

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR CLERGY MAILING FEBRUARY 2006**

### **1. LONDON CHURCHES POVERTY NETWORK MEETING – 1.30pm MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> FEB**

The London Churches Poverty Network brings together Christian organizations and concerned individuals working across London on poverty issues. The group meets 4 or 5 times a year to share information, to educate ourselves on current issues, for theological reflection, to help mobilise churches in London to campaign, and to collaborate on practical action.

**Next Meeting:** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 1.30pm (share own lunch at 1pm) – 3pm at London Diocesan House, 36 Causton Street, London SW1. Topic: Extended input on the work of UNLEASH (single homelessness charity) and the Zacchaeus 2000 Trust.  
For further info contact Chris Brice on 0207 932 1121

### **2. "INEQUALITY: AN UNNECESSARY EVIL?" - A LUNCHTIME DEBATE IN THE CITY OF LONDON**

Can excessively high salaries and bonuses in the City of London be justified - is it fair?  
A JustShare debate with award winning journalist and broadcaster Jonathan Freeland

**Date:** Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2005

**Venue:** St Mary le Bow Church, Cheapside EC2

**Time:** 1.05pm

**ALL WELCOME!** - Further Details: 020 7248 5139

### **3. LONDON SOUP RUN FORUM – WEDNESDAY – 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2006**

Do you do a soup run? Are you interested in what soup runs are doing? Do you have a point of view about soup runs – for or against? – If so, then this Forum is for you.....

The forum came together because of a widely perceived need for some collaboration between the many different groups involved in this voluntary activity.  
Offering CO-ORDINATION, INFORMATION, GOOD PRACTICE and CAMPAIGNING, one hope of the Forum is to counter some of the negative publicity about soup runs.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2006 at 7pm at All Souls Clubhouse, 141 Cleveland Street, London W1 (Nearest Tube: Great Portland Street or Warren Street).  
Contact Alastair Murray at UNLEASH on 020 7723 8874

### **4. "THINKING ABOUT SERVING GOD? – IT'S AS EASY AS ABC!"**

**Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns Conference: 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2006 (in London)**

Are you considering lay or ordained ministry?

Be challenged, encouraged and strengthened

Come and see what you can achieve

The CMEAC 2006 Vocations Conference will take place from Friday 24 to Sunday 26 February at the Royal Foundation of St Katherine, 2 Butcher row, London E14 8DS. Cost £70 – financial assistance may be available on request (For further information contact Rev Chris Brice 0207 932 1121 at Diocesan House, or Bernadette at CMEAC at Church House 0207 898 1443

### **5. POVERTY ACTION SUNDAY – 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2006**

Throughout Britain hundreds of church groups open their doors and their hearts to the very poorest people in society. This is because poverty still affects many people from different communities and walks of life: trapped on inadequate benefits, or in low paid work, senior citizens on meager pensions. Alongside these, a new group of people have emerged who are not just suffering extreme poverty but are frequently vilified by the press. So, on Poverty Action Sunday, 26 February 2006, we are invited to listen to the stories of people seeking asylum, to reflect on our response as Christians and to celebrate our common humanity.

Follow the link [www.church-poverty.org.uk](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk) for an extensive range of downloadable resources for churches and church groups, including worship material; or phone Church Action on Poverty on 0161 236 9321

## **6. "CONFLICT IN THE CHURCH" (The Diocese of London and The Shaftesbury Society)**

### ***A one-day training event facilitated by Bridge Builders***

The church is called to bring peace to a violent world but too often internal conflict and communication problems stunt our energy and growth.

Colin Patterson and Charletta Erb, our trainers from Bridge Builders, have extensive experience in dealing constructively with church conflict. Colin is the author of the Grove booklet "How to Learn through Conflict". You will leave with practical skills that will positively affect your church.

**Date:** Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2006: 9:30 am – 5:00 pm

**Venue:** London Diocesan House, 36 Causton St., London, SW1P 4AU

**Cost:** £30/delegate (includes £7 workbook and lunch)

**Bookings:** Contact Kim Pearson on 0208 239 5527 or e-mail her on [kpearson@shaftesburysoc.org.uk](mailto:kpearson@shaftesburysoc.org.uk)

Closing date for bookings: 22<sup>nd</sup> February

## **7. FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT 2006: 6<sup>TH</sup> – 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

Fair trade Fortnight will soon be upon us and now is the time to start ordering products for your Fair Trade Stall and special events at Church, or in your place of work. This year the Diocesan Global Development Group is suggesting that we all work towards getting a Fair Trade Certificate for our churches and places of work! It's not as hard as it sounds but it does mean using Fairly Traded tea, coffee, etc. For details of how to order products and displays for your church stall and other events, how to get your church or place of work involved in Fair Trade Fortnight, and to order worship resources see [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk) or phone the Fair Trade Foundation on 020 7405 5942

## **8. "POVERTY AND BAD DEBT -This is not Good News for the Poor!"**

As you clear away the heap of unsolicited credit-card and loan offers from under your letterbox, you might wonder who in their right mind would borrow money at 330 per cent APR. Yet, today in Britain, a number of flourishing businesses lend at that rate, and make a handsome profit by targeting the country's most vulnerable households. It is the dark underbelly of the credit utopia that our society has become. And it's the poorest households in our communities who are the targeted victims

**Speaker:** Rev Paul Nicolson Chairman of Zaccheaus 2000 Trust

**Date:** Wednesday 8th March 2006

**Venue:** London Diocesan House, 36 Causton Street, SW1

**Time:** 6pm for 6.30pm (refreshments provided)

**Further Details and registration:** Chris Brice 0207 932 1121 [chris.brice@london.anglican.org](mailto:chris.brice@london.anglican.org)

## **9. GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE – Evenings and Weekends**

A GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE for those who might be interested in gaining some deeper understanding of the serious challenges that confront both the Third World and those of us here who care about the future of our globe.

The course last two weeks, with 4 sessions on successive days in the early evening (6.30 to 8.30pm) and on the intervening two Saturdays we hold sessions in the mornings and afternoons. The 14 sessions of 2 hours each therefore offer the opportunity to explore 14 issues in some depth - agriculture; education; trade and fair trade; health; refugees and migration; war and conflict; the global aid community and non-governmental organisations; international finance institutions and microfinance; etc.

**The course will be held from 27th March to 8th April 2006 at the University of London Union, in central London. Registration closes on 28th February.**

The course will be particularly useful to those who are working with a voluntary organisation (or would like to do so at some stage in the future) but come from a background that might not include any economics or third world studies. It would also be of help to people who are teaching relevant subjects; 6th formers who plan to start a degree course but are unsure as to what diploma course to follow at University; and of course interested members of the public who simply want to give some structure to their understanding and to their studies. **For Details:** Please consult: [www.ethical-events.org](http://www.ethical-events.org) and then click on "global development course".

## 10. "YOU KNOW HOW A STRANGER FEELS?"

A Justice and Peace Retreat for Christians who work with refugees and asylum seekers, both as professionals and as volunteers. By sharing our reading of the scriptures and the experience of our work, we consider how our faith helps us to understand better the ways in which we try to serve those who come to Britain seeking refuge.

**Venue:** Worth Abbey, Crawley, West Sussex

**Date:** Friday evening, 21 April to Sunday (after lunch), 23 April 2006

**How much?** Single room £120 (£83 concs), shared room £100 (£69 concs) - £20 deposit

**Who?** Fr Paul Fleetwood, Mary Jane Burkett, Uta Sievers and Monastic Team

**How to apply?**

1) Print off a booking form from here:

[http://www.worthabbey.net/images/pdf/TOC\\_Booking\\_Form.pdf](http://www.worthabbey.net/images/pdf/TOC_Booking_Form.pdf)

2) Send it with your £20 deposit to:

The Bookings Secretary, Worth Abbey – The Open Cloister, Paddockhurst Road, Turners Hill, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 4SB

General information can be found here: <http://www.worthabbey.net/cloister/programme.htm>

For any enquiries, contact Rosemary by email ([TOCC@worthabbey.net](mailto:TOCC@worthabbey.net)) or phone (01342 710318).

## 11. FAMILY LIFE AND MARRIAGE EDUCATION – NEWSLETTER AND CONFERENCE

**FLAME – Family Life and Marriage Education** is a network of voluntary charity working through the Dioceses of the Church of England. Acknowledging God's living presence both in the traditions of the church and in all human experience, the FLAME network of the Church of England seeks to promote understanding and the creative nurturing of relationships for the enrichment of all. The FLAME Winter Newsletter 2006 is now available with a host of useful articles, resources, information, reflection and News. Available from the FLAME Administrator email [Sharon@churchinsociety.org](mailto:Sharon@churchinsociety.org) tel 01622 755014 or at [www.flamefamily.co.uk](http://www.flamefamily.co.uk)

**FLAME Summer Conference 2006** "Rediscovering Fatherhood", Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June at Swanick. A Weekend residential Conference to explore issues of fatherhood in the context of theology, sociology, spirituality, and personal experience. Further details from FLAME (See above)

## 12. "CROSS CURRENTS – The Teaching Programme of the London Mennonite Centre

Cross- Currents seminars are a feast of learning, discussion, worship and fellowship – and of course good food! Their new Calendar of Events February – June 2006 is now available. Topics include 'Encounter with Jesus'; 'Passing the Comfort'; 'Dissident Discipleship – Hearing the Call to be Subversive in Spirituality'... For further details and to book see [www.menno.org.uk](http://www.menno.org.uk) or phone 020 8340 8775/08454 500 214

## 13. MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS – PRAYER WALK INSTALLATION FOR CHURCHES IN LONDON DIOCESE

Some members of St Mary's Church, Sunbury on Thames, have devised an interactive journey for installation in church taking people through the Millennium Development Goals - a sort of 'Station's of the Cross'. There is a display for each of the eight MDG's including illustrations, a simplified version of the Goal target, a stark fact, a verse from Scripture, and an action to take. The installation fits tastefully into the setting of a church, not letting banners and campaign material over take, whilst being attractive and engaging to the public. The prayer labyrinth walk takes participants through reflections on greed and abundance, through waste and poverty and draws us before the altar to the Book of Genesis, the creation, the fall, and Christ's redemptive hope for the earth. This would be an ideal installation for any church to set up during lent.

For Further details contact Mrs Fran Chandler, Kensington World Development Adviser on 01932 226935 or [Kensington.wda@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:Kensington.wda@dsl.pipex.com)

For further information on all these events, and other social justice issues, contact:

Chris Brice, Adviser for Social Justice in the Diocese of London.

0207 932 1121

[chris.brice@london.anglican.org](mailto:chris.brice@london.anglican.org)

Jan 26<sup>th</sup> 2006