialogue seminar organised by the Conference of European Churches and the Commission of Bishops' Conferences in the European Community together with the Bureau of Policy Advisers of the European Commission, on 14 December 2012 in Brussels.

The term "social market economy" entered the EU treaties, along with other objectives, via the Treaty of Lisbon. The model of the social market economy thus became one of the major objectives of the Union. The comprehensive realisation of this objective, however, is still to be achieved. But what are the foundations of this economic model? How can we europeanise it? The current crisis in the Eurozone, and the structural weaknesses and imbalances in the European Union as a whole, underlines the urgent need for this debate.

Opening the Session, Bishop Ambrosio, COMECE Vice-President, emphasised that the notion of a social market economy is a key to getting citizens to find trust again in the European project. "It is also necessary to value more the meaning of free and gratuitous action not only in the context of economic activities but also in social and political life" he added. Prof. Dr Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, Bishop of the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Bavaria highlighted that "the success of the social market economy is especially due to the fact that social responsibility is an integrated element of the economic process and does not come simply as a next step after economic prosperity. The critical challenge of a social market economy today is to address climate change, which affects especially the poor countries in the South."

In a second session, church experts from different Member States were invited to assess the convergence of social market economy in Europe. From Poland, Dr Sarnacki SJ suggested that the social market economy demands a rationally-orientated economy, rooted in social trust reinforced by a social contract. The ideal is to balance economic productivity with social responsibility. "This implies transparency, a fair and satisfactory legal system, as well as the implementation of the rules of solidarity and participation. This model is not being realized in the actual situation" he concluded. Prof. Dr Heikki Hiilamo reported the experience of Finland which was affected by a crucial economic depression in the 90's. Since this experience the churches are contributing to the public efforts to address poverty and social exclusion, complementing the social services of the State. Therefore he called on the European Commission "to open the European funding programmes more than it does today to church actors."

The third session was dedicated to Youth Unemployment as an imminent challenge across the EU.. Different Church organisations presented their successful projects to fight youth unemployment: The Inclusion of Young Workers by *Cáritas Diocesana Segorbe Castellón* (Spain), the "One in a million campaign" launched by the Youth Trust in Birmingham (United Kingdom), the *QuiK-Service*, a qualification initiative launched by the *Kolping Akademie* in Ingolstadt, (Germany) and an initiative of the Church of Greece in nearby Piraeus.

Finally, it is not enough that the concept of a 'European social market economy' has been enshrined in the EU Treaties since 2009. The Churches and Church organisations recall the need to spread this concept across Europe, so that the EU Member States may survive the challenge of global competition, and in order to be able to continue offering the most vulnerable in our midst effective social protection; as well as to be sustainable, given the requirements of environmental and climatic protection. [Back to top](#)

Churches come together to worship

Each Advent the Fellowship Group at Wotton-under-Edge United Church (Methodist/URC) invites church members to a supper with an advent theme. 2012, however, was slightly different. The Catholic Church of Holy Cross had lost their well-loved priest and was feeling the loss of his pastoral care. So Wotton-under-Edge United Church invited their Catholic brothers and sisters to supper on the night of Advent Sunday.

Ann Revill said: "Pork rolls with apple sauce and a variety of desserts were served at tables set up in the church itself, which was decorated throughout with candles. As ice-breakers, we used pictures of angels culled from old Christmas cards. People chose one they liked and talked to a neighbour about it. We changed places to sit near someone else during the dessert and then the evening moved into a short service of readings and meditation presented by members of both churches. The feeling of fellowship and care for each other across church boundaries was very evident; it was an evening to remember."

[Back to top](#)

Anglicans and Methodists in Kidderminster

It started in the park at Broadwaters years ago when residents got together to become Friends of the Park and improve it. Friendships blossomed which made it natural for the Methodist church and St Oswald's church to begin to do so much more together resulting in a formal Covenant which is nearly 6 years old. And then it started in Curry's and was nurtured in Caffe Nero – as conversations took place between two employees of Curry's respectively officers of St Mary's Parish Church and Trinity Methodist. These discussions were continued by the newly appointed superintendent Minister Revd Mary Austin and Team Rector Canon Owain Bell.

A vision first seen by a few people nearly 40 years ago when Trinity was built next door to St Mary's slowly began to take shape. United services, shared study groups and social events followed and next May a formal Local Ecumenical Partnership Covenant will be signed in the presence of Bishop John Inge and Revd John Howard, Chair of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District. The churches work together in outreach – Café Church at Caffe Nero has been running now for over 4 years, as has Messy Church. Owain Bell and Rose Lawley have been appointed as Methodist Associate Ministers and Mary Austin is a foundation governor at St Oswald's CE school. Beyond these two churches there has been an explosion of ecumenical working to serve the community in Kidderminster in the form of the Child Contact Centre, Foodbank and Street Pastors all flourishing.

[Back to top](#)

Poverty and Homelessness Action Week

The theme for 2013 is "Can you cast the first stone?" Who is to blame for rising levels of poverty and homelessness in the UK today? Some blame the last government for the high levels of public debt. Some blame the present government for austerity budgets and welfare benefit cuts. Some blame the bankers, or the Euro, or the global crisis of capitalism.

What worries us in the Action Week partnership is that many are blaming the victims. Press coverage focuses on 'benefit cheats' and 'scroungers'. Government spokespeople - including the Prime Minister - set up a false contrast between those who 'work hard and do the right thing', and those locked into a 'benefits culture'. Immigrants, not the economic slump, are blamed for the lack of jobs. From tenants shipped out of their local authority and to the periphery of cities because their housing benefit does not cover their rent any more, to disabled people threatened with having their benefit cut if they do not engage in work; from vulnerable women and children denied support as a result of cuts in local services, to the unemployed and people on benefits - vulnerable people are routinely cast in a negative light. Thousands make an honest benefit claim for every dodgy one - and yet what news editor puts that on page 1? Jesus was being tested by the Pharisees when they brought him the woman 'taken in adultery'. Jesus never said she was blameless. He simply showed that condemnation will not change her ways. We won't tackle poverty and homelessness by blaming those who are poor and homeless. Please join us in Poverty & Homelessness Action Week 2013, and call for an end to this blame game.

Bankers' greed...
Government cuts...
The rising welfare bill...
People in poverty...
People without a home...
People who are sick and disabled...

Forgive us for pointing the finger of accusation
and casting the stones of blame.
With justice and compassion
May we work together to draw the line.

Jesus writes in the sand
holding back the stones
of our culture of blame

Jesus writes in the sand
giving space for forgiveness
and a chance to move on

Jesus writes in the sand
marking a welcome to all
the hope of transformation
for me...
and for you.

[Back to top](#)

Professor Brian Gates MBE

Religious Education Council members were delighted to learn of the award of an MBE to Professor Brian Gates in the New Year Honours for services to interfaith relations and to the RE Council. This gives well deserved public acknowledgement to Brian's tireless work in championing religious education. He has been a key figure in the development of the RE Council which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. We would like to congratulate Brian on this recognition of his excellent work, which has been of vital significance in the world of RE. [Back to top](#)

The Giving Shop

The initial concept for The Giving Shop originated with Churches Together in Cornwall Missioner, David Smith recognising that the nativity scene is not normally seen in the 'market place.' Whilst many churches have crib scenes set up during December, they are hidden from all those who do not expressly choose to visit a church building. A nativity scene in the centre of Penzance would not only bring the heart of Christmas back to the market place it was also hoped that it would trigger conversations between children and their parents about the scenes.

Penzance is the most westerly major town in Cornwall and like many other Cornish towns has suffered from the decline in traditional industries such as fishing, agriculture and mining. Much employment now centres on tourism although the nearby port of Newlyn provides some employment in the fishing industry. Nevertheless, unemployment remains high as do house prices leading to significant levels of poverty. Churches Together in Penzance Area (CTIPA) has worked effectively together for some time and has successfully set up and run a Breakfast Project (providing breakfast for homeless clients), Foodbank and Street Pastors.

The Development Process

Discussions with the Wharfside Centre Manager, Peter Wood, identified that there would be a vacant shop over the Christmas period. The idea of a 'Welcoming Shop' soon evolved into that of a 'Giving Shop' based loosely on the concept of the Foodbank donations scheme which is run by a number of supermarkets. CTIPA decided on the projects which they would be supporting. Added to the three that they already ran (Breakfast Project, Foodbank and Street Pastors) were: Social Services Children's Department, Women's Aid, Breadline and Fishermen's Mission in Newlyn. The charities were asked to identify the sorts of gifts they would require and lists were drawn up.

Running the Shop

Pullford Brothers who own the Wharfside Centre agreed to allow CTIPA to use the shop building rent free for the month of operation. This meant that the only costs incurred were for rates which are discounted by 80% by Cornwall Council. Volunteers staff the shop with each day being split into three shifts: 10-12, 12-2 and 2-4. Two volunteers are present at each shift and in total 80 people have been mobilised to run the shop from 26th November until 24th December.

The Result

CTIPA have been overwhelmed by the support which they have received from local people. By the 24th December 3497 gifts had been given with over £2k in donations. On the last six days of the 24 days opened, the number of donations had more than doubled and continued to increase every hour.

Shelves stacked with donated gifts

People could choose to give from lists of suggested items or, if they hadn't done their shopping, they could choose to donate financially to one of the causes by putting money into a stocking. Others picked a label from the Christmas tree and chose to buy a specific present. One example was of a lady who took the label: 'for a 7 year old boy' and returned later in the day with a Hot Wheels set and the label attached.

Christmas tree gift labels

And if all of that were not enough; the shop was decorated with beautiful applique montages telling the nativity story with a local twist; there was a short video running with a film about the Holy Land today; and families could pick up forms to participate in the Sheep Trail for Penzance, Newlyn or Mousehole.

The Future

When asked whether the project would take place again next year, David Smith (Secretary of Churches Together in Penzance Area) replied that he hoped that it would due to the huge success of this year. He commented: "We have seen about 500 people come through the door in twenty one days and it has been an excellent boost for the local community, not just because they are meeting together and chatting. They are also able to support local charities which may have had an impact on their own lives or the life of someone they know at the same time as supporting the local economy by buying gifts locally."

For more information, please contact David Smith [✉ ses.dhs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ses.dhs@hotmail.co.uk) ☎ 01736 719432 📞 07979 856456 or visit the Churches Together in Penzance Area website at: www.churchestogetherinpenzance.co.uk [Back to top](#)

Making Sense of Salvation

The Very Revd Dr Jeffrey John, Dean of St Alban's Abbey, will speak on Making Sense of Salvation on Saturday, 16th February, 2013 10.00am to 1.00pm at St Andrew's Church Centre, Kimbolton Road, Bedford MK40 2PF. The cost is £10 per person, payable on the day. To book a place, please register in the 'Contact' section of www.beliefbeds.org or ring 01234 212164 or 01525 860875. [Back to top](#)

Freedom to live the life you choose

Despite huge progress in the past 20 years, many disabled people still face difficulty when attempting basic, everyday activities. [Let Me In](#) is the new campaign of Livability, the UK's largest Christian disability charity. It will work together with disabled people of all ages to remove these unacceptable barriers to high quality education, suitable housing and full participation in social activities.

Over the next few years, this campaign and appeal will help Livability raise vital funds to provide even greater support and improved services to disabled people. They will also campaign so that society better understands and identifies the barriers that still prevent disabled people from fulfilling their potential.

Three campaign objectives are:

Lifelong learning: Developing knowledge, skills and confidence through on-going learning. Disabled people are less than half as likely to be in employment than their non-disabled peers, and for people with learning disabilities, this figure drops to less than one in ten having a job.

Personal independence: Enabling disabled people to make real choices about their lives. Many disabled people live with unacceptable levels of poor or unsuitable housing. Despite this, more hours are spent stuck at home, with disabled people traveling one-third less than non-disabled people.

Taking part: Ensuring that disabled people can play the part they choose to in society. Hate crime against disabled people rose by one-third in 2011. We want to change this and work with disabled people so they can fully engage with and contribute to society. [Back to top](#)

Resources for people in ministry at Sheldon

The Society of Mary and Martha, Sheldon, Dunsford, Exeter EX6 7LE has some excellent resources for people in ministry in the coming months and a few extra discounts to tempt you to book ahead for good things in the autumn. Remember, spouses/partners are also eligible for ministry events and discounts, together or independently. Phone 01647-252752 if you'd like to discuss any options or make a booking.

[12,000-mile Service weeks](#)

The original and still the best after 25 years; 5 nights starting Sunday evenings of 3 February, 28 April, 30 June, 20 October, 17 November.

[Led retreats in a variety of flavours](#)

Running over Rocks – Ian Adams – includes walks, landscape art and contemplative prayer – 8-12 April.

Stations on a Celtic Way – Margaret Silf – inspired by the 7 sacred spaces of the Celts – 27- 31 May.

Labyrinth: Landscape of the Soul – Di Williams – a unique centering practice – 24- 28 June.

Rambling with God – Peter Hayes & Alan Reynolds – mindful walking 5-8 miles – 19- 23 August.

[Make up your own](#)

R5 : read, retreat, rest, relax, recuperate. All or part of 10-15 March, 14-19 April, 16-21 June.

Include optional day workshops, 1:1 time (pre-booked), massage.

[Biology Bites](#) – Sarah Horsman – tools and tips to harness, outwit (or at least forgive) our Stone Age biology. 12 March.

[Fun with Words](#) – Richard Skinner – words to surprise, stimulate and delight. 17 April.

[Private retreats \(and emergency bolt-holes\)](#)

At Sheldon you never need apologise for being an introvert or "antisocial". Feel free to close your door on the world for the duration of your stay. Self-catering or stocked larder. DIY or with 1:1 time. [Linhay Lodges](#) or [Pig Pens](#).

Weekend budget offers

We know you're normally busy, but if you get a weekend off we can offer extra special rates

£100 self-catering long weekend (3 nights) [in Linhay Lodge](#). £64 self-catering short weekend (2 nights) in [Pig Pen](#).

Workshops

[Enneagram](#) part 1 – Karen Webb – 20-22 February. Moving into the Psalms – [Springs Dance](#) Company – 1-3 March.

Claim an extra 10% early-bird discount if you confirm a booking for any of these events before the end of February.

Retreat: [Moving Mountains](#) – Canon Peter Ball – 23-27 September.

[Enneagram](#): Subtypes and Essence – Karen Webb – 7-9 October.

Workshop: [Corrupting Power?](#) – Andrew Walker – 15-17 October.

[Back to top](#)

Yorkshire & the N.E. Welsh Hymn-Singing Festival

The Welsh Hymn Singing Festival (Cymanfa Ganu, Yorkshire and the North East) will be at Calverley Methodist Church, Carr Road (A657) and Chapel Street, Calverley, Leeds LS28 5NE on Saturday 11th May 2013 at 2.00–3.30 and 4.45-6.30 p.m. The Leader will be Gwynn Evans and the Organist will be David Wilberforce. There will be tea and coffee between and after services. There is a Car Park and it is on bus route 760.

All are welcome. For further information, phone 01535 665829 or 0113 2694268

[Back to top](#)

What does the Church have to do with The Trinity?

The Yorkshire Gospel Partnership (YGP) and YEMA (Yorkshire Ministry Evangelical Assembly) invite you to a free evening session, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm, on Wednesday 23rd January 2013 at City Evangelical Church, Leeds. Everyone is welcome.

On Thursday 24th January the guest speakers will be Revd David Meredith, Leader of Smithton Culloden Free Church, and Mike Reeves, who oversees the theology network for the Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship (UCCF).

The programme is 10:00 Registration and refreshments, 10:30 Session 1; 11:30 Refreshments; 12:00 Session 2: 13:00 Bring your own lunch – tea and coffee provided; 14:00 Session 3: Q&A – with news from the region; 15:00 Refreshments; 15:30 Session 4: 16:30 Closing prayer; Cost £10. [Book online](#) or [download the form](#). [Back to top](#)

Pastoral Liturgy Day

Mothering Sunday is a difficult day. It is surrounded in emotion – joy, failure, bereavement to name but a few. It is often impossible to hold all of these conflicting pastoral demands with integrity in the face of the expectations of the day. Part of the reason for this may be because our focus has alighted on biological mothers and has moved from the origins of the day and the traditional elements of a Mothering Sunday service.

This study day will explore varieties of liturgical practice associated with Mothering Sunday, identifying those which express both the celebration and the ambiguities of the day. It will also explore the history of Mothering Sunday and in so doing reorient our approach to this popular festival. £45, including lunch and refreshments

Contact Alison Ogden for booking enquiries: aogden@sarum.ac.uk ☎ 01722 424826 Course Details: Date & Time: Tuesday, 29 Jan 2013, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm at Sarum College, Salisbury. Tutor: Em Coley is Associate Priest in Kennington, Oxford. She is the author of *Mothering Sunday* (Grove Books, 2005).

[Back to top](#)

Sarum Theological Lectures: Encountering God with the Whole of our Being

This annual series of evening lectures is designed to make accessible to a wide audience the work of specialists in a variety of fields in the study of theology. They are generally held in Salisbury Cathedral and are subsequently published by Darton, Longman & Todd. The 2013 lectures, Encountering God with the Whole of Our of Being: Embodied Spirituality and The New Testament will be given by Dr Paula Gooder on 8, 9, 10 and 11 July.

Gooder, a freelance writer and lecturer in Biblical Studies, will explore what 'spirit' might mean in the New Testament as well as other relevant words like 'mind', 'soul', 'flesh', 'heart' and 'body'. From these meanings, she will reflect on what the New Testament might have to say about spirituality to us today.

[Back to top](#)