

COMING UP: TO GET INVOLVED TOGETHER

HOPE 2008 is a major evangelistic effort supported by a wide range of church leaders. "Hope" proposes intensified, united, focused prayer and a year of activities, communicating the Gospel through words and actions, creating a lasting legacy of both physical and spiritual change in the lives of communities and individuals. To get involved, see the website, www.hope08.com

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 9th September. To discover more, type "racial justice" into the website ctbi.org.uk, or order £3.50 information packs from sales@mph.org.uk

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY – not only an Anglican event – is on 30th September. It is so successful that all national resources have sold out(!) but that doesn't stop local churches keeping it anyway.

AN ECUMENICAL YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO TAIZE in August is being arranged in the Wakefield area. Details are available from the Bishop of Pontefract's office, 01924 250781.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK started with Church Leaders planting a tree during the the WYEC Council Meeting at Bishop's Lodge in Wakefield. A "Cut the Carbon" walk through West Yorkshire includes rallies at WY Playhouse in Leeds, 3.30pm on Saturday 11th August and Gain Lane Morrisons HQ in Bradford 1pm on the 13th.

UNITY NEWS

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ENGLAND has a new President, Commissioner Betty Matear of the Salvation Army. As Free Churches Moderator she joins the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Archbishop of Westminster and Bishop Nathan Hovhannisian of the Armenian Church of Great Britain in the shared presidency. At her induction she spoke of the danger of diluting the Christian message. She wants to emphasise what unites rather than divides.

THE REVD. BILL SNELSON has just announced his retirement as General Secretary of Churches Together in England. He will retire to Yorkshire where he spent most of his ministry. We wish him well.

THE THIRD EUROPEAN ECUMENICAL ASSEMBLY will take place in Romania, 4th-9th September. The theme is "The light of Christ shines upon all. Hope for Renewal and Unity in Europe". To find out more, see www.eea3.org.

REPORTING WYEC AND WEST YORKSHIRE

A WYEC COUNCIL MEETING was held at Bishop's Lodge in Wakefield. The Revd Inderjit Bhogal, Director of the Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum, and Patricia Farrell, a member of the Forum, reminded the Council of the importance attached by Government to Inter-faith work. The Forum is a resource for all the churches.

There was also consideration given to the future potential of the Bradford Inner Ring Group of churches.

ECUMENICAL OFFICERS of each denomination have met to consider different ways of working together. There have been reviews of Local Ecumenical Partnerships. Groups have also met to consider staffing in Partnerships and there have been consultation for Churches Together Groups in Wakefield and Kirklees Districts.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PONTEFRACT has been looking at the way it works. There is a new spirit and new ideas and this perhaps indicates the value that outside support can bring. WYEC is always willing to support the work of Churches Together groups and welcomes invitations to meetings, events and acts of worship.

MIDDLETON CHURCHES TOGETHER produced an excellent leaflet to counter racist propaganda in an area targeted by the BNP. The leaflet is positive and emphasises the part that people of different backgrounds play in British life For more information contact Clive Barrett at the WYEC office.

COXLEY LIVE 2006 AND 2007 is a major church (Anglican and Methodist) and community project, part funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, being run in the Parish of Sitlington, Wakefield. Last year there were two weekend events at the National Mining Museum for England that is situated in the parish. The Museum itself contributed generously to the project. There was an exhibition of images from the area's past, presentations on the area's present opportunities and a service of thanksgiving in the museum. The community website www.coxleynews.com had an interactive stall, there was an open meeting chaired by Bishop Tony Robinson at which the Parish Council launched the Sitlington Parish Plan, and an evening concert of local artists. Events continue related to the Parish Plan. How much can be achieved by working together!

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Growing Together in Unity and Mission is an agreed Roman Catholic/Anglican statement. Much of what they say unites the two churches would be widely accepted throughout other parts of the church, but questions are also raised for others in some of the assumptions that are made. The last section points out ways in which the agreement can lead to working together locally; Well worth reading—£7.99 published by SPCK—ISBN 13-978-0-281-05939-3

Called to one Hope—a new ecumenical epoch by Samuel Kobia, general Secretary of the World Council of Churches challenges the churches to provide a common response to the insecurities and dangers that plague humanity in the opening decade of the 21st century. He notes signs of hope and transformation. £7.00 published by the WCC 978-2-8254-1489-7

The Stones Cry Out is a book of reflections from Israel and Palestine by Andrew Ashdown, an Anglican priest. It is published by Christians Aware . It takes special note of the situation of Christians, living stones, in Israel/ Palestine. ISBN 978 1 873372 24 8

A REMINDER

WYEC asks local Churches Together, please, to pay an annual subscription of £3.00 per member church to support the work of the Council. Thank you.

This newsletter is **NOT** copyright. You are encouraged to make as many copies as can be used in your church/area. Please make WYEC as widely known as possible and encourage people to call on it for any help that it may be able to give.

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WEST YORKSHIRE
ECUMENICAL
COUNCIL
www.wyec.co.uk

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2007

CLIVE BARRETT: READY FOR YOU TO CALL

I am delighted now to be in post as WYEC's County Ecumenical Development Officer (CEDO). My commissioning and welcoming took place within a splendid **Service of Repentance and Reconciliation** at St Anne's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Leeds. With the Roman Catholic Bishop presiding, an Anglican Bishop preaching, and full representation across the churches, this service was a real sign of the growing unity that is developing in West Yorkshire, and of the importance attached to the CEDO ministry. My first task is to get to know everyone, and in particular to get to know members of Local Ecumenical Partnerships, members of Churches Together groups, and anyone with an enthusiasm for unity across the WYEC area. In time, I will be setting up opportunities to get together, but I would be delighted if you beat me to it. **Would you like me to come to you**, to your LEP, or CT group? Would you like me to preach at one of your services? Would you like to have a chat about how ecumenism could be furthered in your area? If so, please get in touch straight away. I will be delighted to receive your call. My contact details are on the back page of this newsletter. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

ECO-CONGREGATIONS throughout the country are doing their best to preserve the environment. The programme is supported by Churches Together in England whose web-site www.cte.org.uk points out where churches can start and the steps they need to take. It also gives helpful examples of what has been achieved in different places. See also www.ecocongregation.org.