

SUFFOLK ECUMENICAL NEWSLETTER

February 2011 (updated)

1. Mothering Sunday Resources

I know there are heaps of materials available for Lent and Mothering Sunday but I thought you may not have seen these. www.womenofaction.co.uk

2. Special Sudbury Event with Janet Rees-Larcombe Saturday 19 March 2011

Lynda Sebbage of Churches Together Sudbury has asked me to circulate the attached poster which advertises a visit being made to Sudbury by Jennifer Rees Larcombe. The theme for the evening's event which includes a seminar, refreshments, a talk and prayer ministry is 'Healing from the Inside Out'. The event is free with a retiring collection.

3. Transition News

Does the term 'Transition Town' mean anything to you? If not, please have a quick look at this website which explains all about the transition which all communities and not just towns, will have to make as oil runs out. www.transitionnetwork.org

I attach a poster for those interested in taking part in some 'transition training' to help their community become greener and more aware of the issues.

4. MP Accountability Network

Have you ever contacted or met your MP? Would you like to? Churches Together Suffolk is considering setting up MP Accountability Groups to meet with our MPs and offer a Christian perspective. An MP Accountability Network exists through Church Action on Poverty who offer assistance and guidance on how to engage with your MP in a mutually beneficial way. www.church-poverty.org.uk/mpan

Please contact me if you would like to be involved.

5. Prison Fellowship

Or perhaps this sounds more like your type of thing? Please have a look at this website if you'd like to know more: <http://www.prisonfellowship.org.uk/volunteering-faq.html>

There are all sorts of ways to get involved. In particular, if you live anywhere near Hollesley Bay, the prisoners there would appreciate visitors to their Sunday morning services.

6. Churches Together England Review of Ecumenism

Here is a self-explanatory message from CTE

Invitation to take part in a health check of ecumenical life in England

A major survey of the state of relations between Christian churches in the cities and counties is being undertaken by Churches Together in England (CTE). The aim is to see how well Christians are working together, whether the present inter-church structures are fit for purpose, and whether they can be supported more effectively.

The success of the survey depends on broad participation and the Review Group led by

Bill Snelson, former CTE General Secretary is very keen to hear the views of local groups of Churches Together through this user-friendly questionnaire at www.cte.org.uk/ICreview with thanks, Revd Bill Snelson
bill.snelson@btopenworld.com O1423 862660

7 Youth Clubs

There is an important consultation document about the divestment of SCC Youth Services at <http://tinyurl.com/6b8lcbj>. On page 5 is the list of affected youth clubs and you will then find lots of info about what to do if you are at all interested in running a club in your area. **Please note that the deadline for contacting SCC is 31 March 2011.**

8 Grow Zones

Here is a link to a self-explanatory Churches Together England article about community gardening: the benefits of it and how to get started
<http://www.cte.org.uk/Publisher/Article.aspx?ID=243540>

9 Churches Together Logo for noticeboards

Roger Pullan of CT Sudbury has kindly contacted me with this extremely good idea to help make our Christian unity more visible. He writes,

We envisage an oval or round plate about 6"x6" with the CT logo and simple wording like 'We belong to Churches Together' or 'We are in Churches Together' - exact words (& size) to be discussed.

Cost:

For a laminated vinyl plate, self adhesive for fixing to a notice board: £5 each + VAT = £6

For same, mounted on aluminium (more suitable if e.g. it's to be screw-mounted on the post below the noticeboard, or on a wall): £18.60each + VAT =£22.40.

These prices assume an order of at least 10 plates of either kind.
If churches throughout the county were willing to adopt this it would be great.
I've seen this on church n-boards in Witney (Oxon).

**** Please speak to your member churches and contact me (Julie) if you are interested.**

10 Christian Vision for Men Saturday 12 March 2011, Gt Cornard

Another initiative from Sudbury! Click for a flyer
(<http://www.ctsuffolk.org.uk/downloads/CVMSuffolk.pdf>) and explanatory letter
(<http://www.ctsuffolk.org.uk/downloads/CVMLetter.pdf>) which came to me from Peter Sebbage.

11 Visit of Fairtrade Cotton Farmer from Bali

Wednesday 9 March, 7.30pm Just Traid Centre, St John's St, Bury St Edmunds

A unique opportunity to hear first hand about life as a Fairtrade cotton producer in Mali and to discuss Fairtrade issues.

Massatoma Mounkoro, from southern Mali, will talk about his work as manager of MOBIOM's Centre of Competence (Malian Organic Movement), where he ensures that Fairtrade standards are met, trains staff to meet these standards and monitors projects funded by the Fairtrade premium.

Massatoma's visit has been arranged by the Fairtrade Foundation and a member of their staff will also share in the evening.

It is hoped that there will also be a short fashion show as part of the event with models from King Edward VI Upper School.

Fairtrade refreshments available from 7.00 p.m

12 Book Review

Would anyone like to recommend (or criticise) a book s/he has read recently?

I will start us off, though I have such a long list it's difficult to know which to choose.

How about this:

The Drama of Mark: Morna D. Hooker & John Vincent ISBN 978-0-7162-0644-4

Now, it's unlikely that any of you will have heard of John Vincent. He is described on the back of the book as a 'contemporary prophet' and he runs the Urban Theology Unit and Burngreave Ashram in Sheffield. Morna Hooker is Professor Emerita of Divinity at Cambridge University and is known for her down to earth and radical approach to the New Testament. This is only a tiny book at 69 pages but, in my opinion, well worth a read because it challenges me about my discipleship.

13 A talk by Pat Gaffney of Pax Christ - 'Present the Other Cheek'

Saturday 5 March, 2.30pm

The United Reformed Church Hall, Whiting St, Bury St Edmunds

This event is FREE and will be followed by a Celebration Tea and Display of the work and achievements of The Bury Justice & Peace Group over the last 20+ years.

For more information contact Kathleen Fleming on 01284 750563

14 Suffolk Theology Forum

Assessing Alpha - Is it an Opportunity to Explore the Meaning of Life?

Revd. Dr. Stephen Brian

Wednesday 16 March, 7.30pm – 9.15pm

Kesgrave Conference Centre, 12 Acre Approach (Off Bell Lane), Kesgrave, IP5 1JF

Have you been on an Alpha Course? What did you think of it? Here's an opportunity to hear some research findings and to air your own views.

15 The Christian Business Directory – A Guide to Christian Trades & Professionals

This is a new initiative coming to Suffolk in June whereby an annual directory advertising Christian businesses will be produced and circulated to churches and other Christian outlets.

For more information here is a link www.thebusinessdirectory.co.uk

Or contact the National Co-ordinator, Rachel Dawson on 01202 465218.

16 Concord Media

Do any of you subscribe to Concord Media? It is a small Ipswich based charity which distributes programmes mainly concerned with social services and the arts. Their material is particularly good for discussion groups etc. Take a look at www.concordmedia.co.uk or phone 01473 726 012

17 Children in Church

I have received the following request from Julia Perkins who is a lay elder at St Mary's Church, Glemsford. Julia writes:

We have recently had a lot of work done in the church, putting in loos and a kitchen area. This meant the area with toys for children was lost. We are now starting to plan the new children's area and would like to know of good examples locally that we could visit to get ideas. Please contact Julia by email: stephen@justperkins.plus.com or telephone 01787 282375 if you think you may be able to help.

END

Prepared by the County Ecumenical Officer, Julie Mansfield