

SUMMER 2011



WEST YORKSHIRE  
ECUMENICAL  
COUNCIL

[www.wyec.co.uk](http://www.wyec.co.uk)

*Supporting Churches Together  
across West Yorkshire and  
much of North Yorkshire*

## SIGNING UP TOGETHER! NEW BISHOP OF BRADFORD SIGNS WYEC COVENANT



When it comes to leadership in promoting relations across our churches, the senior church figures in West and North Yorkshire show us the way. WYEC has long been based on good relationships between church leaders, shown in their willingness to sign a Church Leaders' Covenant — an agreement to pray and work together.

The latest senior church leader to sign the WYEC Covenant is the Rt. Revd. Nick Baines, the new Bishop of Bradford.

At his magnificent enthronement service in Bradford Cathedral, Bishop Nick was greeted by WYEC colleagues (pictured, above) and he ceremonially signed the WYEC Covenant (right).

Part of that Covenant reads:

*We believe that in our common pilgrimage we are being led by the Holy Spirit, and that God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, is calling us to a deeper unity and to a greater sharing in our mission to His world...*

*We undertake to work towards doing everything together except that which, in conscience, must be done separately...*

*We invite our congregations to support us in this Covenant.*



Now, if the church leaders can do it, so can you!

Do you have an ecumenical agreement with the local churches in your area? If not, then maybe it's time to think about it. Contact Clive Barrett at WYEC if you would like some help with this.

## WYEC - SUPPORTING NORTHERN CHURCHES TOGETHER

**Rather like the old West Riding, West Yorkshire Ecumenical Council serves not only West Yorkshire but a large part of North Yorkshire too, from the A1 to the border with Cumbria.**

On 5 July, at 7.30pm, WYEC is holding a Consultation for members of Churches Together groups from North Yorkshire at St Andrew's (Methodist and United Reformed) Church, Skipton.

WYEC recently held a similar well-attended Consultation in Dewsbury Minster for Churches Together groups in Kirklees. You can read a report of that event on [www.wyec.co.uk](http://www.wyec.co.uk).

### PEOPLE OF VISION

Leeds Churches Together in Mission presented a biblically-based 'Agenda for Leeds' to an official panel designing a vision for the city until 2030. It starts with scriptural passages on creation, justice and hospitality to envisage a city which is safe for children, respectful of older people, which embraces diversity and where all people are valued.

AGENDA FOR LEEDS

From A Christian Perspective

UNITY  
ONLINE

See

[www.wyec.co.uk](http://www.wyec.co.uk)

## REPORTING WYEC AND WEST YORKSHIRE

THE WYEC WEBSITE is the fount of all knowledge of ecumenical affairs in West Yorkshire and beyond:

WWW.  
WYEC.CO.UK

### NEW WYEC CHAIR

The new Chair of WYEC is the Revd. Dr. Liz Smith, Chair of the Leeds Methodist District. She succeeds Pastor Gloria Hanley, from West Yorkshire African Caribbean Council of Churches.

We thank Gloria for all she did in her two years at the helm.

### HELP US KEEP THE SHOW ON THE ROAD!

Churches Together groups are kindly asked to contribute £3 per church per year to WYEC, please, to cover the cost of mailings. Thank you for your help with this.

WYEC, Hinsley Hall, 62 Headingley Lane, Leeds, LS6 2BX.

And if there is anything we can do for you, please do not hesitate to ask.

*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 us for any help that we may be able to give. Thanks.*

### Baccalau[RE?]ate

WYEC has criticised Government plans to get school students to focus on five GCSEs from a shortlist of preferred subjects. The problem is that this 'Baccalaureate' shortlist does not include Religious Studies. WYEC's senior Church Leaders have all joined together in writing to MPs across Yorkshire asking for this omission to be rectified. There is strong cross-party support for academic Religious Studies to be recognised in this way, but, as yet, there has been no change of policy.

You can read the Church Leaders' letter at [wyec.co.uk](http://wyec.co.uk); then write yourself to your Member of Parliament.



Senior Church Leaders are able to act together in confidence because they spend time building up relationships. A number of Church Leaders have been on pilgrimage to Durham - praying, learning, relaxing together. They engaged with the history of the Venerable Bede and the social history of the North East, with lectures on cosmology and religious film.

### BREAKING BARRIERS

WYEC has responded positively to the principle behind recent proposals to change the boundaries of the Church of England's dioceses in Yorkshire, saying, 'A merger of dioceses would reflect ecumenical realities, remove many of the obstructions caused by denominational boundaries, and offer new opportunities for co-operation between the churches'.

**Whatever you are doing together, think about the WYEC newspaper, 'Unity Post' - take a picture, write it up and send it to WYEC!**

### PRAYING THE SCRIPTURES

The Diocese of Wakefield, with the Catholic Dioceses of Leeds and Hallam, continue to show what is possible in Anglican-Catholic relations.

Together they produced a ground-breaking Lent Course, based on the 'Lectio Divina' model of reading and praying Scripture, listening to God in his Word. There were joint study and prayer groups across the region, and a series of related services in key towns in which all the bishops took part.

### PARTNERS ON THE ECUMENICAL JOURNEY

We are delighted to welcome the Church in Eldwick to the WYEC family of Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPs). This Anglican-Methodist single-congregation LEP was inaugurated at the start of 2011 (pictured).



WYEC has held a Consultation at Windhill, Shipley, to support representatives from LEPs. It was an opportunity to share joys, sorrows, and some of the frustrations which occur when the ecumenical path is more challenging than it should be...

Through its team of Denominational Ecumenical Officers, WYEC is the 'Sponsoring Body' which supports LEPs and potential LEPs. There have been recent reviews of LEPs at West Bretton and Cononley, and four more reviews will be started before the end of 2011.

### BUILDING A CULTURE OF PEACE

At the initiative of Churches Together in Moor Allerton and Shadwell, Clive Barrett of WYEC led a walk along the central section of the Leeds Peace Trail. The full route goes from Woodhouse Moor to the Armouries, taking in numerous places with a peace, nonviolence or anti-war story to tell. Churches Together members reflected on Nelson Mandela and Christian conscience, and were treated to a guided tour of St George's Crypt. You can access maps and a podcast from [t4p.org.uk](http://t4p.org.uk).

### BE RECONCILED — BE SAFE

Congratulations to Inderjit Bhogal, a well known figure from Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum, who has become the leader of the Corrymeela community in Northern Ireland, an ecumenical centre for reconciliation.

Clive Barrett from WYEC will take Inderjit's place as the Churches Together in England representative on the UK Border Agency's national Users' Group. This reflects WYEC's continuing concern for vulnerable people escaping persecution and seeking sanctuary in this country.

## COMING UP: TO GET INVOLVED TOGETHER

## SNIPPETS

### ON YOUR MARKS...

**How can your church best take advantage of all the interest that will be shown in the 2012 Olympics?** More Than Gold is the organisation encouraging us to play our part. We already know that the Olympic Torch will pass through Leeds, and the Games organisers want lots of related local activities—a big chance for local churches to make their presence known. There is a briefing session, 7 for 7.30pm, 20 June, at Hunslet Methodist Church, Telford Terrace, LS10 2HR. Information, DVDs and other resources can be obtained through [morethangold.org.uk](http://morethangold.org.uk). Also on a similar theme, [highersports.org](http://highersports.org).

### CATHEDRAL TALK

#### RIPON

16 June, 7pm, Terry Eagleton: "Atheism and the War on Terror".  
7 July, Daphne Hampson: "How Should We Think of God? Questions of Truth and Ethics".  
22 September, Catherine Pepinster; 10 November, Mona Siddiqui.  
Admission by free advance ticket: [riponcathedral.org.uk](http://riponcathedral.org.uk)

#### BRADFORD

12 June, 2.30pm, Richard Harries: "Christian Themes in Modern Art". Free.  
8 October, 2pm, Melvyn Bragg: "The Book of Books: The Radical Impact of the King James Bible." £8 (£6 concessions)

#### WAKEFIELD

Congratulations to Wakefield Cathedral which has been awarded £1.5million to enable it to become a centre of community life.

### LIVABILITY asks:

**"Are you really managing?"** How to overcome barriers to being a great manager  
9.45 for 10am-3:30pm, 21 June;  
St Catherine's Church Centre, Doncaster Road, Wakefield, WF1 5HL.  
£20 per person, including lunch. Book and pay online: [communitymission.org.uk](http://communitymission.org.uk).

**Devaluing the Pound:** A Christian Contribution to the Question of Money. 2 July 10am - 3.30pm at Leeds Church Institute. Speakers include Kathy Galloway. Topics include 'Exposing Mammon', 'Living by the Rule'. Bookings: [wendy@leedschurchinstitute.org](mailto:wendy@leedschurchinstitute.org), 0113 245 4700.

### Q. What connects Todmorden, Halifax, Dewsbury, Wakefield, Leeds and York?

A. A new pilgrimage route, the Paulinus Way, named after the 6th/7th century missionary to the north of England, who trod a similar path.  
The Paulinus Way is being inaugurated on August Bank Holiday weekend: [paulinusway.org.uk](http://paulinusway.org.uk)

### PRAYERS FOR CALDERDALE

Calderdale Churches Together in Central Halifax meet on the last Saturday of each month, from 10 - 11am at Halifax Minister to pray for Churches and Christian ministries across the borough and also to pray for the wider community.

### Looking ahead to 2012

WYEC is making plans! In October 2012, WYEC will be 25 years old. Celebration planning is already underway, and so far we have booked Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, and Alison Tomlin, retiring President of the Methodist Conference. There might even be a jubilee book! Full details will be published when everything is fixed.

### FOR AN UP-TO-DATE GUIDE TO WHAT'S HAPPENING ECUMENICALLY, SEE THE EVENTS PAGE AT [WYEC.CO.UK](http://WYEC.CO.UK)

**FREE WEBSITES:** Churches Together in Britain and Ireland has a web facility, [www.churchestogetherconnect.org](http://www.churchestogetherconnect.org) which enables churches to 'network'; it also provides the means for local Churches Together groups to set up your own FREE website.

**'The Call to Dialogue – Meeting God in Friend and Stranger'**. Explore the Catholic Bishops' statement on interreligious dialogue. 9.30 for 10am, 25 June, with buffet. Wheeler Hall, St Anne's Cathedral, Leeds with Archbishop Kevin McDonald, Bishop Tony Robinson, and Fakhara Rehman (Kirklees Faiths Forum). Free, but £5 donations welcome. Book by 13 June: [dandt55@btinternet.com](mailto:dandt55@btinternet.com), 01274 581094

The Salvation Army has been selected by the Government to run accommodation and support for victims of all types of human trafficking. To do this they need to work in partnership with small specialist providers who might be able to help to deliver the contract.

**"Save the planet - It's the only one we've got!"** From 6.30pm, 16 June. At Halifax Café Church, Costa Coffee, 8 The Woolshops. [paul.mcnally@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:paul.mcnally@salvationarmy.org.uk)

### BOOK LAUNCH

**"The Exuberant Church"**, by Barbara Glasson, team leader of Touchstone (Methodist) in Bradford, reveals her latest book at a candlelit Eucharist in Bradford Cathedral. 6.30pm, 17 June. Free.

### WALK FOR JUSTICE

**Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON) is organising a 12 mile sponsored walk on 22 June**—during Refugee Week—between Centenary Square Bradford (10am) and the Home Office Waterside Reporting Centre, Leeds. Walkers, sponsors and donors needed. 01274 727525, [beacon@beacon.org.uk](mailto:beacon@beacon.org.uk).

### King James Bible 400th Anniversary

Participatory art exhibition at Saltaire URC, 23 - 30 June. Paint, photo, sew or sculpt. Collective reading of 'edited highlights' from 2pm, 26 June.

### "Does Society Need Religion? The Near Neighbours Project"

Paul Hackwood, Chair of the Church Urban Fund explores how faiths contribute to a healthy flourishing society. 6 for 6.30pm, 4 July, St Augustine's, Otley Road, Bradford, BD3 0DW. Book free: 01274668312 or [admin@bccd.org.uk](mailto:admin@bccd.org.uk).

### ECUMENICAL PILGRIMAGE

**TO TAIZE**, for age 16-30, led by the Bishop of Pontefract, 23 July - 1 August. From £200. [bishop.pontefract@wakefield.anglican.org](mailto:bishop.pontefract@wakefield.anglican.org).

**Backtochurch.co.uk** for all your resources for Back to Church Sunday 25 September.

### Calderdale Christian Resources Exhibition

10am - 3pm, 12 November  
The King's Centre, Park Road, Halifax, HX1 2TS

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"Teach Us to Pray: Jesus and Prayer in the Gospels".  
Led by Paula Gooder at the Mirfield Centre. 10am-3.30pm. 19 July. £12.50. 01924 481920, [centre@mirfield.org](mailto:centre@mirfield.org)  
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# PENITENCE, PRAYER AND PROPHECY

## WYEC Church Leaders' Response in a Time of Cuts

West Yorkshire's senior church leaders started the season of Lent by acknowledging the part we have all played in bringing about the current financial crisis. We all benefitted from those times of overspending and debt.

In a moving Ash Wednesday 'Service of Penitence' at St Anne's Catholic Cathedral in Leeds (pictured), they also prayed for people who have lost their jobs or their essential benefits at this time of cuts in all sectors of society.

A prayer, composed for the occasion by the Revd. Dr. Liz Smith, Chair of WYEC, spoke of listening to 'the anger and angst of people pushed to the margins by those with wealth and power'.

The church leaders' prayer is suitable for use all year round. You can read and download it at [www.wyec.co.uk](http://www.wyec.co.uk).

*"God of justice and compassion, remind us of the common humanity we share..."*



Church leaders in St Anne's Cathedral, above; below, Catholic, Methodist and (right) Anglican church leaders present a copy of their prayer to Tom Riordan, the Chief Executive of Leeds City Council.



### INN NUMBERS

355 volunteers from 65 (sixty-five!) churches, helping a programme that provided 1426 beds to 115 different people for 3 months from 1/12/2010 to 28/2/2011, over one of the worst winters in memory; that was the massive scale of the Inn Churches project for homeless people in Bradford — and it was only one of a number of agencies serving vulnerable people during this period, working in partnership. There were challenges, including: 'never having enough beds', and 'seeing the most vulnerable people with mental health problems seemingly fall through the net of services'.

But the huge successes of the project included: 'seeing hope and dignity restored to our guests'; 'a feeling of belonging in those who stayed for a time'; 'seeing nervous volunteers engage with guests'; 'guests making positive choices and engaging with other agencies'; and even 'church networks widened'.

Amazing: it shows what can happen when churches work together!

**FOOD PLEASE** — Two of the most important Leeds charities, serving the needs of the poorest people in the city, are both low on food and are appealing for donations. Don't hesitate in sending your longlife foods to **PAFRAS** and **St George's Crypt**.

**YOUTH WORKER VACANCY**  
Lower Wensleydale, church-based youth project. From £19k with study expenses. Closes 25 June. Details: [annereadshaw@btinternet.com](mailto:annereadshaw@btinternet.com) or Jennifer Peacock 01677 460215

### INVITATIONS WELCOME - WANTING TO MEET YOU

Clive Barrett, the West Yorkshire County Ecumenical Development Officer, would be delighted to meet with Churches Together groups, Local Ecumenical Partnerships, churches thinking about closer ecumenical involvement or anyone who wants to promote local unity. Whether you would like me to preach, speak or listen, please don't hesitate to contact me at the WYEC office below.

