



June 2012

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Outstripped all expectation

What's your assessment of 'churches together' and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee weekend? I am interested to know and would be glad to have comments: jim.currin@cte.org.uk. To stimulate your response, let me offer my own personal comment - followed by two invitations.

Bells, boats, and bunting, not to mention beacons, buns and an archbishop's address to the Queen and the nation about service, dedication, and seeking the common good. To me it was an amazing weekend that outstripped all expectation. This was particularly evident with the number of people in The Mall for the balcony appearance and flypast. That was an astonishing effort from an enormous number of people for an event that lasted a few minutes.

'Outstripped all expectation' is also my headline assessment of 'churches together' and the efforts and achievement over the extended Jubilee weekend. I asked County Ecumenical Officers what they observed. They confirmed that both formal 'Churches Together' and informal 'churches together' groups in all parts of the country put amazing programmes together, often in partnership with local community groups. Butlins in Minehead for example, provided 500 chairs while Army Cadets in Wakefield assisted with a hog roast. The national news coverage of churches opening their doors to thousands of people for the 'Big Lunch', illustrated it well. In our own church, families we did not know were still arriving for food mid afternoon - taking us all by surprise.

The biggest surprise of all though, was the number of souvenir New Testaments given away. Originally 150,000 were ordered, which grew to 700,000 for the weekend itself. Our 50 'for guests' readily ran out, and we could have had many more.

So, let's shout it loud: 'we did it!' Despite the so called 'ecumenical winter', churches worked together - sometimes in new partnerships. Thank God for that and let's be really encouraged, and 'do it again' for the 2012 Games. This is my first invitation - if you do not have anything planned already it is not too late. Resources are [here](#). Do please pray about it - and do it together.

The second invitation is to ask you to spread the word and get lots of people to assist in some research. Through all sorts of excellent mission initiatives and good pastoral care, people are 'reconnecting' with church and faith in Christ. Indeed some even find faith through dreams and visions - whatever it is, we want to hear from both church leaders and those who have 'reconnected' recently in an online survey you can find at: www.connect4life.org.uk/survey.

It may take many years or just a few moments for people to find faith. Let's hear the stories, learn from new Christians, and provide lots more good outreach experience like the Jubilee weekend. We have much for which to thank God.

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Ecumenical Europe meets in Edinburgh

Ecumenical Organisations from across Europe met together in Edinburgh from 17 to 20 April 2012. They were hosted by CTBI (Churches Together in Britain and Ireland) in partnership with ACTS. The conference theme was: '**Church and Contemporary Culture: Threat or Opportunity**'.

17 National Councils of Churches were represented by their General Secretaries along with 1 regional group (CTBI) and staff members from CEC (Conference of European Churches), CCME (Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe) and WCC (World Council of Churches). One member of the group, Revd Guy Liagre, from Belgium, will shortly be taking up his appointment as the new CEC General Secretary.

The programme was designed to encourage conversation, sharing and reflection. Participants began with presentations about their national or international context and experience. Many common concerns emerged, including: church-state relations; political, economic and social conditions; aggressive secularism / atheism; sexuality issues; migration; new churches; ecumenical models and structures; the importance of ecumenical fellowship / relationships; and mutual recognition of Baptism. These concerns were explored in different ways throughout the four days.

There were several highlights in the programme. On Wednesday, the group took part in a 90 minute Contextual Bible Study 'conversation' on Matthew 15:21-28: Jesus' encounter with the Canaanite Woman. This was followed by a 2 hour session led by Alison Elliot. She gave a 20 minute reflection on contemporary Scotland and then led a wide-ranging discussion touching on many of the issues mentioned above. On Thursday, the group had a very stimulating visit to the Scottish Parliament. The visit was hosted by Alex Fergusson MSP. He described the way the parliament was designed - both as a building and as a servant of and resource for all the people of Scotland. The churches' Parliamentary Officers joined the group for part of the morning, answering questions from the group about their work with parliament. This was followed by First Minister's Question Time - quite an experience in itself. The visit closed

with a presentation by Roseanna Cunningham, Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs (with responsibility for tackling sectarianism). Over lunch, she and Alex Fergusson led another wide-ranging discussion. Five other MSPs joined the group for the lunch and discussion. The final highlight was on Thursday evening when Leaders / Representatives of ACTS Member Churches joined the group for dinner followed by discussion. The discussion was facilitated by Revd John Fulton (United Free Church) with short reflections by Revd Lily Twist (Methodist), Revd David Chillingworth (Scottish Episcopal Church) and Very Revd Sheilagh Kesting (Church of Scotland).

Again the range and depth of contributions and participation was highly appreciated by everyone. Feedback from the group was very positive. Participants were struck by the facilitative / conversational methodologies chosen for the meeting, especially the Bible study. They were highly impressed with the open and respectful relationships between the churches and the parliamentarians and among the Scottish church leaders / representatives. Overall, they were very pleased to have had the experience of such in-depth sharing and discussion without too rigid an agenda.

The annual meeting of ENCC General Secretaries provides important peer group support for those working ecumenically at this level. The 2013 meeting is being planned by Finland and Estonia.

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Ethical perspectives at Rio+20

A World Council of Churches (WCC) delegation will take part in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) Rio+20 from 20 to 22 June in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The delegates will participate in various ecumenical and interfaith events both at the venue of Rio+20 and the Peoples' Summit for Social and Environmental Justice organized by the civil society.

"We hope that the results of Rio will effectively reflect a larger 'we', including in particular the most vulnerable and poor communities in the world," said Dr Guillermo Kerber, WCC programme executive on climate change, who is facilitating the WCC delegation to Rio+20. WCC delegates will focus on highlighting ethical concerns, and religious insights in a number of events which we have organized, in addition to the intense advocacy efforts to be carried out at the UNCSD."

The WCC programme for Eco-justice is organizing a series of side events both at the UNCSD and the People's Summit. One of them will focus on "ethical and religious insights on the future we want". "The future we want" is the title of the outcome document of Rio+20, expected to include a call for action and commitments by the participating countries. The meeting will take place on 22 June in room P3-B at the Rio Centro (Convention Centre), venue for the UNCSD 2012.

At the event, a message from Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople will be read, while the WCC Central Committee moderator, Revd Dr Walter Altmann, will be one of the speakers among other religious leaders. The event has been co-organized by the WCC with Caritas Internationalis, the Lutheran World Federation and Religions for Peace.

On 17 June, another WCC side event will address the theme "Ethical implications of sustainability: educational and religious perspectives". The WCC has organized this event with the Baptist World Alliance, the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, the International Forum on Human Rights (FIDH), the University of Washington and other partners. The event will take place in room T-5 from 09.30 to 11.00 at the convention centre.

To address the "spirituality and ethics of water", the Ecumenical Water Network (EWN) of the WCC joins with United Religions Initiative (URI) and Faith without Borders (FWB) in an event on 18 June, from 09.30 to 11.30 in room P3-B. The interfaith panel will be led by theologian Dr Reijo E. Heinonen, founding dean of the ecumenical theological faculty of the University of Joensuu in Finland.

Other events where the WCC delegates will contribute include a seminar on "The Rio+20 Legacy: an inter-generational dialogue on sustainability" on 13 June from 13.00 to 15.30. This event will be organized by Beyond 2015, the Global Campaign for Climate Action (GCCA). Alongside groups of children and youth, the WCC delegates will also participate in a side event organized by the World Team Now's Panel on Humanity & Environment = Our World's Resources on 18 June, from 11.30 to 1300 in room T-3. The event has been co-organized with GCCA Tckctck.

Besides these events, a comprehensive programme on the theme "Religions for Rights" has been developed for the Peoples' Summit by the Ecumenical Coordination office. The office was established in March by Koinonia, an ACT Alliance member organization in Rio, and is led by Dr Marcelo Schneider, the WCC's communication liaison for Latin America. The programme will bring together ecumenical and inter-religious participants for events in seven different tents at the Peoples' Summit. As part of the activities, a vigil will take place on the night of 17 June.

"Our original idea was to promote an expressive spiritual event organized with the members of our ecumenical inter-religious initiative," said Schneider. "But the People's Summit coordination group adopted the idea, and now the vigil is going to be part of the overall programme at the event. We had to adapt our language and symbolism to include

many different expressions and movements of civil society. The vigil will focus on the four basic elements of life and the rights we are advocating for."

WCC activities at the Peoples' Summit will include workshops on the "WCC and the Rio Convention on Climate Change" on 16 June from 09.15 to 10.45 in tent 2 and "Climática: Criação e Responsabilidade Humana" (climate and human responsibility for creation) in the main tent from 14.00 to 15.30. The same day, launch of David Hallman's book *Spiritual Values for Earth Community* will take place from 17.30 to 19.00 in tent 2. On 21 June, a panel will address "Bases Éticas e Teológicas da justiça climática" (ethical and theological basis of climate justice) in the main tent, including Leonardo Boff, renowned Brazilian liberation theologian, as one of the speakers. [Back to top](#)

Diakonia is transformative

"Diakonia is an essential ecclesial function. It must be prophetic and transformative. It cannot be opted only in convenient forms," asserted participants of a World Council of Churches (WCC) conference, reflecting on "Theology of Diakonia for the 21st Century". The event took place from 2 to 6 June in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Diakonia is a Greek term used in the New Testament to describe ministries of service, mission and support. It is the source of the English words "deacon" and "diaconal."

The conference attempted to re-imagine the concept of diakonia from the perspectives of the churches, marginalized people, and communities in the South. In a theological affirmation, a document produced during the conference, participants called the churches to work alongside marginalized people in their struggle for justice. "Relocation of diakonia in the margins is not an option, but a divine mandate," said Dr Wati Longchar, an indigenous theologian from India. He went on to say that the "church will not be able to realize what it means to be church unless it listens to the voices of the people on the margins. We have to listen to the voice of Lazarus and not the rich man. Jesus made Lazarus somebody by naming him."

"Diakonia in every form is prophetic and exposes the sinfulness of the world. To be prophetic is not only criticizing what is wrong, but working for justice," said Dr Reinerio Arce-Valentin, a Cuban theologian. "If there is no participatory commitment, criticism could become opportunistic. Criticism must be based on an incarnated commitment in the reality where we live, like Jesus did," added Arce-Valentin. "Jesus' diakonia began among the marginalized and it not only effected their healing but also restored their dignity. Diakonia today has to relate itself among the marginalized," said Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame, another participant from Ghana, representing the Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network.

This conference brought together more than fifty participants from churches, specialized ministries, networks and communities engaged with the WCC programmes on Justice, Diakonia and Responsibility for Creation, Just and Inclusive Communities and the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism. The event was hosted by the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka. [Back to top](#)

Canada's Largest Protestant Churches Renew Dialogue

Canada's largest and second-largest Protestant churches have started a new round of dialogue to explore how to work together for more effective ministry and mission.

Representatives from the United Church of Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada met in Toronto in mid-May to discuss "the doctrinal identities of the two churches and the implications of this for the lives of the churches, including understandings of sacraments and orders of ministry," the churches confirmed. The next meeting, scheduled for January 2013 in Vancouver, will focus on the manner in which each church's doctrine, worship and life is informed by creedal statements, the ACC said.

"Much of the impetus for these conversations is coming from the grassroots of our two churches," Archdeacon Bruce Myers, the Anglican Church's coordinator for ecumenical relations, told the Anglican Journal. "Many communities across Canada are served by ecumenical shared ministries in which Anglicans and United church people and clergy work and worship side by side. They're asking our churches' leadership to find ways to facilitate such cooperation in mission and ministry." The representatives met at St. John's convent, the headquarters of the Sisters of St. John the Divine. The group also shared common prayer, meals and fellowship, according to the report. The latest meeting builds on six years of formal conversations which ended in 2009. Results of those talks were reported in *Drawing from the Same Well: The St. Brigid Report*.

While the two churches attempted created a Plan of Union in 1975, which ultimately failed, this time around the churches are being ambivalent about setting concrete goals for the talks. "At this point, the dialogue is being deliberately ambivalent about setting any kind of concrete goals or objectives for these conversations. We want to be open to the Holy Spirit's leading about what unity between us might look like," Myers said. [Back to top](#)

Papal Selection Process for the Coptic Orthodox Church

The preliminary list of names presented to the Nominations Committee of those put forward as Papal candidates was announced and published on Wednesday 30th May 2012, in Cairo as part of the Papal Selection Process for the Coptic Orthodox Church.

The Holy Synod of the Coptic Orthodox Church has announced the preliminary list of names presented to the Nominations Committee of those put forward as Papal candidates as part of the process of selecting a new pope to succeed His Holiness the late Pope Shenouda III, the 117th Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of All Africa on the holy Apostolic See of Saint Mark. H.H. Pope Shenouda III departed on 17th March 2012 after forty-one years of papacy. A final list of eligible voters is yet to be announced, and the period for challenges to be presented to the Nominations Challenges Committee with regards to Papal candidates will only commence once this is done.

His Grace Bishop Angaelos, General Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church in the United Kingdom has issued a detailed explanation of the papal selection process, along with a timeline which identifies key stages of the process, saying the following:

"This is an experience with which many will not have been involved in their lifetime, so it was important to provide a simplified explanation, allowing engagement at every level. Within these steps we find a robust process that includes: nominations from peers within the Holy Synod, nominations from laity through the General Lay Council, systematic scrutiny with a process of challenges and appeals, representative democratic election, and above all, the Altar Ballot that encompasses this whole process with a spirit of prayer and trustful submission to the will of God." [Back to top](#)

CTE Presidents' statement on the Jubilee

'We join the nation in its rejoicing at Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. As we celebrate, we give thanks to God that her personal commitment to her role as monarch, and her service to the people of the United Kingdom, are grounded in a deep faith in Jesus Christ which is an inspiration to countless citizens of nation and Commonwealth. Her understanding of the wholeness and harmony of the nation is a crucial factor in strengthening our commitment to one another.

There can be no better way for the Christian Churches to celebrate the Jubilee than to take the opportunity to dedicate themselves anew to the service of God, and to seek the common good through love for their neighbours near and far. We acknowledge gratefully Her Majesty's faith and her dedication to service, and assure her of the prayers and good wishes of her fellow Christians for the years of her reign yet to come. We pray that all may be inspired by Her Majesty's service: that together we may create a nation where all know they have the dignity and value of the children of God.' [Back to top](#)

Coventry Chapel of Unity 50th Anniversary

The Chapel of Unity at Coventry Cathedral celebrated a Golden Jubilee on Sunday 10th June 2012.

At a special service attended by a large congregation and regional church leaders, Dame Mary Tanner, co-President of the World Council of Churches, gave the address on the topic 'Where are we going?' She offered several answers to this question, including: building a community of faith; making the prayer of Jesus our prayer; recognising Christ in others; serving the world in service and witness; and continuing Jesus ministry today.

As people arrived a steel band was playing, while inside a Gospel Choir and Young People's choir sang. After opening prayers and hymns, dancers presented a liturgical dance about separation and reconciliation. Later, everyone was invited to join in a circle dance to the song 'Jesus put this song in to our hearts'. Prayers were offered for the ecumenical journey of all churches and Christians in service for the coming kingdom. To a central table were bought water of baptism, an open Bible, as well as paper peace cranes from Hiroshima.

With an Asian Christian Fellowship band playing reflective music, all the parts of the celebration contributed to bringing our gifts together. One aspect of the celebration was the arrival of Lady Godiva (Pru Poretta) in crown and red cloak, as well as lots of other Coventry Christians in formal national and religious dress. A liturgy for unity preceded a long period of passing the peace. This was concluded with the chime of the Cathedral Peace Bell, before prayers and an Act of Commitment. After the final hymn, the words of the Grace were said to each other while each person blessed their neighbour by laying a hand on their shoulder. [Back to top](#)

Disarming Denial: Operation Noah's annual supporters' meeting 23rd June

Wesley Memorial Church, New Inn Hall Street, Oxford OX1 2DH 10am-11am. It's one thing to tell someone about climate change, but something else for them to listen. Operation Noah's Ash Wednesday Declaration earlier this year made a clear and prophetic call to the church. For the message to take root we'll need to dodge public resistance to the facts.

Paul Kerensa is a stand-up comedian, BBC scriptwriter and regular on the Greenbelt Festival line-up will be exploring the potential of humour for communicating climate change. Mark Letcher, Operation Noah board member and director of Climate Works, will update us on the latest research on getting the climate message across.

Click [here](#) to book your free ticket

Programme

- 10.30 Doors open. Refreshments available.
- 11.00 Welcome, introduction (Isabel Carter) and prayer (Steve Hucklesby)
- 11.10 The word at work: communicating 'Climate change and the purposes of God', Operation Noah's Ash Wednesday Declaration, with Bishop David Atkinson
- 11.20 Disarming denial, with Mark Letcher and Paul Kerensa
- 12.40 Getting the word out: become an Operation Noah ambassador, with Paul Bodenham
- 1.00 Lunch (please bring your own; drinks provided) – an opportunity to meet other supporters in your region, and share experiences and plans for 'talking climate in church'
- 2.00 Review of lunchtime discussion
- 2.15 Annual Supporters' Meeting: Introducing the candidates and voting
- 2.40 Looking back, looking ahead, with Operation Noah Chair Isabel Carter and Treasurer Leonard Beighton
- 3.00 Election results and conclusion of Annual Supporters' Meeting
- 3.15 Annual General Meeting:
- 3.30 Closing worship
- 3.45 Refreshments
- 4.00 Departures

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Olympic Peace Prayer Vigil

Many hundreds gathered for the all-night Vigil for Peace at St Martin in the Fields, Trafalgar Square, to proclaim the first day of the Sacred Olympic - 100 Days of Peace.

The service was set against a wall hanging above the altar depicting a rainbow and 203 white doves - representing each one of the countries taking part in the Olympics. People were also handed paper doves and invited to write prayers for peace which were collected and distributed at the end of the Vigil. There was sitar music by John Subiah as people arrived. Revd Richard Carter led welcoming prayers. Each hour, marked by the World Peace Prayer, accompanied by music of Karl Jenkin's Benedictus, was led by a different group with readings, poetry and music.

The first hour was a series of multicultural readings, prayers and reflections from the choir and congregation of St Martin in the Fields. Revd Richard Carter gave a reflection. James Parker and Graham Kendrick from More Than Gold led the second hour of prayer for the Olympiad and Paralympic athletes and visitors. The third hour, led by London Citizens was dedicated to prayer for peace in London and all our cities. Participants included Barry and Margaret Mizen of the Jimmy Mizen Foundation. Students from Our Lady's Convent in Hackney witnessed to the need for CitySafe havens. This hour was accompanied by Taizé chants.

At 2am the London Peace Alliance spoke about their work with young people and led prayers. Fr Vanderley Alves de Oliveira from the Brazilian Chaplaincy led the next prayer hour. The 2016 Olympics will be in Rio - the first South American country to host them. At 4pm Buddhist monk and Nobel Prize winner Thich Nhat Hahn led a meditation for peace. Aid agencies CAFOD, Christian Aid and World Vision hosted prayers at 5pm. Helen Gilbert from St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace led interfaith prayers for the next hour.

While some participants came for a few hours, others were there for the entire vigil. At 7am there was a break for breakfast and a 'Peace Tour' around St Martin's to give people a chance to stretch their legs. They also discussed the meaning of the 'Fourth Plinth'. Pat Gaffney, Valerie Flessati and Bruce Kent from Pax Christi led peace prayers starting at 8am. Then at 9am Anna Scher with members of the Anna Scher Theatre School led an animated series of improvisations with the congregation.

Two of the best young choirs in the UK sang next: the award-winning Rainbow Peace Choir from St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Crewe. They were followed by the Maria Fidelis Convent School Choir - winners of BBC Songs of Praise Senior School Choir of 2010. They have also performed for the Queen and Pope Benedict. The concluding service was led by the Bishop of London Rt Rev Richard Chartres and Archbishop Vincent Nichols. There were prayers by leaders from the Hindu, Sikh, Jains, Baha'is, Jewish, Buddhist, Moslem and Zoroastrian communities.

Germaine Ng Ying, who attended with parishioners from St John Vianney's in West Green, north London, said: "It was an inspirational event, very ecumenical with people of all faiths there. Many passers-by also came in to see what was going on and some stayed for a long time. It was a wonderful beginning to the 100 Days of Peace." [*Back to top*](#)

People-Powered Change

2012 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of Church Action on Poverty and the need has never been greater. Its brand-new People-Powered Change training programme draws on the work of projects over more than a decade in supporting local people to reclaim power over key decisions which affect their lives.

A half-day course, led by Liam Purcell, CAP's Communications and Supporter manager, is for people who would like to find out more about its current Close the Gap campaign, including how to promote it within your local church; and preparation for giving talks to church on the subject of Close the Gap. It is on Monday 9 July 2012 from 1pm - 4pm in Manchester. To book a place on this workshop click [here](#). [Back to top](#)

Participatory Budgeting in Towns and Parishes

Participatory Budgeting (PB) can play a crucial role in helping to deliver genuine localism by offering people a direct say in how money is spent in their towns and parishes. This workshop will offer participants the opportunity to explore:

- how PB is already working at neighbourhood level
- how PB can enhance neighbourhood planning practices
- how 'local PB' can be scaled up
- how evolving PB initiatives, for example, at parish level, can mesh effectively with the current policy agenda around neighbourhood budgets, open public services and local empowerment in general.

It is on Wednesday 20 June from 10am - 4pm in Manchester; to book a place on this workshop click [here](#). [Back to top](#)

Cornwall: cream teas, Gwennap Pit, church leaders & DEOs

Didn't we all do well? Up and down our county of Cornwall churches led the way on 19th May offering free cream teas to members of their communities. It is known that collectively, we served many thousands of cream teas. As Revd Doreen Sparey-Delacassa says, "There's no straight comparison - the previous record was a one venue event with about 350 served. Obviously we knocked that into a top hat - at least three venues individually topped the thousand mark. But Guinness Book of Records won't accept it because we didn't film each one from beginning to end (or pay for adjudicators to attend each event. But didn't we all have a good time!"

The three 'More Than Gold' prayer batons were filled with Cornish prayers, written by students from both Primary and Secondary schools and from Churches Together Groups. From Chapel Carn Brea the three batons travelled up to Plymouth where the prayers were read out and Plymouth prayers loaded into the baton. Then they went onto Exeter and Taunton, going forward to 70 venues throughout the UK, each community praying for the other. Similarly with the kindled lit candles from the Chapel Carn Brea beacon lit on Friday 18th May, each of twelve lanterns, one for each deanery, available for all churches to receive a light from, symbolising the Celtic Missionaries bringing the Christian faith into Cornwall.

Gwennap Pit is an amphitheatre in West Cornwall which was created by ancient collapsed mine workings. It is revered as a place where John Wesley preached to the Cornish miners. On Pentecost Sunday this year, the President of the Methodist Conference, Revd Leo Osborn, addressed 760 Christians from all over Cornwall. This year the weather was perfect.

Church leaders and Denominational Ecumenical Officers met at Trethorne Leisure Park, Launceston on 12th May for an important full one day conference at which they met together to pray and discuss future elements of unity, how the ecumenical work in Cornwall can continue to become ever more relevant and effective to all. [Back to top](#)

Living Spirituality Network becomes a Partnership

The Living Spirituality Network, a network of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, held its final gathering at Lumen URC, London, on 21st April with the theme Beyond the Spiritual Revolution. A report can be found on the CTBI [website](#). However, regional contacts have come forward for a new Living Spirituality Partnership covering Scotland, the Midlands, East Anglia, London and Home Counties and Ireland. For further information, please email petra.griffiths@yahoo.co.uk [Back to top](#)

Lutherans and Orthodox explore understanding of ministry/priesthood

A preparatory meeting for the 16th session of the Lutheran-Orthodox Joint Commission identified areas of agreement and a considerable number of open questions and differences between the two traditions on their understanding of ministry/priesthood in the Church.

Meeting in London 5-10 May, representatives from The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the Ecumenical Patriarchate began a new phase in the commission's work by exploring the topic *The Understanding of*

Ministry/Priesthood in the light of the Holy Scriptures and the early Church, which had been agreed at their 2011 meeting. Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira and Great Britain offered a warm welcome to the participants in London, bestowing upon them the blessing of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. In his address the archbishop noted that the dialogue between the two traditions dated back to the theological conversations between the Lutheran theologians of Tübingen and the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the 16th century. [Back to top](#)

The Exeter Walking Pilgrimage

Saturday 11th August to Sunday 26th August 2012. The 38th Diocese of Arundel and Brighton Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimage will this year be from Bath to Exeter via Glastonbury and Taunton. The 2012 Pilgrimage takes us to the West Country, reflecting on a theme based around the Lord's Prayer. For more information and an application form see www.thepilgrims.org.uk. [Back to top](#)

Spirituality: Public or Private Enterprise?

From Monday 25 to Thursday 28 June 2012 at Sarum College, Salisbury, this course will:

- Examine Christian spirituality in the context of the current environmental crisis
- Consider how Christian tradition has shaped ecological thinking
- Evaluate the challenges presented by key public concerns to the spiritualities that underpin a Christian lifestyle

The course includes a field trip to the [Pilsdon Community](#) on Tuesday 26 June. Price: £220 non-residential and from £330 residential with full board. For further details see the Sarum [website](#) or contact Anne Jensen. [Back to top](#)

Recognising and Celebrating Legacy 2012

2012 is a very significant year for the United Kingdom. Each year we recognise major historical events that bring people together in celebration of a common purpose. This year we commemorate three such remarkable events: Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the London 2012 Games and the 50th Anniversary of Jamaica's Independence. We believe that the common thread of these events is summed up in one word; **Legacy**.

This intergenerational event will bring young and old together to celebrate the value of all generations. It will be an impacting event for all ages and a catalyst for social change and will encourage closer relationships between generations.

'**Celebrating Legacy**' will take place on **Saturday 21st July 2012** at **Bethel Convention Centre, Kelvin Way, West Bromwich, B70 7JW 5.30pm - 9pm** including a Gospel Concert with International Gospel artiste Marvia Providence and others. It will provide a unique opportunity for churches across Birmingham and the Black Country and wider communities to come together in the spirit of unity and set a positive, powerful and long lasting example for up and coming generations. We already have many confirmations of support from church and faith organizations, High Commissions, civic and business leaders. The event will include worship, prayer and contributions from distinguished guests, artists, civic and community leaders.

Tickets are £10 per adult, £5 per child or £27 per family of four (two adults + two children). We encourage you to support this event with your presence and to let all in your networks know so all can participate in what promises to be a landmark event. Please confirm your attendance by calling Stephen on 07940 237959 or emailing sbrooksai@yahoo.co.uk [Back to top](#)

Student Christian Movement Summer School

SCM has a few places left at their Summer School from the 16-20 July. Summer School is SCM's main training event each year, with interactive workshops, talks and skill share sessions on running successful student groups, planning events, leading Bible studies and discussions, facilitating workshops, using social media and lots more. We're running Summer School in partnership with Christian Aid this year, who will be leading sessions on social justice and campaigning.

Summer School is open to any students who are part of ecumenical or denominational student societies, or church based student groups, and also to student workers, chaplaincy assistants, and individuals. If you know of anyone who might be interested please encourage them to book ASAP. We are limiting places to two per university/group on a first come first served basis. There is more information about the event, including an outline programme, more about the three speakers, and how to book at: <http://movement.org.uk/summerschool>