

## Diocesan information



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## Bishop's Comment

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#### Go Well in Christ.

First I would like to wish you a great holiday and hope you find time to refresh yourself, relax and reinvigorate yourself ready for the autumn.

After a short break I will be in Africa visiting the IPASC Community Health Development programme and the Diocese of Aru in the Democratic Republic of Congo and strengthening our links with Malawi – a link between churches that has lasted 40 years.

Africa is very important to me as I learnt there something that has been more important to me than anything I have gained from academic study or intellectual debate.

Working with people with physical disabilities I saw young Ugandans who were disadvantaged in so many ways but whose whole lives radiated the love of Jesus. It was their ability to explain in words and actions how to have a relationship with God through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus that drew me to become a disciple.

Because of the way I became a Christian I have a huge amount of respect for people who are born without the advantages that so many of us take for granted. It is also why one of my greatest inspirations is from 2 Corinthians 4 v7 "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."

This theme is a great encouragement to me as Bishop of Birmingham when faced with headlines proclaiming the declining English Church and a fragmenting Anglican Communion. In fact more people are coming to worship with the church in Birmingham and region and our relations with our international co-workers are stronger than ever.

As I go about my day-to-day visits to parishes meeting clergy and

their communities I am aware that there is much treasure here in this city and region. One of the great treasures of the Diocese is an emphasis on generosity.

I was heartened to hear at our recent Diocesan Synod that, despite being asked to give around £5 million in common fund to keep the Church of England active in this region, churches in the Diocese had donated more than £110,000 to Malawi.

That is a remarkable achievement and I know that in addition some further gifts are made directly to partner churches and schools in Malawi.

One of my aims during my visit to Malawi will be to explore how we nurture a reciprocal relationship with our Christian brothers and sisters in Malawi. We have had glimpses of the treasure they can share with us when the Ndirande Choir visited, when we hear about the work in education and social care done by the Mothers Union, and when we experience their enthusiasm and whole-heartedness in worship.

I hope you have time this summer to be inspired and refreshed by both those you love and know well and also by the unexpected meetings you have as you live, work and travel in the power of the Holy Spirit. Go well in Christ.

+David, Bishop of Birmingham

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 The Ninth Bishop of Birmingham, the Rt Revd David Urquhart, was inaugurated as the Ninth Bishop of Birmingham on November 17th 2006.

Bishop David comes to Birmingham from Birkenhead where he was a Suffragan Bishop in the Diocese of Chester. Before going to Birkenhead in October 2000 he was Vicar of Holy Trinity Church in Coventry City Centre. Before being ordained Bishop David spent 10 years in commercial management, working for BP.

Through his work and ministry he has travelled widely and he chairs the trustees of the [Church Mission Society](#) as well as being the Archbishop of Canterbury's link with China.

The Bishop's sermons and speeches will be added to the document library in the [resources](#) section of the website, news items can be read [here](#). If you want to get in touch with the Bishop, his contact details can be found [here](#).

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## Topical Comment

### Water, Winds, Whirlwinds and Judgment

Had I been asked for this article last Friday, it would have come to you from the Isle of Tanworth. We spent about three hours as a village on a hill (a wise place to build a church...) that you could only enter or leave with a 4 x 4 or a boat. As we tried to find someone with either of these to rescue two members of our congregation stranded at the vicarage, we were far more concerned then about the pragmatic side of this. Where were our families? Were they safe? How were they going to get home from work?

As the week has continued so we began to realise that our concerns were small fry compared to those in Worcestershire and Gloucestershire, but as the waters begin to recede, the inevitable question, 'Why?' begins to be heard. One of the concerns that has been raised with me is this question of whether this is God's judgement. In order to answer that we have to understand a few things about the planet we live on.

The Earth is a dynamic system and I struggle with the idea that its natural reaction to changing conditions is a direct sign of God's judgment. Augustine may have seen so called 'natural evil' as a direct consequence of God's judgment, but I would hope that our understanding of creation would allow us to see things a little differently.

On the question of whether flooding is a natural evil caused by God's judgment, I think we have to first ask the question, 'Is there is such a thing as natural evil?' There are certainly disastrous consequences for populations living in earthquake devastated areas, flood plains and areas of volcanic activity. However, would such events be described as evil if humanity was unaffected?

Few people would refer to underwater volcanos, such as those in the Hawaiian Islands, as evil. In fact, using earthquakes and volcanos as examples, it can be shown that such natural processes are necessary for the existence of life. Plate tectonics recycle carbon dioxide which has become locked up in carbonate rocks by dragging them into the Earth's interior where the carbon dioxide is liberated and released via volcanos. Without this effect, the planet's store of carbon dioxide would gradually be depleted from the atmosphere, together with the greenhouse effect which it supplies. Average temperatures would eventually descend to -20oC and the earth would freeze. All macrobiotic life would cease. Far from being a curse, the dynamism of Earth's tectonics are vital.

What then does that have to say to the flooding we've experienced?

If you listen to the meteorologists, they have a simple explanation. The jet stream, that fast-moving high altitude rapid flow of air, is further south than usual at this time of year. This means that areas of low pressure are able to settle over the UK when usually they would be pushed north by high pressure coming up from the Azores. That's why we have so much rain. In fact the climate change models for global warming in the UK suggest that it will be our winters that become wetter, while no model currently exists to be sure of what to expect over the summer.

And yet... Whilst it seems to me that we cannot declare that the floods are God's direct judgment on us for specific crimes, there is a concept that we should hold in tension with what I've just said. In the context of religious apostasy Hosea 8 contains that famous phrase, 'They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind'. Can we apply that as a general principle to what we're experiencing? With the exception of a few vocal businesses and countries who stand to lose a lot of financial power, there is no doubt in anyone's mind now that global warming is a genuine phenomenon, and has proven to be so by many scientific studies.

As I said above, the planet is a dynamic system. If you push it, it will react. Fossil fuels liberate vast quantities of carbon dioxide which warms the planet and until we adopt alternatives, that trend will continue. This means that sea levels will rise as ice caps melt, and warm moist air deposits more rain so flooding will continue to happen and probably with an increased frequency.

Maybe therefore we can say that we have sown the wind, now we must prepare to reap the whirlwind. Is that God's judgment? Let us be clear that individuals who are suffering as a result of the flooding are NOT under judgment as being more guilty than anyone else. As a whole, however, humanity, all of us, may have to learn to live with the consequences of what our race is doing to the biosphere. Is that judgement? You decide.

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## News

### Communications Update from the Church of England

25 July 2007

General Synod, Summer 2007

A wide range of issues were discussed at the General Synod, meeting at York earlier this month. Details at:

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/gensynod/agendas/gsjul07shortsumm.rtf>

#### Archbishop given award for environmental role

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, has received an award from parliamentarians for his work in helping to promote environmentally friendly causes.

The award, presented to the Archbishop by the Parliamentary Renewable and Sustainable Energy Group, recognises the work of the Archbishop and the Church of England in promoting sustainable energy issues to the public and to policy makers. The award was accepted on the Archbishop's behalf by Claire Foster, who is the Church of England's lead policy officer on environmental matters as Dr Williams is currently on a period of study leave. She said that the Archbishop's leadership had clearly had an impact. Full details at: <http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/releases/070713.htm>

#### Archbishop responds to Prime Minister's statement on constitutional affairs

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, has welcomed the announcement by the Prime Minister regarding changes to the process by which diocesan bishops are appointed.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, who is on study leave, was made aware at the outset of the Government's wish to talk to the Church about its intentions. Dr. Williams agreed that the Archbishop of York was to deal with the matter and was briefed by Dr. Sentamu in advance of the Prime Minister's statement. Full details at: <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/news/abyconst.html>

#### Church youth worker finds faith in popular culture with Harry Potter and The Simpsons

Two new books from the Church of England suggest that youth leaders should use the popular Harry Potter series of books and films and the exploits of Bart, Lisa, Maggie, Marge and Homer Simpson as launch pads for exploring Christian themes within Church youth groups or Sunday schools. Full details at:

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/news/pr6407.html> and  
<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/news/pr6907.html>

#### Cathedral schools set to spread expertise

Church of England cathedral schools could soon act as sponsors for city academies or even convert into academies themselves, in a move designed to spread the musical and educational expertise of the country's cathedral schools across their wider communities.

The proposed move seeks to unlock the resources and expertise held by cathedral schools for the wider benefit of their respective cities and regions. Full details at:

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/news/pr6307.html>

#### Church welcomes review of supercasino

The Church has warmly welcomed the Prime Minister's statement reviewing the creation of a supercasino, particularly noting his concern as to whether a supercasino can socially and economically

regenerate an area. Full details at:

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/news/pr6207.html>

Are you Shrinking your Footprint? - test Defra's new CO2 Calculator

A public trial version of Defra's new CO2calculator has been launched which you can find at: [www.direct.gov.uk/ActOnCO2](http://www.direct.gov.uk/ActOnCO2). It enables everyone to understand and measure their carbon footprint and consider appropriate actions to reduce it.

Defra have also issued a methodology paper to go alongside the calculator which sets out the detail that lies behind the rationale for the assumptions and factors used. You can find this at:

[www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/individual/actonco2](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/individual/actonco2)

The trial aims to give the calculator exposure to a wide range of specialist and non-specialist users. Defra hope to use feedback to improve the calculator before launching a full version later in the year and encourage and value any feedback on how it can be improved. Any feedback can be sent to Defra via the calculator website or to the national Church Shrinking the Footprint team here.

Study resource released to explore Ordination

More than 560 men and women will join the Church of England's clergy this year – the highest number since 2000. Among the 566 being ordained as deacons this year, 283 will go on to stipendiary ministry - a figure that has risen over the last two years. It is therefore a fitting time for the Church to publish a new resource that, in one volume, brings together the Common Worship Ordination Services and the 1662 Book of Common Prayer Ordinal, alongside a brief history of ordination rites and a commentary by the Liturgical Commission. Common Worship: Ordination Services also includes a comprehensive practical guide to planning ordinations, including sections on using the worship space, vesture, music, and compiling the service booklet. Full details at:

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/news/pr6007.html>

Church says IVF children need fathers

The Mission and Public Affairs Council of the Church has given cautious acceptance to the proposal to produce cytoplasmic hybrid embryos for research into the alleviation of serious diseases. It has, however, accused the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee (STC) of 'a serious disregard for ethics in favour of seeking scientific knowledge by all available means'. The Church has also challenged an apparent Government u-turn on the need of a child for a father. For details at:

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/news/pr5907.html>

Church says no to true human hybrids

The Mission and Public Affairs Council of the Church of England has opposed the creation of true human hybrids but given a cautious acceptance to the proposal to produce cytoplasmic hybrid embryos for

research into the alleviation of serious diseases. Research using human embryos donated by IVF patients, it adds, is acceptable but using human embryos created specifically for research from donated eggs and sperm is not. Full details at:

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/news/pr6807.html>

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### **Clergy cricket**

18 July 2007

Somebody was always going to feel aggrieved. In the end that turned out to be Chester. The day of the semi-final was capriciously sunny but the ground had already been declared unfit in advance. The battle for who would get through to the final was not waged with bat and ball but by interminable phone calls to the Church Times organisers.

Both teams wanted to organise a new fixture. Chester offered a date in the week of the final in September – which 3 B'ham players could not attend; B'ham offered 3 dates in August which were not accepted. With discussion at a stalemate the Church Times' editor adjudicated and reverted to the original competition rules which declared that the team with the better run-rate would go through. This turned out to be B'ham (4.98).

And so in the most unsatisfactory manner imaginable, it is B'ham who will contest the final in Southgate, London on Thursday 6th September. It will be their first visit since 1977 and incredibly enough there is a member of the current 11 who was there then – Fr Jo Evans from Harborne. Indeed, Fr Jo will be flying back from a holiday in Corsica on the Wednesday to be there. Whether Mrs Fr Jo is aware is not certain.

B'ham have made quiet and steady progress through the competition, success based mostly on the ability to field 5 specialist bowlers throughout. It has been a squad effort involving 16 different players, each of whom have given whole-heartedly to the cause and the hard task now falls to the management to find the final 11.

analysis

bowler overs maidens runs wickets econ av

Cox 26 1 84 8 3.2 10.5

Parker 27 3 91 8 3.4 11.2

Lanham	30	3	77	4	2.6	19.3
Evans	24	3	87	4	3.6	21.7
Mansley	27	1	109	2	4.0	54.5
Hinton	4	-	34	-	8.5	-
Sale	1	-	17	-	17	-

Batsman total best av

Lanham	291	118	97
Cox	88	66n.o.	88
Parker	69	62n.o.	62
Roberts	61	27	20
Dunk	38	31	19
Turner	7	7	7
Dimes	7	7	7
Sale	5	5	5
Jones	2	2	2
Mansley	1	1n.o.	-
Banks	1	1	1
Hinton	1	1	1
Evans J	0	0	0
Evans N	0	0	0

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## Summary of General Synod

17 July 2007

A wide range of issues were discussed at the General Synod of the Church of England at the University of York in July.

### Marriage Law

The draft Church of England Marriage Measure was given final approval and now goes to Parliament for consideration. The legislation will make it easier for people to get married in a church with special meaning for them.

### Senior Church Appointments

Synod considered the report of the review group to consider the law and practice regarding senior appointments. The debate was widened to reflect the Government's wish to engage in dialogue over how the Prime Minister can cease to play an active role in the selection of individual candidates for Church appointments. Synod welcomed the Government's proposals and invited the Archbishops, in consultation with the Archbishops' Council and the House of Bishops, to oversee the necessary discussions with the Government and to report to the February group of sessions. It also agreed that the recommendations of the review group should be implemented.

### Anglican Communion Covenant

The Most Reverend Drexel Gomez, Archbishop of the West Indies and Chair of the

Covenant Design Group, addressed the Synod before it debated the Covenant, which seeks to encourage common understanding between the provinces of the Communion. Synod affirmed its willingness to engage with the process for producing a covenant and invited the Archbishops of Canterbury and York (having consulted the House of Bishops and the Archbishops' Council) to agree the terms of a considered response to the current draft by the end of the year.

### **Transforming Worship**

The Synod discussed the Liturgical Commission's initiative in liturgical formation and education, called *Transforming Worship*. Synod commended the Commission's report *Transforming Worship: Living the New Creation* (GS 1651) to the Church for study, reflection and action.

### **Resources**

The Synod endorsed the Archbishops' Council's recommendations on Rules changes to preserve a defined benefit pension scheme for the clergy, following consultation with the 24,000 members of the clergy pension scheme.

Following a presentation on the Church Commissioners Annual Report a diocesan Synod motion from the Southwark Diocese seeking a review of the Commissioners' status and accountability was moved and debated. The motion was lost.

A debate on a private member's motion from Mr Gavin Oldham led to an amended motion being carried which urged various Church bodies, in collaboration with the Ethical Investment Advisory Group, to make available more details of how they carry out their ethical investment policies, in order to help Christians of all denominations manage their own investments.

### **Diversity issues**

Synod debated a report from the Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns, *Present and Participating*, urging the Church to ensure that all its members participate fully in its mission and urged dioceses to assess what further developments of their structures and practices are needed to secure a greater use of the gifts of minority ethnic people in the life of the Church.

A debate on a report from the Committee for Ministry of and among Deaf and Disabled People led Synod to affirm the value of the contribution made by clergy with disabilities to the life and witness of the Church and asked dioceses to take practical steps to support this commitment.

### **Ecumenical relations**

Synod commended the second interim report from the Joint Implementation Commission for the Anglican/Methodist Covenant as a basis for study and action across the Church. The final report of the JIC, in its five-year programme of work, will come to Synod in July 2008.

### **Other business**

In his Presidential Address, the Archbishop of York focused on the charge upon Christians to 'not be afraid'. Sir Al Aynsley Green, the Children's Commissioner, spoke to the Synod on the theme of modern childhood. The Chief Executive of the Church

Army, Mark Russell, also addressed the Synod on the impact of the organisation in social action and mission, as it marks its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Background papers for each debate, alongside links to an audio archive of each session, are available at: <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/gensynod/agendas/jul2007.html>

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### **Funding available for young people**

11 July 2007

St. Martins Trust have made an amount of money available to help enable young people to go on year outs or short term projects. So if you are, or know any young people who are going on a project this year and still need to raise some money, or who are considering going on a project or year out next year, then this might be just the encouragement they need.

What are the criteria??

Quite simply.... It must be a project within an 'explicit Christian context'. And a project (which you can show in a report after the project) that will develop in you 'Christian identity and calling'.

You can apply for grants of £500 or more... Application forms available from Jelena [jelena@birmingham.anglican.org](mailto:jelena@birmingham.anglican.org)  
Or further questions talk to Helen on 07968 69581 or [helen@brimingham.anglican.org](mailto:helen@brimingham.anglican.org)

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### **Every child deserves a good childhood this Christingle**

11 July 2007

Recent research by The Children's Society shows that children and young people see relationships with their family and friends as the most important elements of good childhood. Last year over £1.2 million was raised through Christingle helping The Children's Society to defend, safeguard and protect the childhood of disadvantaged children

The charity is looking for church groups, schools and youth groups to organise and hold Christingle celebrations on their behalf. A range of inspiring and engaging resources have been developed to make organising a celebration easy. Developed in partnership with the

Church of England's Children's Work Advisers, the National Worship Development Officer and members of the clergy, the resources include liturgy, prayers, schools and children's activities, hymns and songs. The Create-a-Christingle also includes fundraising items such as collection candles, posters, label labels and Christingle making materials.

'Christingle' means 'Christ light'. Through Christingle The Children's Society hopes to shine a light into the darkness of thousands of disadvantaged children's lives.

If you would like to help shine this light by organising your own Christingle for The Children's Society, call 0845 300 1128 for your free Create-a-Christingle pack or visit [www.christingle.org](http://www.christingle.org)

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### **Vegbox community project**

11 July 2007

The Vegbox is an initiative to bring fresh local produce to your door, all of which is organic and affordable.

Vegbox is made up of members who receive twenty or more boxes of vegetables. The members then distribute these boxes to neighbours and friends, and for their hard work they receive their vegbox free.

The boxes come six different sizes, for example a family of 2 adults and 2 children would pay £10, 1 adult is £4 and 1 senior adult is only £2.

If you would like more details please contact Jon on 0121 4863263, email: [scriv@vegbox.org.uk](mailto:scriv@vegbox.org.uk)

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### **Do you know someone about to become a University student?**

11 July 2007

This can be an exciting but also intimidating prospect, one which some members of your congregation may well be facing soon. Some of them may be wondering where they will find Christian friends in their place of study. Others may be looking forward to the freedom to

explore spirituality, or even just want to know where they will find a listening ear. Whatever the case, chaplains can help.

There are chaplaincies at virtually every university, and many Further Education colleges. Many of them work closely with Christian groups based in their institutions, and all will have details of local churches. Do put a plug in for chaplaincies, please, with anybody you know who is about to start a course.

You can also help by letting the relevant chaplain know details of people from your parish or church who are going to their institution. You should make sure (please don't assume!) that the person concerned is happy for you to pass on their details, and give the chaplain as much contact information as you can, including term-time address and e-mail once it becomes available. Better still get the new student to contact the chaplain themselves.

Finally, please remember in your prayers students and chaplains, especially in the crucial start-of-year period between September and October. Thank you.

*Fr Nicholas lo Polito is the Anglican Chaplain at the University of Birmingham, and has access to contact information for most chaplaincies in the UK. He can be contacted on 0121 414 8151, or by e-mail: n.lopolito@bham.ac.uk.*

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## **Notification of appointments, retirement and death**

09 July 2007

### Appointments

The Revd David Leahy  
Vicar, St Mary Hobs Moat  
To be Vicar, All Saints Four Oaks (Oct)

The Revd Andrew Goodman  
Assistant Curate, St Paul Hamstead  
To be Co-ordinating Chaplain, Bedfordshire University (St Albans)  
(August)

The Revd Jayne Adams  
Bishop's Permission to Officiate  
To be part-time Chaplain, Dudley Hospital (Worcester) (July)

The Revd Mary Gilbert  
Associate Vicar, St Nicholas Codsall (Lichfield)

To be Vicar, St Paul Birmingham (September)

The Revd Edmund Buxton  
Hospital Chaplain (Team Leader), University Hospital NHS Trust  
To be House for Duty, St Briavels with Hewersfield (Gloucester)  
(September)

The Revd James Cope  
Vicar, St John Watford  
To be Vicar, St Cuthbert of Lindisfarne, Castle Vale (October)

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## **CLIMATE MARCH TO PASS THROUGH BIRMINGHAM DIOCESE**

05 July 2007

The longest ever campaign march in UK history will be passing through the West Midlands this summer. Christian Aid's Cut the Carbon March starts in Northern Ireland on 14 July and ends at the London Stock Exchange on 2 October.

Climate Change is not just an environmental crisis; it is a global injustice on an unimaginable scale. The world's poorest are already suffering, despite contributing so little to the carbon emissions causing the crisis.

A team of just 20 'core' marchers will march the 1000 mile route over 11 weeks. One of the marchers is Merryn Hellier, a local Christian Aid supporter from Hereford. Merryn says "The rich can usually pay their way out of disaster; the poor can only suffer and die. I feel compelled to take every opportunity possible to inspire a more just and caring world."

A major rally will take place in Birmingham on Bank Holiday Monday 27 August. At 11am a mass walk will begin from Birmingham city centre to Cannon Hill Park, where there will be bands, speakers and celebrities such as Lemar and Kris Marshall, in a joint event with Islamic Relief.

The March passes through the region between August 25th and August 30th and will be part of a variety of awareness-raising events organised by local Christian Aid supporters along the route:

25 August: Lichfield to Walsall

26 August: Walsall to Birmingham

27 August: Rally in Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham

[28 August: rest day]

29 August: Birmingham to Halesowen

30 August: Halesowen to Bromsgrove

The march will visit 70 towns and cities throughout the UK. More than 50,000 people are expected to get involved along the way by joining the walkers on parts of the route and attending the major events in Edinburgh (21 July), Newcastle (4 August), Leeds (11 August), Birmingham (see above), Cardiff (8 September) and London (2 October).

The march will put pressure on the government and businesses to reduce the UK's carbon emissions by 5 per cent year on year and will encourage members of the public to join the national campaign and make personal commitments to reduce their carbon footprint.

For more information contact Alison Rooney on 0121 200 2283

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## **FAITHS FOR THE CITY**

03 July 2007

### Rationale:

As Birmingham continues to evolve as a multi faith city, the need becomes greater for the different Faith communities to relate to each other and to the city at a variety of levels. As well as developing friendships and working together on common issues, it is important that the religious communities are able to contribute with substance to the pressing debates about the future of our city. Although Birmingham has a relatively good track record in community relations, serious issues are under the surface. Demographic figures point to a city which is becoming increasingly polarised - divided along ethnic, religious and economic lines - and in which religion is set to assume a much higher profile. There is a danger of segregation, marginalisation and radicalisation, especially among young people. In this context, it is vital that city institutions and sectors are engaging in high quality dialogue with the city's faith communities. New channels of communication need to be created between the city and the faith communities, and between the faith communities themselves.

Faiths for the City is a project - initiated by the University of Birmingham Multi Faith Chaplaincy - which brings together the

Birmingham Faith Leaders Group, academics from the University of Birmingham and leaders from the City of Birmingham for a dialogue focused on specific issues related to the welfare of the city and rooted in a discussion of scriptural texts.

Aims:

1. To bring together city institutions, faith communities and academics in order to address specific issues of concern for Birmingham
2. To develop new and existing channels of communication between these groups, focussing on their leadership
3. To produced published material on the contribution of faith communities to the city
4. To achieve a set of formal commitments by the parties involved to continued communication and to working together for the good of the city
5. To establish a paradigm of cooperation that can be offered to other multi faith cities across the country.

The project will comprise initially three phases: (1) a launch at the University followed by (2) three events in the city itself, and (3) the publishing of a memorandum of understanding. A Planning Group of all stakeholders meets regularly to oversee the project, advised by the Faith Leaders Group, and an Executive Group meets weekly to take the project forward.

Phase 1:

Preparation

Six academic theologians representing the six major Faith traditions in Birmingham have agreed to prepare papers of 3,000 words by July 2007 addressing the question: What is a good city? These papers will be based on scriptural texts or traditions with equivalent authority, taking into account the history of their interpretation. The six academics are: Dr Jabal Buaben (Islam), Dr Elizabeth Harris (Buddhism), Revd Dr Toby Howarth (Christianity), Rabbi Dr Margaret Jacobi (Judaism), Dr Jagbir Jhutti-Johal (Sikhism), Dr Sharada Sugirtharajah (Hinduism). These papers will be collated by Prof Judith Petts (Head of the Department of Geography, University of Birmingham) who will also write a response. This set of papers, with an introduction by Prof Michael Clarke, Birmingham University Vice Principal, will be published in the summer of 2007. Edited versions will then be published in the Birmingham Post newspaper each day in the week leading up to the project launch.

Six members of the Birmingham Faith Leaders Group have agreed to prepare a five minute talk informed by the relevant academic paper, focusing on the contribution that their faith tradition can make to the city of Birmingham. The six Faith Leaders are: Mr Dinesh Chauhan (Hinduism), Dr Muhammed Naseem (Islam), The Most Revd Vincent Nicholls (Christianity), Bhai Sahib Mohinder Singh (Sikhism), Rabbi

Leonard Tann (Judaism), Vajaragupta (Buddhism).

A book bringing together articles by members of the Birmingham Faith Leaders Group, their launch talks and other material related to this Project is to be edited for publication in the autumn of 2007 by Mr Jonathan Gurling, the Group's Executive Secretary.

A website is already being set up containing details of the whole project which we hope to launch within the next two weeks.

#### The Project Launch

This event will take place on 11th September 2007 at the Great Hall of the University (audience capacity: 900 people). From 6:30 to 7:30pm the Great Hall and foyer will be open for a cultural programme of music, art, poetry and photography from the different faith traditions and opportunities for networking. Significant media coverage is expected. From 7:30pm the formal proceedings will begin, and are expected to last for one and a half hours. The programme for the evening is as follows:

- Welcome and intro: Prof Clarke
- Faith Leaders' contributions
- 'Buzz groups' from the audience
- Questions and responses from panel
- Closing response by Ann Morisy of the Commission on Urban Life and Faith.

#### Phase 2:

This phase will consist of three events, to take place between October 2007 and April 2008, in which Faith Leaders and other, younger representatives of their communities will dialogue with sectors of the city about specific areas of concern. These events will be facilitated by academics of the relevant University departments.

#### Detailed explanation of the three events:

1. Business and Commerce: This event will be hosted by the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, with the participation of 60 leading businesses from the city, Mr John Craner Deputy Head of the University Business School and the Birmingham Faith Leaders Group. This event is being conducted also in partnership with the Birmingham Post which plans to publish a report of the event as a special pull-out feature in the newspaper. This will be a closed meeting to which the public will not be invited. Issues discussed are likely to include Islamic Financing, ethical investment and personal debt.

2. Environment: We hope to hold this event at the Botanical Gardens, bringing together the Birmingham Sustainability Partnership (including Friends of the Earth), the University Department of Geography led by Prof John Thornes, members of the Faith Leaders Group and other representatives from their faith communities with particular involvement in environmental issues. On the agenda are

issues of climate change, the reduction of the city's 'carbon footprint', and attitudes of people of faith towards ecology and the environment.

3. Quality of Living: This event is planned at the Council House, bringing together representatives of the West Midlands Police, the Birmingham Courts, the Birmingham District Housing Authority and local Housing Associations, Birmingham Youth Service, the Leisure Service with Birmingham Citizens, members of the Faith Leaders Group and other representatives of their communities. The dialogue will be facilitated by the University Department of Sociology led by Prof John Holmwood. The agenda is planned to focus on the ethnic, religious and economic polarisation of the city, and the role of faith communities in building civic society.

Phase 3:

At the end of each event a Memorandum of Understanding will be proposed committing representatives of the different dialogue partners to outcomes in the three areas addressed in Phase 2. These will detail new or improved channels of communication as well as specific projects.

In order to take the Faiths for the City process further, we hope to invite to Birmingham in 2008 the International Summer School on Religion and Public Life as part of a series of annual summer schools coordinated by Prof Adam Seligman of Boston University.

For further information, please contact one of the members of the Executive Group:

The Revd Dr Toby Howarth, Inter Faith Advisor to the Bishop of Birmingham, [interfaith@birmingham.anglican.org](mailto:interfaith@birmingham.anglican.org), 0121 777 1989

The Revd Nicholas lo Polito, Birmingham University Multifaith Chaplaincy

[n.lopolito@bham.ac.uk](mailto:n.lopolito@bham.ac.uk), 0121 414 8151

Ms Sajida Madni, Project Administrator [smadni@yahoo.com](mailto:smadni@yahoo.com) , 07817 261 042

June 2007

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

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### **Ordinations on 1st July**

03 July 2007

Lucille Arlidge, Holy Trinity Birchfield

Angela Bevan, St David Shenley Green

Alison Bownass, Christ Church the Quinton

Margaret Brighton, St Michael Boldmere

Derek D'Souza, St Germain, Edgbaston

Alan Fraser, All Saints, Gravelly Hill

Rachel Hill-Brown, St John, Knowle

Rebecca Pullin, St Nicolas, Kings Norton

Adele Rees, St James, Hill

Ann Simmons, St Paul, Blackheath

Kate Stowe, Shirley Team

Alan Thompson, St Saviour, Saltley & St Mark Washwood Heath

[Read the sermon preached at the ordination](#)

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

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### **New church guide for understanding and managing migration**

29 June 2007

As a response to the current national and often heated debate on migration, a British and Irish inter-denominational study group has devised a set of principles to enable Churches to contribute to the discussion. The principles will also help churches respond in practical ways to the presence, gifts and needs of migrant communities.

"MIGRATION PRINCIPLES: STATEMENT FOR CHURCHES WORKING WITH MIGRANTS AND ENGAGING WITH MIGRANT ISSUES", is published by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, which, through its Churches' Commission for Racial Justice, convened the study group behind the book.

Edited by Prof. Paul Weller of the University of Derby, "Migration Principles" is firmly rooted in the Christian tradition of welcome. The publication looks at migration in the context not only of Christian theology but also of globalisation, racism, xenophobia, trafficking and exploitation. It further considers the complex issues of family reunification, and the reciprocal benefits of migration, as well as high-profile security concerns.

"Migration Principles" concludes with recommendations of measures

that churches should support, and suggested actions for them to take.

"Migration Principles", edited by Paul Weller (ISBN 978-0-85169-349-1, £5, plus £1 handling charge per order) is available from CTBI Publications (MPH), order on line at [www.ctbi.org.uk](http://www.ctbi.org.uk), by phone 01733 325002, or fax 01733 384180.

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

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### **The next Breaking New Ground Grants deadline is 12th Spetember**

25 May 2007

Breaking New Ground – Grants for New Mission Initiatives

The New Mission Initiatives Committee welcome further applications. Please remember that these need to be for new initiatives and should focus on the delivery of the gospel of Christ, as opposed to preliminary research or equipment.

For further information or an application form please contact Michele Simms, Forum for Mission & Evangelism secretary, on 0121 262 1852 or email [m.simms@birmingham.anglican.org](mailto:m.simms@birmingham.anglican.org)

Closing dates for applications (on official form only):

12th Sept, 14th Nov

Application forms and a full set of criteria can be downloaded from the [Document Library](#) in the Resources section of the website

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

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### **Small Miracles – Free Harvest Festival resources for churches**

11 May 2007

Harvest Help, the overseas development charity, is offering Small Miracles to churches this harvest.

This free resource pack contains everything a congregation needs both to celebrate harvest in this country and to consider those in Africa for whom harvest time can be a matter of life and death.

The resources, based on Isaiah 61 and the Parable of the Good

Samaritan, include service and music ideas and a sermon outline, as well as suggestions for fundraising and work with children and young people. In addition extra resources such as prayer cards, posters, primary schools packs, films of the work in Africa are available and speakers for your service can be arranged.

To order your free Small Miracles pack or for more information, call Harvest Help on 01952 260699, email [info@harvesthelp.org](mailto:info@harvesthelp.org), visit [www.harvesthelp.org](http://www.harvesthelp.org)

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

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## Courses

### 3D - Birmingham Diocesan Course for Developing Disciples

Full details available in the Document Library.

A bible-based study course for established Christians who want to develop their understanding and discipleship.

We are enrolling now for September 2007. Please advertise the course using the yellow poster and brochures recently sent to all parish clergy. More copies are available.

**Venue:** Various

**Cost:** £12

**Organised by:** Birmingham Diocese Forum for Ministries

**For more information, contact:** Jelena Cammack

**Telephone:** 0121 426 0435

**E-mail:** [j.cammack@birmingham.anglican.org](mailto:j.cammack@birmingham.anglican.org)

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### Exploring 1 Corinthians

16th September Chapter 12 v 1-31 Spiritual Gifts and the Body of Christ

28th October Chapter 13 v1-13 Love

25th November Chapter 15 v 1-58 Resurrection

**Venue:** St Francis Church, Linden Road, Bournville

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** St Francis Church

**For more information, contact:** The Revd Peter Babington

**Telephone:** 0121 472 7215 (Weekdays 9am to 3pm)

**E-mail:**

### **A Stand-Up Comedy Course for Young People**

Local Comedians Janice Connelly, Dharmander Singh and Andy White join Helen Tomblin (Bishop's Adviser for Youth Ministry and Founder of The Laughing Sole Comedy Club) ([www.thelaughingsole.org.uk](http://www.thelaughingsole.org.uk)) to run a stand-up comedy course for young people aged 16-25 yrs.

SAT 1st Sept - Session One will include the theology of humour, as well as basics in writing and telling jokes, and the art of stand-up comedy. Carrs Lane, 10-4 pm. (This is a stand-alone taster session and no commitment to further sessions or to perform is necessary.) £5.

SAT 8th Sept - Session Two furthers the training of Session One and will focus on writing good material, selecting a set, and preparation for performances at Reunited and The ArtsFest on 15th Sept. Carrs Lane, 10-4 pm.

THURS 13th, 7-9pm - Session Three; Fine tuning the gags FRI 14th 7-9pm - Session Four; Dress Rehearsal

SAT 15th performances at The ArtsFest Comedy stage in Chamberlain Square and at Reunited (in St. Martins in the Bullring) (Sessions Two, Three and Four will be at a total cost of £15).

Bursaries available.

For booking form for Session One e.mail

[jelena@birmingham.anglican.org](mailto:jelena@birmingham.anglican.org) (Booking for session 2-4 will be available at session one, but book dates in your diary now). [Download a flyer here](#)

**Venue:**

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** The Laughing Sole Comedy Club

**For more information, contact:** Helen Tomblin

**Telephone:** 07968 695812

**E-mail:** [helen@birmingham.anglican.org](mailto:helen@birmingham.anglican.org)

### **Faraday Institute Course for Church Leaders on Science and Religion**

From 6th to 8th November 2007.

The course aims to equip church leaders and those in training for leadership to answer some of the questions they might face in the course of their ministry. Topics covered include Evolution, interpreting Genesis, the ethics of Stem Cells and the church's response to Global warming. Speakers include Prof. Bob White FRS, Rt Revd James Jones, Dr Allan Chapman and Dr Gordon Wenham.

Further details, including a course program and application forms can be found on the Faraday Institute website [www.faraday-institute.org](http://www.faraday-institute.org). Click on 'Courses' in the side bar.

**Venue:** St Edmund's College, Cambridge

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion

**For more information, contact:** Bekki

**Telephone:** 01223 741283

**E-mail:**

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## Events

### Holy Communion

01/08/2007

**Date:** 01 August 2007

**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral

Starts: 1.10 pm

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** Birmingham Cathedral

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: [carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com)

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### Wholeness & Healing Service with Communion

04/08/2007

**Date:** 04 August 2007

**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 9.00 am.

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** Birmingham Cathedral

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: [carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com)

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**West Midlands Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament -  
Hiroshima Day Vigil in Churchyard**

04/08/2007

**Date:** 04 August 2007

**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral

Start 12.30 pm.

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** Birmingham Cathedral

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: [carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com)

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**Young People's Diocesan Pilgrimage to Taize**

04/08/2007

**Date:** 04 August 2007

**Venue:** Taize, France

The Diocese is running an annual trip to Taize - an ecumenical monastery which attracts thousands of visitors each week. The pilgrimage to France is for young people aged 15-30 and runs from Saturday 4th August to Monday 13th August. The group camps together and joins in the programme of the Taize community which includes work worship and prayer. Download an application form from <http://www.birmingham.anglican.org/upload/pdf/Applicationform.pdf>

**Cost:** approx £160 per person

**Organised by:** Diocese of Birmingham

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Richard Wharton

Telephone: 0121 778 6381  
E-mail: [r-wharton1@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:r-wharton1@tiscali.co.uk)

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### **Holy Communion**

08/08/2007

**Date:** 08 August 2007  
**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 1.10 pm.

**Cost:**  
**Organised by:** Birmingham Cathedral

**For more information, contact:**  
Name: Carol Currier  
Telephone: 0121 262 1840  
E-mail: [carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com)

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### **Holy Communion**

15/08/2007

**Date:** 15 August 2007  
**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 1.10 pm.

**Cost:**  
**Organised by:** Birmingham Cathedral

**For more information, contact:**  
Name: Carol Currier  
Telephone: 0121 262 1840  
E-mail: [carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com)

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### **Wholeness and Healing Service**

16/08/2007

**Date:** 16 August 2007  
**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 1.10 pm.

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** Birmingham Cathedral

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: [carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com)

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**Holy Communion**

22/08/2007

**Date:** 22 August 2007

**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 1.10 pm.

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** Birmingham Cathedral

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: [carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com)

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**Holy Communion**

29/08/2007

**Date:** 29 August 2007

**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 1.10 pm.

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** Birmingham Cathedral

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: [carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com)

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**Racial Justice Sunday**

09/09/2007

**Date:** 09 September 2007

**Venue:**

This year's theme 'A World on the Move' is related to the bicentenary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. Please join with the churches in promoting racial justice. If you need ideas, an easy thing to do is to get the Racial Justice Sunday 2007 pack from CTBI Publications, 4 John Wesley Road, Peterborough PR4 6ZP Tel: 01733 325 002 E-mail: [sales@mph.org.uk](mailto:sales@mph.org.uk) Cost: £3.50 including postage and packing, cheques payable to CTBI Publications (MPH).

**Cost:** Resources Pack £3.50

**Organised by:** Churches Together Britain and Ireland

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Dr Mukti Barton

Telephone: 0121 426 0400

E-mail: [Mukti.Barton@birmingham.anglican.org](mailto:Mukti.Barton@birmingham.anglican.org)

**Mission in Christian Soil?**

15/09/2007

**Date:** 15 September 2007

**Venue:** Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham

Starts: 10am - 4pm. Cultural awareness and personal conversion. A Day Conference with Elaine Storkey. Bring your own lunch. Christian beliefs and values still undergird our nation's life today in all sorts of (often hidden) ways. Historically they have been deeply formative for British society. How does this inform and enrich the task of Christian mission and hospitality in the 21st century? What opportunities does it present, what sensitivities does it require, and what hurdles are to be overcome on the way? Advance registration is necessary. Write to 'Network Conference' The Gospel and Our Culture Network, 11 Redgate Road, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PP

**Cost:** £18 (unwaged £10) -

**Organised by:** Gospel and Our Culture Network

**For more information, contact:**

Name:

Telephone: 01223-277505

E-mail:

**Unite - A call to a generation.**

29/09/2007

**Date:** 29 September 2007

**Venue:** Bethel Convention Centre, Kelvin Way, West Bromwich

Start: 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm (Forum on Persecuted Christians 10.00 am - 5.00 pm) Book your tickets now: [www.opendoorsuk.org/unite](http://www.opendoorsuk.org/unite)

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** Unite & OpenDoors

**For more information, contact:**

Name:

Telephone: 08450 556622

E-mail:

### **PASCH with PZAZZ. Making the most of the Easter Cycle with Times and Seasons**

11/10/2007

**Date:** 11 October 2007

**Venue:** Carrs Lane URC, Carrs Lane, Birmingham

Start: 10.30 a.m. – c3.00 pm. Registration & Coffee from 9.45 am With Canon Christopher Irvine and the Rev'd Jeremy Frost. How should we celebrate Easter Day and the Easter season, the Pasch - with flair and imagination? How can the multi-textured rituals and ceremonies of the Easter season, contained in the new Times and Seasons book, help us to walk with the Risen Lord? How can we make the most of Easter for our children, and as a family? We make a meal of Lent; how about making a feast of the great fifty days to Pentecost? These and many other questions are attended to by Canon Christopher Irvine of Canterbury Cathedral and The Rev'd Jeremy Frost who has been Precentor and Liturgist at Canterbury Cathedral since 2004. If you have a copy of TIMES AND SEASONS, please bring it with you. Book online: [www.midlands-praxis.org.uk](http://www.midlands-praxis.org.uk)

**Cost:** £15 (NO lunch included)

**Organised by:**

**For more information, contact:**

Name: The Rev'd Peter Furber

Telephone: 01684 574 106

E-mail: [peter@furber.me.uk](mailto:peter@furber.me.uk)

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## **Vacancies**

## Abbacus - Children's Outreach Worker, Blackheath and Rowley Regis

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**Salary:** £16,000 - £18,500

**Closing date for applications:** 10/08/2007

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### For further information

**Contact name:**

**Telephone:** 0121 422 2337

**E-mail:** [abbacus@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:abbacus@blueyonder.co.uk)

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## Outreach Youth Worker, St Francis Bournville

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**Salary:** £19,362 p.a.

**Closing date for applications:** 14/09/2007

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### For further information

**Contact name:** Carol Hall

**Telephone:** 0121 472 7215

**E-mail:**

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