

Faithful Cities

'Faithful Cities' is the name of a 2006 report that looked at the role of the Church in urban communities.

You are invited to a Faithful Cities Consultation at High Cross United Reformed Church, Tottenham, on Saturday 9 June from 1000 to 1630. The Revd Graham Cook, a member of the Faithful Cities Commission will be the key speaker in the morning. In the afternoon there will be discussion about environment and migration, with input from Louise Zanre, Director of the Jesuit Refugee Service.

Attendance is free. Lunch will be provided. Crèche and childcare facilities are available.

For more information or to register attendance, please write to Geoff Duncan, Thames North Synod, United Reformed Church, 32/34 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2DB

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'Faithful Cities' was produced by the Commission on Urban Life and Faith www.culf.org.uk

Top Shelf Campaign

Claire Curtis-Thomas, MP for Crosby, has launched a campaign to protect young children from exposure to sexually explicit material. Magazines such as Zoo and Nuts and newspapers like the Daily and Sunday Sport are often easily available in newsagents, and sit alongside comics or within easy reach of children.

If you would like to take action to call for these kinds of publications to be put out of reach of children and onto the top shelf, write to your MP, the manager of your newsagents or see

www.topshelfcampaign.co.uk

Extremist political parties

New guidelines have been issued for churches in areas represented by a councillor from a racist or far-right party.

Copies of the guidelines are available free in an easy-to-print format on the Methodist Church and Baptist Union websites, or from NM31 Group, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR, e-mail NM31@methodistchurch.org.uk.

For the guidelines go to –

www.methodist.org.uk/downloads/pi_extremistparties_guidelines_0407.doc

or

www.baptist.org.uk/resources/resource_downloads/236.pdf

Anthea Cox, Methodist Coordinating Secretary for Public Life and Social Justice, said "The Methodist Church continues to oppose all forms of political extremism and racism. The existence of councillors from extremist parties that support racist policies in Britain raises

difficult questions for churches that are active in their local communities. These guidelines will help churches and individuals to make the right decisions. The guidelines recommend that churches resist putting themselves in positions which could be seen as giving tacit support to parties or policies which promote racism.”

Reminder! Not for Sale Sunday – 20 May

Do not forget ‘Not for Sale Sunday’ on 20 May. Resources for churches that want to highlight the problems of sex trafficking are available from CHASTE. www.chaste.org.uk

Living Ghosts national sleepout – 22 June

Church Action on Poverty runs a campaign called ‘Living Ghosts’, which aims to show how refused asylum seekers are forced to live in destitution because they are not allowed to work and they are given very little financial support. Living Ghosts is calling for a change to Government policies that are leaving many of these people homeless and hungry.

On 22 June there will be sleepouts across Britain. These are designed to generate publicity locally, and help in lobbying MPs. If you or your church’s youth group are interested, you can get more information from Church Action on Poverty. Call 0161 236 9321.

www.church-poverty.org.uk

www.stillhuman.org

For the diary – 21 September – International Day of Prayer for Peace

21 September has been dedicated by the United Nations as the International Day of Peace. The World Council of Churches also uses it as a day of Prayer for Peace. It is now becoming more common to celebrate the day as part of the Church calendar in Britain.

Churches are being encouraged to use that day, or the Sunday closest to it, as a day of prayer for peace. You could put the date in your diary now, and start planning a special service.

Peace in your pocket allows you to receive free peace text messages from time to time. Text PEACE to 07781 482 724. www.peaceinyourpocket.org.uk

JustShare May Day Rally

JustShare organised a May Day event on the steps of the Royal Exchange. Clare Short MP, former Secretary for International Development and Joel Edwards, Director-General of the Evangelical Alliance, both spoke about ways in which many people continue to endure economic slavery today.

Members of the Joint Public Issues Team were present at the event and helped to raise awareness with members of the public.

JustShare is advertising the post of part-time co-ordinator - 14 hours per week, £22,500 pro rata). For further information contact the Revd George Bush, The Rector's Lodging, St Mary le Bow, Cheapside, London EC2V 6AU. E-mail - grbush@london.anglican.org .Telephone 020 7248 5139.

JustShare is a coalition of churches and agencies that engage with City of London institutions on economic justice. www.stmarylebow.co.uk/justshare

Contact

If you would like to receive the Joint Public Issues Team Newsletter, or would like to publicise an event or project, please contact Wendy Cooper, e-mail - wendy.cooper@urc.org.uk Telephone - 020 7916 8632
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