

**EVENTS
MAY 2006**

A Strong City: How to realise the potential of church buildings

An opportunity to gain skills and knowledge that will help you develop your church building whilst networking with others involved in church regeneration.

Fran Beckett, Chief Executive of the Church Urban Fund, and the Revd Sarah Perry, Shoreditch Tabernacle Baptist Church will speak and a selection of workshops is on offer.

10am-4pm, Thursday 16 May, St John at Hackney. The price is £25, including lunch.

To book contact Jim Clark by t: 020 8239 5546 or e: jclark@shaftesburysoc.org.uk. For more information visit www.strongcity.co.uk.

What on Earth is the Church of England for?!

Three special summer evening Sunday services at Holy Trinity, Sloane Street, with three distinguished speakers.

7 May: The Archbishop of Canterbury will be looking at this question from the perspective of the Primate of all England.

4 June: The Bishop of London will look at this question from the perspective of a diocesan bishop of a world city.

16 July: The Most Revd Barry Morgan, Archbishop of Wales, will look at this question from the perspective of a disestablished church in the Anglican tradition.

There will be an opportunity for questions and answers during the evenings. This is an open invitation to all in the Diocese of London.

Each service starts at 7pm. For more information t: 020 7730 7270 or visit www.holytrinitysloanestreet.org.

Make your preparations now for Refugee Week

Refugee Week is 19-25 June. Resources available include: Church of England news on refugees and asylum-seekers, and other C of E resources:

www.cofe.anglican.org/info/yearreview/may05/coapor.html. Refugee week: www.refugeeweek.org.uk. A Church-led campaign highlighting the 'living ghosts' that so many asylum-seekers become in the UK: www.church-poverty.org.uk/living_ghosts.

The London Churches Refugee Network: contact Chris Brice by t: 020 7932 1121 or e: chris.brice@london.anglican.org.

Environment Sunday

Environment Sunday (formerly known as "Conservation Sunday") falls on 4 June, the day before World Environment Day. Full details and a pack with resources for churches are available from <http://en.arocho.org/ukconsunday/>.

JustShare: 'May Day' in the City

As globalisation spreads, the gulf between rich and poor seems to widen. JustShare, a coalition of churches and agencies, seeks to address this issue. JustShare is about justice for the poorest in the world.

Elaine Storkey, author, broadcaster and 'Thought for the Day' contributor will preach a 'Sermon for the City', taking the theme 'global inequality: what's your response?'. She will preach from the steps of the Royal Exchange, on which are the words from Psalm 24 are inscribed, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof".

From 12.30pm, songs, reflections, a jazz band and a fair trade stall will add to the May Day atmosphere.

At 2pm, straight after the sermon, there will be a seminar in St Mary le Bow Church, Cheapside, EC2. This will be facilitated by Sabina Alkire and Edmund Newell, of St Paul's Institute and will be on the theme of 'What can One Person do?' – examining ways in which individuals who work in business and the City can have an impact in terms of global and economic justice.

Its 'May Day' in the City even begins at 1pm on Tuesday 2 May.

For more information, visit www.justshare.org.uk.

Place of Danger, Place of Safety: Churches Refugee Network Conference

Keynote speakers will be exploring:

Detention: the Conditions - Anne Owers CBE (*HM Chief Inspector of Prisons*)

Modelling good asylum practice - Jane Aspden (*UNHCR Quality Initiative*)

Where is God in all this? - Nicholas Sagovsky (*Canon Theologian, Westminster Abbey*)

20 May, at 11am–4.45pm at Holy Apostles Church Hall, 47 Cumberland Street, London, SW1V 4LY

For further information, contact Geoff Duncan by t: 020 7799 5000 or e: geoffrey.duncan@urc10.org. Please bring your own lunch – drinks will be provided.

J. S. Bach's Goldberg Variations

A concert by Patrick Dunn at 7.30pm on Saturday 13 May at St Michael's, Tokyngton. For tickets (£6) t: 020 8902 3290. Doors open 7pm. Wine & nibbles in the interval. Nearest tube is Stonebridge Park Station (Bakerloo Line). Bus route 18, Harrow Road to St Michael's Avenue.

BibleLands Sunday – Christian Love in Action

Please consider joining the nationwide celebration of BibleLands work and give thanks for those who continue Christ's ministry of healing and service in the lands of the Bible. In particular, participants will focus on the work of The Four Homes of Mercy in Bethany, near Jerusalem – a unique project providing a caring environment for severely disabled children and adults, despite the current instability of the region.

2 July. For further information and a free pack of materials, including a service outline booklet, prayer cards, posters and a PowerPoint presentation of images, please contact Caroline Rance by t: 01494 897 933.

London Days of Renewal – Ministry in the Prophetic

10.30am–4.15pm, Saturday 20 May at St Margaret Lothbury (behind Bank of England).
10.30–16.15. Coffee and tea will be provided.

For further details, t: 020 8657 1285.

Seafarers Celebrated on Sea Sunday

Sea Sunday (9 July) is an ecumenical day of remembrance and prayer for seafarers. It is organised by The Mission to Seafarers (Anglican), the Apostleship of the Sea (Roman Catholic) and the British & International Sailor's Society (interdenominational). It is observed on the second Sunday of July each year. Seafarers and their families will be in the thoughts and prayers of church congregations across the United Kingdom and around the world.

This year, Sea Sunday will have extra significance for The Mission to Seafarers, as it celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2006.

The Mission helps seafarers cope with adversity. Whether a seafarer needs food to survive because his ship has been abandoned by the owner, or a simple church service on board is required, the Mission to Seafarers is there to support seafarers and their families.

The Mission has sent a pack of resources, including sermon notes, prayers and children's materials, to all parishes in the UK. Please consider incorporating them into your worship on 9 July.

For more information, visit www.missiontoseafarers.org, e: press@missiontoseafarers.org or t: 020 7248 5202.

Islam Course at St Stephen's House

St Stephen's House, Oxford, will be running a short residential summer course on 'Understanding Islam' which is an introductory course for Christians led by the Revd Dr David Marshall. It aims to provide an understanding of Islam as Muslims understand it, and to address questions of Christian response to Islam and Christian co-existence with Muslims.

The course dates are 6-9 September. For a course information leaflet and booking form please e: enquiries@ssho.ox.ac.uk or t: 01865 247874.