

# A Monthly Digest of Ecumenical News and Views

## From Churches Together in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire

For February 2010

It is always good to be able to report on local initiatives that have taken place – how did you get on in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity? Do write in and tell us what you did to celebrate this week in our Centenary Year.

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## **Black Majority Church Leader awarded OBE in New Year's Honours**

Warmest Congratulations to Bishop James Stapleton of Nottingham's Open Christian Fellowship and current Moderator of Churches Together in Nottinghamshire. He was awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours for services to Inter-Faith and Community Relations in Nottingham. You may have heard him interviewed subsequently by Anthony Isaacs on BBC Radio Nottingham's Breakfast programme on the Sunday after the announcement.

As Revd Christopher Harrison (City Centre Covenant) wrote to Bishop James, "Your being commended in this way is good for Nottingham and for all our churches, and is of course a splendid recognition of the tremendous ministry you have been carrying out."

Amen to that!

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## **BISHOP'S DELIGHT AT ROYAL NEWS**

The Bishop of Derby, Dr Alastair Redfern, said today that it was a "delight and honour" for Derby and Derbyshire that HM The Queen will visit Derby Cathedral for the 2010 Maundy Thursday service on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

"It is wonderful that Her Majesty The Queen is coming to Derby and I know that we will give her a very warm welcome indeed," he said today.

"It is a delight and honour for all of us in Derby and the wider County of Derbyshire that The Queen will distribute the Royal Maundy during Holy Week," Dr Redfern added.

HM The Queen visits a different cathedral every year for a ceremony which has its roots in Jesus' act of humility when he washed the feet of his disciples.

In earlier times, the monarch did exactly what Jesus did until the service was changed to the distribution of specially minted Maundy money. The purses are presented by HM The Queen to carefully chosen recipients.

The Bishop said that the Diocese and Cathedral were still working closely with Buckingham Palace in putting finishing touches to the service.

Further details will be announced as they become available.

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## **The General Election and the Churches**

Work is in process on material to help churches and Christians in general to prepare for a General Election, when it is called. It will be available shortly at

[www.churcheselection.org.uk](http://www.churcheselection.org.uk)

Material includes:

- Guidelines for local Churches Together Groups thinking of organising hustings meetings.
- Theme papers on a variety of subjects to encourage thought and discussion.
- Facility for registering events, which will then be displayed, for information and to avoid duplication.

The themed papers are on the following:

- Children and Young People
- Criminal Justice
- Democracy and Accountability
- The Economy
- Education
- Environment
- Equality and Diversity
- Europe
- Faith in Public Life
- Global Peace and Security
- Health
- International Development
- Migration and Sanctuary
- Poverty and Social Exclusion

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## **Interesting website – Make Poverty History / Climate change**

May we commend to you a very good regional website -

<http://www.mph-northeast.org.uk/>

While this obviously relates to some issues only relevant to the North East, it also has some excellent articles in it relating to these two crucial and not unrelated issues.

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## **Staff Changes in our LEPs**

The Rev'd Chris Hodder, Derby University and Cathedral Chaplain, will move at the end of the academic year to be Priest-in-Charge of Wilford Hill, Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham.

Revd Margaret Roe of Bakewell and our Covenant LEP in Great Longstone has announced her retirement as of this summer. She will be succeeded by the Revd David Briggs.

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## RETREAT-HOLIDAYS

2009 was a tough year for most people. These difficult patches can be times of growth if they force us to recognise that we can't do things in our own strength, so we need God. However, learning to "let go and let God" is hard because we feel we ought to be independent and in control.

One of the great benefits of the gentle experience offered by Retreat-Holidays is that it gives people the unpressured opportunity to explore who they are in God. It is a winding down, a chance to enjoy the beauty of God's creation and the friendship of companions on the journey; it is relaxing into God's love and discovering that, if we let him, he will hold us.

Retreat-Holidays offer breaks in a range of glorious locations (almost always with better weather than the UK). My basic rule is that I put into our programme only places with which I have fallen in love, so that I am confident that other people will love them too.

One of our clients wrote to me in a Christmas card that the retreat-holiday she came on with us a few months ago "far outshone anything else I did in 2009". Perhaps something in our 2010 programme could be just as significant for you.

Stephanie Rybak (Dr), Director, Retreat-Holidays

[www.retreat-holidays.co.uk](http://www.retreat-holidays.co.uk)

[office@retreat-holidays.co.uk](mailto:office@retreat-holidays.co.uk)

01304 214789

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## Changes in Copyright Law

A government consultation, set up to review the Copyright Designs & Patents Act 1988 has recently concluded. CCLI is receiving enquiries from churches and Christian organisations wishing to find out how any proposed changes might affect them. At this stage, nothing has been finalised and it is understood that any recommendations have yet to be debated by Parliament. Once a final decision is made, CCLI will provide an update about how churches will be affected, which will be made available on [www.ccli.co.uk](http://www.ccli.co.uk)

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## Now a Christian – but what next?

*Now a Christian* is an e-mail-based programme to help new Christians explore the implications and understand the delights and complexities of what it is to follow Christ. The website backs this up with activities that allow the user to interact with

fellow travellers on this journey. It is for people who have made a decision to follow Jesus, even if it is a tentative one and are asking the question: "What next?" It helps those who are taking the first step of a long journey and are looking for a signpost. Now a Christian builds on the successful New to Christianity programme that Church Army ran for nine years as part of Word on the Web. It is the latest of its growing online ministries and combines e-mail with website content. It recognises that not every new Christian is ready to join a group or undertake an Alpha course until they have explored a little more about their new faith for themselves, in a safe and non-threatening way.

There are plenty of courses and resources for people who want to investigate Christianity and the claims made about Jesus Christ. But there is not much to help them with the next step once their journey of faith has started. Now a Christian helps people who are embracing a new way of life, but want to think about how that works in practice.

See [www.nowachristian.org](http://www.nowachristian.org)

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## **News from the Joint Public Issues Team**

**22 February - 2 March – Fairtrade Fortnight.** This year you are asked to take part in The Big Swap –people swapping their usual wine, sugar, or oranges for Fairtrade products. Every swap will be proof that the UK wants developing world producers to get a better deal. For resources, action ideas and more information go to:

<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/thebigswap%20>

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## **Preparing Churches for the General Election 2010 Planning a hustings meeting 2010**

The website [www.churcheselection.org.uk](http://www.churcheselection.org.uk) is now online. 'Faith in Politics' is a 16-page guide to some of the key policy areas likely to be debated in the run up to polling day. Each subject has been prepared by a leading Christian expert or campaigner in that field. It does not represent a 'Church' view or support a party line, but is designed to encourage Christians to engage with a range of important issues facing our country.

'Planning a hustings meeting' gives advice to local church based groups who are thinking about organising a community hustings. It builds on experience of Churches Together groups planning and running events like this at General Elections for more than 30 years.

Both of the above resources are available for download.

Material includes:

- Guidelines for local Churches Together Groups thinking of organising hustings meetings.
- Theme papers on a variety of subjects to encourage thought and discussion.
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The themed papers are on the following:

- Children and Young People
- Criminal Justice
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- Global Peace and Security
- Health
- International Development
- Migration and Sanctuary
- Poverty and Social Exclusion

In the coming weeks and months more features will be added, including:

- An online churches hustings registration system and database, where you can advertise your meeting and see what else is happening
- More issues and analysis of the key topics
- Regular Churches' General Election e-Newsletter
- Analysis of the main parties' manifestos.
- Links to other Christian organisations websites that are gearing up for an exciting and important General Election campaign
- News from the Churches about what they are doing during the campaign

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## **++ Events around the Counties & beyond ++**

**Don't forget the Mental Health Conference, Derby, Tuesday 2 February  
'Culture, Community and Consecration - Mental Health and the Exploration  
of Faith'**

Note changes: Keynote speaker: Arthur Hawes, Drama from Mysteries Drama Group

Full updated information and booking forms can be downloaded at [www.faithinderbyshire.org](http://www.faithinderbyshire.org) or contact Social Responsibility Office: 01332 388684 to receive them by post, or email: [SocialResponsibility@derby.anglican.org](mailto:SocialResponsibility@derby.anglican.org).

For further information, contact Stella Collishaw on 01332 388685 or [Stella.Collishaw@derby.anglican.org](mailto:Stella.Collishaw@derby.anglican.org) **Booking is essential.**

**For more information ring 01332 388685, email [stella.collishaw@derby.anglican.org](mailto:stella.collishaw@derby.anglican.org) or go to the website [www.faithinderbyshire.org](http://www.faithinderbyshire.org)**

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## THE 2010 FIRTH LECTURES

THE 2010 FIRTH LECTURES will be given by Professor Eamon Duffy, Professor of the History of the Christian Religion, Cambridge University. They will be held in Room A48, Sir Clive Granger Building, University Park and admission is free, with no tickets required. The first lecture, entitled "Reformation, Counter-Reformation and the English Nation" will be on **Wednesday 10th February** starting at 5.30 p.m. The second, entitled 'Reformation Unravelling? Facts and Fictions' will be held on **Thursday 11th February** starting at 5.30 p.m.

[http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/geography/contacts/finding-us/New\\_geog\\_detail\\_V2.pdf](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/geography/contacts/finding-us/New_geog_detail_V2.pdf)

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## Free Religious Diversity and Anti-Discrimination Training

Tuesdays 5.30 - 8.30pm **16th & 23rd February, 2nd & 9th March 2010**, at the St. James Centre, Malcolm Street, Derby  
(You must be able to attend all four sessions)

- Increase your understanding of the issues related to religious diversity
- Share experiences of religion and culture
- Learn to recognise stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination related to religion
- Increase your skills in order to help to create a more inclusive diverse environment
- Gain desirable personal and career development in today's multi-cultural society
- Everyone will receive an Attendance Certificate and a copy of the Religions in the UK Directory (worth £25.00)

Take the opportunity, book now! (Places are limited)

For booking and information contact Eileen Fry  
01332 591285 [eileenfry@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:eileenfry@yahoo.co.uk)

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## Trustee and volunteer recruitment for Home-Start

Throughout Derbyshire, **Home-Start Schemes** are looking for volunteers both to support families and to manage the charity in your area.

Across the UK more than 15,000 Home-Start volunteers visit families at home each week, supporting parents in situations as diverse as isolation, bereavement, multiple births, illness, disability or who are just finding parenting a struggle. They provide non-judgemental practical and emotional support and help build the whole family's confidence and ability to cope.

If you are a parent or grandparent and would like to help to help a family with children under 5, either by visiting them or becoming a trustee at your local scheme, please call Debbie at Home-Start High Peak on 01298 72777 or see our website [www.home-start.org.uk](http://www.home-start.org.uk).

Contact Debbie Rushworth, Senior Co-ordinator  
at **Home-Start High Peak**  
26 Spring Gardens, Buxton  
Derbyshire SK17 6DE

Tel. 01298 72777  
Mob. 07971 957668  
[www.home-start.org.uk](http://www.home-start.org.uk)

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## **The Two Counties' Service, April 18th 2010**

This popular service, our annual celebration of our shared Christian life, will be held on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm at Mansfield Road Baptist Church, Nottingham.

<http://www.findachurch.co.uk/churches/sk/sk53/mrbc/>

Do come and be a part of what promises as always to be a memorable event. This service, which will have a multi-cultural flavour, will include music from the Nottingham Citadel's Salvation Army Songsters and news of interchurch projects sponsored by various Churches in the City of Nottingham.

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## **Nottingham Ecumenical Commission The 12th Annual Conference**

will be held at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, June 18th-20<sup>th</sup>

**Theme: Catching up with Jesus; A Call to Deeper Unity**

**The cost will be £140 per person  
(Cheques payable to: Ecumenical Commission Nottingham Diocese)**

### **Sessions include:**

Welcome and Setting the Scene: Introductory OVERVIEW  
Jesus in the Context of the Kingdom of God (Part1)  
Is the Jesus story compatible with the New Cosmology?  
Is the Jesus story compatible with the story of Evolution?  
Discerning Gospel Wisdom in the Power of Poetry

**The Conference will be led by Diarmuid O'Murchu M.S.C**

*(Quantum Theology (1996 - revised in 2004), Reclaiming Spirituality (1998), Evolutionary Faith (2002), Catching Up with Jesus (2005), The Transformation of Desire (2007), Ancestral Grace (2008), Jesus in the Power of Poetry (2009).*

**BOOKINGS MUST BE RECEIVED BY: May 1<sup>st</sup> 2010**

Diarmuid O'Murchu, a member of the Sacred Heart Missionary Order, and a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin Ireland, is a social psychologist whose entire working life has been in social ministry. In that capacity he has worked as a couple's counsellor, in bereavement work, AIDS-HIV counselling and latterly with homeless people and refugees. As a workshop leader and group facilitator he has worked in Europe, USA, Canada, Australia, the Philippines, Thailand, India, and Peru and in several African countries, facilitating programmes on Adult Faith Development.

**Cost: £140**

To book, a non-returnable deposit of £20.00 should be sent to Mrs Monica Purdue,

114 Cross Street, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 7BY

✉ [monica.purdue@ntlworld.com](mailto:monica.purdue@ntlworld.com)

☎ 0115 993 9235

From whom booking forms may also be obtained.

Bookings must be received by May 1<sup>st</sup> 2010

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## **Christian Aid update for February**

### **For You**

Did you know that Christian Aid produces a variety of worship and prayer resources to help you bring a global dimension into your worship? To find out more please visit [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk) and click on churches at the very top of the page.

The dates for Christian Aid Week 2010 are 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May.

### **For All**

We send out a fortnightly update of Christian Aid's activity in an easy to read, easy to copy and paste, easy to delete format. Please do sign up for this by e-mailing [ashby@christian-aid.org](mailto:ashby@christian-aid.org) letting us know you want to receive it and who you are!

### **For Youth Leaders**

Christian Aid has launched Sofa Sessions, interactive sessions to get young people talking about the issues that are important today.

[www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/youth/sofa-sessions](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/youth/sofa-sessions)

### **For Magazine editors, weekly notices**

In February Christian Aid in the East Midlands is going on tour. We are visiting two towns in Derbyshire and, hopefully, will be coming to a location near you. These inspirational events of food, fellowship and information will leave you inspired and

rearing to go this Christian Aid Week. There will also be the change to hear more about our work in Kenya, the focus country for this Christian Aid Week.

Please join us for **The Super Envelope** on:

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February      6-8pm      Hill Street Baptist Church,  
Swadlincote

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February      5:30 – 7:30pm      St Peter's Church, Belper

Everyone is very welcome to come. Please do let us know you are coming so there's enough food to go round! E-mail [ashby@christian-aid.org](mailto:ashby@christian-aid.org) or call 01530 417522.

We need new Christian Aid Week organisers in **Littleover, Weston on Trent, Ashover, Hope** and **Whaley Bridge**. Please do encourage people in these areas to prayerfully consider if they could take this vital role on, perhaps as part of a new year's resolution! Please do also reassure them that it's not as daunting as it sounds!

### **For Lent**

Christian Aid has produced a number of resources for churches for Lent including the ever popular *Count Your Blessings*. Please visit <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/churches/in-church/lent-resources.aspx>.

Would you like Christian Aid to come and deliver a one off session during Lent, maybe as part of a 'hot potato' session? We can help your group explore some of the relevant issues of today and the role they and their faith can play in it. If you are interested, please contact [ashby@christian-aid.org](mailto:ashby@christian-aid.org).

### **For Outreach workers**

Did you know that Christian Aid is running a government funded project to enable 18-25 year olds who wouldn't otherwise be able to go, to volunteer overseas for ten weeks on a fully funded placement. Find out more at [www.myplatform2.com](http://www.myplatform2.com).

### **Office Move**

The East Midlands office is on the move. As of Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February our new address will be:

Christian Aid, Suite 2, Ground Floor, Block A

The Moseley Complex, Derby Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 5AH

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## News from St John's

### ST JOHN'S EXTENSION STUDIES

#### *COME FOR A SPRING BREAK IN NOTTINGHAM!*

Conferences open to anyone. Take part in a stimulating programme and meet like-minded people.

Come alone or bring your church group. Full-board and single room accommodation. Or come for the day and sleep at home.

#### **Listening Skills 27–31 March 2010**

A substantial listening course for anyone involved in pastoral care at church or in the workplace. You can also use this basic introduction to counselling training as entry to our Postgraduate Counselling Diploma autumn 2010.

#### **Myers Briggs and Leadership 9–11 April 2010**

An excellent opportunity to explore how personality type affects our approach to leadership. Open to all whether or not you have previous knowledge of your MBTI type.

#### **Fit for the Purpose 16–18 April 2010**

An excellent opportunity to explore vocation for anyone who knows God is calling them (not necessarily to ordination!). You can choose either a residential weekend or a short distance learning course or both!

#### **'Top Up Your Theology' 19–23 April 2010**

Canon Dr Christina Baxter and members of St John's College Faculty share the latest developments in their subject areas. Topics include Biblical Studies, Mission and the future of the Anglican Communion.

Further details of these and other summer schools and courses in theology or counselling from

*St John's Extension Studies*

*Chilwell Lane, Bramcote*

*Nottingham NG9 3RL*

[ext.studies@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk](mailto:ext.studies@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk)

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## **CHRISTIAN FRIENDSHIP FELLOWSHIP (Derby Branch)**

“You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace.....” Isaiah 55:12

### **Programme for Feb – Apr 2010**

Feb 13th	Day at the Convent of the Holy Name, Oakwood
Feb 20th	Christian Rambling Club Walk. Alstonfield to Ecton & Wetton. 7.2 miles
Mar 6th	Planning Meeting & Bring & Share Supper
Mar 18th	Visit to Guildhall Theatre. Rose Hill Musical Society “The Sorcerer”
Mar 27th	Annual Meal @ The Coopers Arms, Weston on Trent
Apr 10th	Visit to Rudyard Lake with a choice of activities

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## Glossary of abbreviations used in this and other mailings:

CTE – Churches Together in England – the umbrella body co-ordinating and encouraging inter-church work in England.

See [www.churches-together.org.uk](http://www.churches-together.org.uk)

Visit: [www.rejesus.co.uk](http://www.rejesus.co.uk)

CTBI – Churches Together in Britain and Ireland [www.ctbi.org.uk](http://www.ctbi.org.uk)

CTD – Churches Together in Derbyshire – The County-based body that encourages inter-church work throughout the county of Derbyshire

[www.churchestogetherderbyshire.org.uk](http://www.churchestogetherderbyshire.org.uk)

CTN - Churches Together in Nottinghamshire – The County-based body that encourages inter-church work throughout the county of Nottinghamshire

[www.churchestogethernottinghamshire.org.uk](http://www.churchestogethernottinghamshire.org.uk)

LEP – Local Ecumenical Partnership – check out

[www.churchestogetherderbyshire.org.uk](http://www.churchestogetherderbyshire.org.uk) or

[www.churchestogethernottinghamshire.org.uk](http://www.churchestogethernottinghamshire.org.uk) for details of the bodies that fit into these categories

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