



CTe-News from Churches Together in England May 2014

'Belonging to the Body of Christ'

- an extract from 'My Journey with LEPs' by John Bradley



One of the precious fruits of charismatic renewal was a rediscovery of the giftedness of each and every Christian, not just the ordained or other recognised leaders. We should not have forgotten that 'each one of us has received a grace-gift according to the measure of the giving of Christ'. There are no ungifted Christians, only those who have not yet discovered their gifts. When the Methodist Church gave a general welcome to the charismatic movement, I recalled some more lines of Charles Wesley: 'The gift which He on one bestows we all delight to prove; the grace through every vessel flows in streams of purest love'. That bestowing and flowing most generally occurs in the gathering of the local congregation and where that congregation is an ecumenical partnership there will be an even greater diversity of gifts which are brought into unity.

Paul's use of the analogy of the members of the Church being like the organs of a human body, all different and yet working together to make for healthy growth is to emphasise unity in diversity. Because there is a diversity of gifts there is a wealthy diversity of ministry. As a Methodist minister in pastoral charge of many congregations, some quite small, I always tried to resist the pressure to find people willing to do jobs. Instead I tried to encourage discernment of each one's unique gifts and then sought to find the right ministries in which they could exercise them. In practice, I found that it was often others who recognised a person's gifts rather than the person themselves.

Pressing Paul's body language a little further, I want to suggest that the body of Christ also needs connective tissue which joins the diverse members together. Anyone who has sprained an ankle or wrist knows how important it is that bones and muscles, each with their different roles, are securely bound together. Paul calls this the 'bonds of peace' which make fast the unity which the Spirit gives. This is not the peace which the world gives such as Acts of Uniformity which order people to worship in a particular place or pay a fine. Neither is it the peace of indifference when nobody really cares much anyway nor the peace of the open market where various providers compete for their market share. The peace which Jesus gives is shalom of right relationships when we love one another as he loves us. All congregations are called to be local bodies of transforming love but LEPs embrace the greater challenge of overcoming those differences which once bitterly divided our Churches.

'My Journey with LEPs' - [link to full text by John Bradley - online and in Word / PDF](#)

Christians and the 2014 elections to the EU



Churches Together in Britain and Ireland have a page of information about the forthcoming election on 22nd May 2014 which includes:

1. A briefing from the **Joint Public Issues Team** which works for the Baptist, Methodist and URC Churches. **Link to the JPIT resource.**
2. A briefing from **Christian Aid**. Link to the Christian Aid resource: **Why bother with the European Elections?**
3. A call from **Ecumenical Voices** - ecumenical Christian organisations in Europe: **'Its all about Europe - its all about you'**

In addition,

Why Christians should vote in the 2014 elections to the EU is a leaflet written, edited and produced by Sue Bird, Andrew Bowden and Helen Hutchison on behalf of **Faith in Europe**.

FiE is the Churches' European Relations Network, a body in association with Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, and has a web page about the elections:

<http://www.faithineurope.org.uk/election.html>

Pray for Schools Fortnight

4th - 18th May 2014

The vision of Pray for Schools fortnight is to bring together people from local churches and others involved in education – parents, students, teachers, governors, staff and volunteers – to pray strategically for schools in their area and those involved in them.



Over the last few years Pray for Schools fortnight has become widely known with other organisations with a heart for young people choosing to pray with us.

Pray in your church service, or have a coffee morning and a prayer meeting, or prayer walk around your neighbourhood.

Some of the events already organised are listed on our [website](#)

This year's theme is Rooted in Love

Based on **Ephesians 3 v 16 and 17**

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.

Study notes

Christian Aid Week helps people face a future without fear



This year's Christian Aid Week (11-17 May 2014 www.caweek.org), Britain's longest running door-to door fundraising week, is asking the British public to support communities in war-ravaged countries to rebuild their lives and live a life free from fear.

Worldwide more than 45.2 million people are displaced by conflict and more than 1.5 billion are living in conflict affected countries, according to the United Nations. The World Bank cites the insecurity caused by violence as one of the primary development challenges of our time and says that civil conflict costs the average developing country roughly 30 years of GDP growth.

Christian Aid works with partners in many countries around the world who are dealing with the challenges of on-going conflict, or the legacy war leaves behind. Places like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Colombia, Iraq, South Sudan and Syria which are regularly in the news, but also in countries like Angola and Sierra Leone that are still re-building many years after the fighting has stopped.

The often life-saving work of Christian Aid partners includes providing emergency supplies such as food, water, medical care and shelter to those who are caught up in, or displaced by, the fighting. They also offer longer-term support to rebuild shattered lives; providing counselling to those affected by trauma, helping people who have lost everything to once again earn a living, and enabling communities to build homes that will allow families to feel safe.

As well as the practical work with stricken communities, Christian Aid partners lobby for change at the local, national and international level, influencing government policy and protecting human rights.

Loretta Minghella, Chief Executive of Christian Aid said: 'War tears lives apart. It leaves people broken, brutalised, grief-stricken and afraid. The horrors of war can seem remote to us here, but for millions of people across the world conflict is part of their everyday life. It has a huge impact on poverty, destroying lives and communities and preventing people from earning a living.'

[Link to full Christian Aid article](#)

[Christian Aid Week resources](#)

50 days to the Big Lunch



The Big Lunch is about bringing people together and calls on communities to take part in the UK's annual get-together for neighbours by hosting their own Big Lunch events on Sunday 1 June 2014.

The free Big Lunch packs are going fast and with less than 50 days to go to The Big Lunch day, we're raising awareness about the initiative as much as possible - there's still lots of time to organise a Big Lunch!

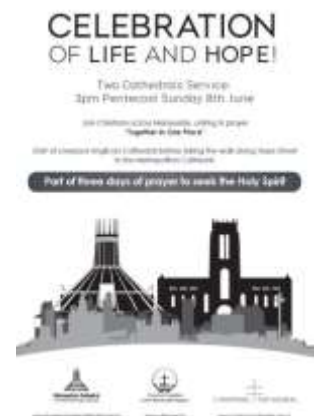
The Big Lunch 2014 packs can be requested **online** or by calling 0845 850 8181. There are lots of new **downloadable resources** to help organise an event

Watch our new **Big Lunch 2014 film**

Two Cathedrals Service @ Pentecost in Liverpool

The 2014 Two Cathedrals Service will take place on Pentecost Sunday, 8 June, and will start at the Anglican Cathedral. For 2014 we are to be joined by members of the Chemin Neuf Community, a Roman Catholic Community with an ecumenical vocation, and are offering a weekend programme of events in support of the Two Cathedrals Service theme 'Celebration of Life and Hope'.

Click [here](#) to download the flier containing information about the service and the supporting programme - 3 days of prayer to seek the Holy Spirit. Posters for the service can also be downloaded - click here to download an A4 poster, and [here](#) to download an A3 poster.



The programme is varied and 'Pentecostal' in all senses of the word, and you are invited to come along to any of the events. More detailed information about the various events will become available on this website as details are finalised.

Support for Inter Faith Commemoration events

Under the Heritage Lottery Fund's 'First World War, Then and Now' programme grants of up to £10,000 are available for local projects with a permanent learning legacy (grants solely for events are not available). Larger HLF grants may also be available for projects with a national scope. Details are available [here](#).



The **Near Neighbours fund** (re-opening late spring 2014) and **Together in Service** would both be willing to consider grant funding applications for **practical** multi-faith projects with a First World War focus.

Last December the Prime Minister announced Government funding of £5.15m to enable local communities to ensure that their war memorials are in a fit state for the centenary period. DCMS is currently working with its project partners to consider the best uses for this funding. Further details will follow. Meanwhile you can find out more about the Government's own programme [here](#).

Projects may also be interested in registering to be part of the **First World War Centenary Partnership**, headed by the Imperial War Museum. Although grants are not available, members carry the prestigious Centenary Partnership brand and have access to an extensive network of contacts and opportunities.

Archbishop Justin licenses Canon Phil Potter at Lambeth Palace

The fresh expressions' movement will continue leading the 're-imagination' of the church's ministry – so said



the Archbishop of Canterbury during a service to license and commission Canon Phil Potter as the new Archbishops' Missioner and Team Leader of Fresh Expressions.

The licensing service took place at Lambeth Palace on Wednesday (April 2). Phil Potter, most recently Director of Pioneer Ministry for the Diocese of Liverpool, succeeds Bishop Graham Cray who has held the post since 2009.

Archbishop Justin said Bishop Graham would be 'a really hard act to follow and, in Phil Potter, I think Fresh Expressions have got one of the few people who can do it well. It's all in God's hands and I am confident that Fresh Expressions will continue to lead the re-imagination of the ministry of the church in this country.'

Phil Potter said, 'This is going to be an exciting and challenging season as we all work together for the renewal of our Church and the re-evangelisation of our nation. I am looking forward immensely to working with new colleagues and forging fresh partnerships in the task of making Christ fully known to all.'

During the service, Archbishop Justin - on behalf of the Provinces of Canterbury and York - gave his license and commission to Canon Potter, who made the Declaration of Assent and the Oaths of Allegiance and Canonical Obedience. Archbishop Justin and the Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, General Secretary of the Methodist Church, then led prayers of commissioning for Canon Potter, joined by members of the congregation.

During his homily, Archbishop Justin noted that those present represented different church denominations and church groups, 'I want to emphasise that this is truly a work of collaboration by those of different denominations who have been caught up by the life and presence of Jesus Christ,' he said. 'We have all come to share, not in an Anglican thing but in something that is the work of the Church of God.'

Cranks or heroes? Uncovering the cost of conscience

Here is a Press Release from the Society of Friends:

On International Conscientious Objectors' Day, 15 May, the courageous men who refused to fight in World War I because they refused to kill, will be remembered by Quakers in Britain and peace groups. Quakers will launch their four-year project to tell the untold stories of WWI and to draw parallels with our response to conflict today. Relatives will honour the conscientious objectors (COs) in a simple ceremony.

Events in central London will centre on the CO memorial stone in Tavistock Square and nearby Friends House, where the Library houses artefacts of 350 years of the Quaker peace testimony.

Paul Parker, Recording Clerk for Quakers in Britain will say: " Our unique library houses artefacts that bring alive the extraordinary, hidden stories of Quakers, that show that pacifism was then, and still is, a brave and difficult decision, and is by no means passive."

[Read the full press release and programme of events on 15th May](#)

Churches Refugee Network - Position Paper 5th April 2014



Frank Kantor, General Secretary of the Free Churches Group reports, 'Here is the position statement that was agreed by the participants at the Churches Refugee Network conference in at the Central URC in Sheffield on Saturday'.

Nicholas has asked the following: Please circulate copies of the Statement as widely as you feel able through your various networks. It would be good to explain, if you can, that the participants came from a wide range of churches, ecumenically and geographically, from Bournemouth to Newcastle, Liverpool to Gravesend, with between them wide knowledge of the issues facing people who seek sanctuary.

If you have contact with your local MP, it would be good to send her/him a copy. Similarly it would be good to get it into your local Church magazines and newspapers.'

Download CRN Position Paper in Word

Pray for the Media Day 1st June 2014



Andrew Graystone from the **Church and Media Network** says:

Whether you work in broadcast, print or online these are turbulent times in the media. That's why on Sunday 1st June 2014 The Church and Media Network is calling on Christians across the UK to a Day of Prayer for the Media.

We're encouraging all churches and Christians to visit a dedicated website and use the prayers provided in their church and individual intercessions on that day. If you visit the site you will find prayers posted by Archbishop of York, the Very Revd John Sentamu and Dr Daleep Mukarji of the Methodist Church amongst others.

You'll find the website at www.pray4media.co.uk.

Could I ask you to do two things....

First, I'd like you to add a prayer that sums up what you feel the media needs right now. What do you want the wider church to pray for? Integrity in the edit suite? Security in the job market? New ideas for the editorial conference? This is an opportunity to get the Christian community engaged with the needs and hopes of those of who work in the industry. Don't mention individuals by name, but apart from that the more specific you can be, the more helpful your prayer will be in guiding the wider church. Be as honest as you like. You can be anonymous if you wish. Please write a prayer that will help other Christians to pray with understanding.

Second, if you're part of a church, please encourage your church leaders to visit the website and join in the Day of Prayer. We'd like to see scores of churches across the UK joining in prayer on and before Sunday 1st June. And if your church is joining in, please let us know via the website.

www.pray4media.co.uk