

Worship, work and witness Join fellow Christians at these events

In Christ Alone – concert at the Regent Theatre, Ipswich includes special guest Stuart Townend. *Fri 26 June, 7.30pm*, tickets from box office: 01473 433100.

Open Day – Christian Resource Library

Come and see the wide range of resources – courses, study guides, help with worship and sermons, DVDs, as well as lots of books – at the Open Day on *Sunday 28 June, 3-4.30pm* at St Andrews Church, Britannia Road, Ipswich. Refreshments; plenty of parking. Info: 01473 721695

Christian Music – not just hymns!

The Newmarket Churches Together group plan to give spectators a musical surprise with a float at the Newmarket Carnival on *Saturday 4 July*. Making use of the wealth of Christian rock music, they're looking for music that sounds good played LOUD!

Open Churches Week 13-19 July

Will your church be open? Over 400 churches in Suffolk will be open all week, many with special events or exhibitions. Take the opportunity for an interesting day out. More from the Revd Margaret Blackall: mgtblack@globalnet.co.uk

Darwin, Science and Faith

Why are we at war over creation? This is the topic for the next meeting of the **Suffolk Theology Forum**. Come at 7.30pm on *Wed 7 October* to Kesgrave Conference Centre to hear Dr Malcolm Brown, the CofE's national Director of Mission & Public Affairs, open the Forum's second year. For more see: ctsuffolk.org.uk/lf or phone: 01359 233050.

Ministry of Spiritual Accompaniment

The Revd Angela Tilby will speak at a meeting of the Diocesan Spirituality Group on *Sat 10 October, 10am to 4pm*, venue Ipswich area. For info contact: 01359 269335 or caroline@theredmans.co.uk

To insure or not to insure?

Does your local Churches Together have its own insurance? You need it for your own events, not held in individual churches. These three companies offer policies:

Finance Re-Direct Ltd

01234 358535 financeredirect.co.uk

Methodist Insurance plc

08457 697531 methodist-insurance.co.uk

Ecclesiastical Insurance Group plc

08457 773322 ecclesiastical.co.uk

All three offer cover for events such as Walk of Witness, family picnic, carol singing, etc for around £65 per year.

Together by email

This newsletter *Together* is circulated by email. You may have received it this way yourself. A new County Ecumenical Officer starts in September and will be given the e-mailing list. Please say if you would like your name to be added.

Churches Together in Suffolk (CTS)

is made up of the following denominations:

Eastern Baptist Association

Church of England

Methodist Church

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Roman Catholic Church

The Salvation Army

United Reformed Church

Independent churches and other denominations have joined locally.

The CTS Council are sponsoring this newsletter intending it to be widely circulated. Ideally, it could be inserted in churches' own magazines.

The editor is the County Ecumenical Officer for Suffolk, Margaret Condick, 34 Rectory Lane, Kirton, Ipswich, IP10 0PY, ctsuffolk@btopenworld.com, 01394 448576. She welcomes ideas and suggestions.



Together

website: ctsuffolk.org.uk

The newsletter for all Suffolk's Churches

Please copy and distribute widely

Issue no 32

Summer 2009

Goodbye

How to say goodbye? Having worked for *Churches Together in Suffolk* for over ten years I shall be retiring as County Ecumenical Officer at the end of August. I have done the job for eight years, and before that, as Communications Officer, started this newsletter in 1999.

I have worked with churches of many traditions and styles of worship, and found this a joy to experience – and sometimes a challenge! I have been honoured to be welcomed by you – thank you very much for your support. I am heartened to see the developing good relationships between people from different churches all over Suffolk.

As I remember my predecessor the Revd Canon Colin Bevington saying: "God is too big to be put in a box of our own making". We shouldn't be setting rules or being judgmental about others. I believe profoundly in the need to be inclusive, and am saddened when I meet those who see their own way as the only right course. I remain convinced that the most important (and most difficult) thing we have to do is to follow Jesus' command to love God and to love each other.

I have been hugely supported in my work by the denominational Ecumenical Officers. These seven people have an excellent working relationship, and together they are doing a great job behind-the-scenes in Suffolk as catalysts in the denominational mix.

Changes are needed and are coming. To whomever succeeds me: I hope you enjoy working for *Churches Together in Suffolk* as much as I have. Best wishes!

Margaret Condick

County Ecumenical Officer

Faith in Affordable Housing

Using church land and property for affordable housing – a practical guide

This is a free web-based resource, which gives practical and technical information to assist churches in providing affordable housing. The guide presents nine case studies from different denominations and from urban and rural areas.

Recently-retired Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor said "As people of faith we are called to address injustice in all its forms. This is a practical resource for those considering a preferential option for the poor in their mission to the wider community".

It's all on the website: fiah.org.uk



Together Locally

Volunteers, we need you!

Suffolk Refugee Support Forum in Ipswich provides support and advice to refugees and asylum seekers. Could you help at their drop-in advice service? People need help with all aspects of life here, such as form filling, applying for jobs, and finding housing. You will be given training and support. You could also help with the conversation class or as a crèche volunteer. This is a great opportunity to develop your skills and to meet and help people from a range of different cultures. For an informal chat, contact Lyndsay on 01473 400788 or: volunteer@srsf.org.uk



Fire of Change

Over 2500 people packed Ipswich Cornhill on Pentecost morning for a celebration and act of witness. Many churches had closed for that morning so that their ministers and congregations could play a full part. Led by the Revd Antony Wilson with music by Andrew Gosden and band, speaker Bishop Nigel Stock and testimonies from Town Pastors and youth workers, this was a wonderful coming together of Ipswich churches. See networkipswich.org.uk for more on Ipswich.

Halesworth Covenant

A celebration communion was held in early June in St Mary's Church, Halesworth, led by Methodist the Revd Pam Bayliss, with Anglican the Revd Edward Rennard preaching. *Anglican and Methodist churches in the Blyth Valley area* signed a Covenant which permits ministers to celebrate communion, according to their own rites, in each other's churches. Christina van Melzen (Quaker) represented *Churches Together in Suffolk*, who are delighted with this development.

And then there were two

Drop-in centre, Senior Alpha, spiritual care – so much is going on for Felixstowe's older people that a second Pastoral Care Worker has been appointed. Paul Taylor, welcomed at the January Unity service, joins Michael Allen to serve *Felixstowe Trust for Christian Care of Older People*. Together they lead over 30 volunteers in visiting, taking services and developing the work. Phone: 01394 282757 or see: felixstowe-trust.btik.com

Passion Play

On Good Friday *Bury St Edmunds* churches performed the trial and crucifixion of Jesus. Starting in the cathedral, they moved to the Butter Market and finally to the Abbey Gardens, with two thousand or so spectators following – very much a part of what was happening. This emotional and moving event was a powerful witness to the people of the town.



Church Timetables for Newmarket

An attractive leaflet giving details of all local church services has been produced by *Churches Together in Newmarket & District*. It includes a map showing locations. It's useful for giving to newcomers, as well as hotels, library and so on. See: newmarketchurches.co.uk

Suffolk Churches – grants available!

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust urges churches of *all denominations* to apply for grants for restoration, repair and maintenance projects. In 2008 around £200,000 was awarded to 48 Suffolk churches. Your church could benefit as well. See: shct.org.uk or phone: 01787 883884. The funds come mainly from the annual Sponsored Bike Ride – Saturday 12 September this year. Please help by cycling or sponsoring someone.

A Fourfold Blessing

May God bless you with discomfort – at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live from deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger – at injustice, oppression and the exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from rejection, starvation and war, so that you may reach out to comfort them and turn their pain to joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

With thanks to Quaker representative Christina van Melzen for passing on this blessing.

Engaging our Communities

Minister for Church and Community Engagement is the new title for the Revd Paul Daltry. As a member of Ipswich Anglican Deanery, Paul's work covers the whole of Ipswich. He takes as a challenge URC minister the Revd Marc Kenton's question "Are we as Church able to deconstruct much of our inherited tradition and re-imagine ourselves in ways that will connect with contemporary culture?"

Paul will work ecumenically in both established and new communities to develop mission opportunities including exploring *Fresh Expressions* of church. This includes working with young people, the homeless, people in business, refugees – and continuing work with Network:Ipswich (see: networkipswich.org.uk) and Town Pastors. Paul welcomes invitations to speak within the area – contact him on paul@daltry.co.uk or 01473 723467.

Network:Ipswich
Heart for Ipswich



The Big Tax Return

Calling companies to account



Imagine if poor countries had the money to help them work their own way out of poverty. The truth is they do – if multinational companies stop siphoning off billions in unpaid taxes. At least \$160 billion a year is taken in this way. That's about one-and-a-half times the global aid bill. Watch out for *Christian Aid's* new campaign on this trade-related tax evasion. For more, see: christianaid.org.uk/tax or phone 020 7523 2264



Faith and Public Issues

Gambling – peacemaking – child poverty – broadcasting – ethical investment – these are some of the issues covered by the national *Joint Public Issues Team*, which has members from the Baptist Union, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church. They investigate and report on current issues, and are a trusted resource for all churches. Phone 020 7916 8632 or see: jointpublicissues.org.uk

The Art of the Possible – exploring the meaning of faith in the world of politics. This timely course has six sessions, with handouts and leaders' notes. It's free on the website above.