



**SOMERSET  
CHURCHES  
TOGETHER**

# Newsletter

**No 74**

**October 2007**

[www.sctog.org.uk](http://www.sctog.org.uk)



# Hope 08 Launch Event for Young People

**@ Wells Cathedral Friday 30 November 07  
Time: 7.15 – 9.30pm**

**Admission £1 per person on the door.  
For more information - [tony.cook@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:tony.cook@bathwells.anglican.org)  
or 01749 685133**

**Featuring:**

- Roy Crowne, National Director of YFC
- A youth worship band
- A market place for ideas and inspiration

**Vision - To serve and communicate with our communities. 'Hope' proposes to support this on-going work, by facilitating intensified, united, focused prayer and a year of activities, communicating the Gospel through words and actions, creating a lasting legacy of both physical and spiritual change in the lives of communities and individuals.**

*“Hope 2008 is a really remarkable vision. I thank God for the inspiration that has driven it.”* Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury

**COPYDATE FOR THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER: 10 December 2007.**

**Please send copy to Robin Dixon, County Ecumenical Officer, 25, Claverton Road West, Saltford, Bristol BS31 3AL.**

e-mail: [sctog@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:sctog@blueyonder.co.uk)

## TOWARDS UNITY IN DIVERSITY

As I sit to prepare this comment, music from Taize is playing in the background, reminding me of a visit last year to this remarkable prophetic centre of ecumenism in Burgundy, France. However, I am also recalling a recent ten day visit to Holy Russia and, in particular, participation in Orthodox worship in some of the wonderfully restored cathedrals and churches in that vast country.

These two experiences of worship have made me aware, not least because in most cases the liturgies have been in languages other than English, that the praise and worship of God is something that can be entered into without necessarily knowing or understanding the language or culture in which it is offered.

Orthodox liturgy depends hugely upon choral music; and even the elements of the service which are not formally sung have a cadence about them that almost inspires song. On September 23<sup>rd</sup> I stood transformed in the Cathedral Church of St. Nicholas in St. Petersburg as the liturgy of confession, homily, and eucharist unfolded. While I recognised the shape of much of what was happening, I understood little of the words. At the same time my spirit was released into joy and wonderment and, though I stood for over an hour, I found myself reluctant to leave, drawn by the wonder and beauty of praise to God.

One of the concerns I have about contemporary church life in Britain is its uniformity and over-mateyness. There is little overall difference between styles of worship, and the universal guitar, folk group and a small range of endlessly sung and repeated songs of doubtful theological integrity leave an emptiness rather than a sense of being uplifted.

The experiences of Taize and the Russian Orthodox church have reminded me once again that in the search for unity, we are not seeking uniformity. There needs to be difference, even if only so that we can aspire something refreshing in our own respective traditions. We need in liturgy something of the renaissance that has happened in spirituality.

During the same visit to Russia, I stood along with Baptists and others before the great painting by Rembrandt of the Prodigal Son. When we compared notes later we found that we had all been influenced by Henri Nouwen's book *The Return of the Prodigal Son*. Nouwen was a Roman Catholic priest, whose influential writings, borne out of great vulnerability and struggle, have transformed our understandings of God and how God may be known and loved in the dayliness of our lives.

I am in little doubt personally that the greatest sadness for the churches is our inability to meet around a common table. It is something for which we

must continually strive and work. Yet, at the same time, if meeting around a common table removed from us the gift of our varied and different understandings of worshipping God, leaving us only a bland uniformity, we would have to question whether or not we had finally domesticated God to our own needs, rather than let God be God, to be praised and glorified for ever.

**+Peter  
Bishop of Bath and Wells.**



### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2008**

#### **Pray Without Ceasing**

2008 is a special year. It marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Father Paul Watson, an Episcopalian priest and co-founder of the Society of the Atonement at Graymoor in Garrison, New York introduced the octave, first celebrated from 18 to 25 January 1908. It is therefore fitting that the material for this year originated in the USA. The image on this year's flyer is from Ground Zero and symbolizes the sense of praying without ceasing for peace and reconciliation both within the church and around the world.

This year's pamphlet includes Bible readings and prayers for the eight days of the Week of Prayer, normally held from 18 to 25 January or at Pentecost. The ecumenical service, at the back of the pamphlet, is suitable for use with children as well as teenagers and adults. The churches of these islands have, in their different ways, become engaged with the challenges of the future, for the planet, for justice and peace in our world and in offering hospitality to the stranger. These three themes are reflected in the service and manifest our common desire through God for the unity of all creation.

To obtain worship resources etc for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2008, contact **CTBI Publications, 4, John Wesley Road, Werrington, Peterborough PE4 6ZP. (01733 325002)**

## Launch of the Somerset Faith Forum

The Somerset Faith Forum has been supported by Somerset Churches Together, which was the lead organisation for the successful application to the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund, which has funded the setting up the Forum.

The Forum has been set up to:

- Promote harmonious relations between people of different faiths in the local authority area of Somerset
- Break down barriers of prejudice
- Work together to promote social cohesion in the area
- Involve faith and cultural groups in the civic life of Somerset, giving them a representative voice
- Improve the quality of life for local people by working together on agreed projects, demonstrating partnership between different faiths
- Encourage dialogue and provide an opportunity for faith organisations to network with each other and relevant bodies
- Hold meetings, events, lectures, conferences and social gatherings to provide an opportunity for faith organisations to create a harmonious environment for all faiths.

The Forum is also being funded by Somerset County Council, the Forum for Equality and Diversity in Somerset (FEDS) and is receiving organisational and administrative support from ***faithnetsouthwest***.



The Steering Group of the Faith Forum is working to create a mobile exhibition which shows the contribution that faith groups make to the local community, promotes a greater understanding and valuing of these groups and removes some of the myths and prejudices that surround them. The Forum has already succeeded in attracting a substantial part of the funding necessary to do this, thanks to the efforts of Rev Bruce Thompson who has built on contacts he developed through the mounting of the Anne Frank Exhibition in Somerset last year. Funding towards the exhibition has already been obtained from Avon and Somerset Police and Somerset College of Arts and Technology will design the exhibition free of charge. An independent company, 'Little Big Films', is providing a DVD free of charge.

During the official launch of the Faith Forum in County Hall, Taunton on 24 September, Liz Payne- Amadhi, the Lead Officer for Equality and Diversity within Somerset County Council, pledged the support of the Council and stressed the importance of the Forum being an independent voice on issues of concern to faith groups in Somerset.

Alistair Beattie of ***faithnetsouthwest*** talked about the role of the faith fora which his organisation has supported in other parts of the south west and

their role in establishing partnerships on issues of common concern, promoting and holding events and encouraging greater harmony between different faith groups.

There were presentations from members of the Bahai, Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Quaker communities in Somerset. The speakers stressed the importance of faith, of treating everyone equally and the need to recognise diversity while working together.

If you want to find out more about the Faith Forum, please contact: **Alistair Beattie, Development Officer – *faithnetsouthwest*, 162 Pennywell Road, Bristol BS5 0TX Tel: 0117 304 2298 email: [alistair@faithnetsouthwest.org.uk](mailto:alistair@faithnetsouthwest.org.uk)**

**An Information/Taster Event for**

**CHANGING LIVES FOR MISSION**  
**'Mission Shaped Ministry Course'**

**at St James Church,  
St James Street, Taunton, TA1 1JS**

Monday 5th November at 7.30 till 9.00 pm  
or Tuesday 6th November at 2.30 till 4.00 pm

**A one year course over 4 Saturdays and 9 evenings  
specially designed for all those in any way involved in the mission  
of the church and how we may prepare for the future.**

There will be lively presentations from:

**Canon Roger Medley – Bath & Wells Diocesan Missioner**

**Rev Dave Martin - Methodist District Evangelism Enabler**

and

**The Archbishop of Canterbury's Missioner,  
Rev Dr Steven Croft**

will be present to contribute  
and answer questions about 'Fresh Expressions'  
- what more could you want?

*Send a brief e-mail to say you will be attending, or just come.*  
[cfm@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:cfm@bathwells.anglican.org)

## **Ecumenical Prayer Vigil at Pill**

The Ecumenical Prayer Vigil for 2007 was held at Christ Church, Pill from 10.00 am to 10.00 pm. It was organised by an ecumenical team from the Methodists, the Baptists and the Anglicans.

The Lord's Prayer was the source of inspiration and five stations illustrated aspects of our Lord's instruction to pray. Each station was set up by a team member after thought and prayer. Resources came from the Bath and Wells Diocesan Resource Centre (Video and posters) and from books, prayers and display material provide by the team. A rota was organised to ensure that a minimum of two people were present throughout the twelve hours of the vigil. For the most part, people from different churches shared each hour, so were able to reinforce relationships across the churches.

Each church was asked to tell its congregation about the vigil, and was sent posters to promote the event. Posters were put in local shops and the Resource centre. Sandwich Boards were put in the precinct and outside the Community Centre which held the McMillan Big Coffee break on the same day.

The church was open from 10.00 am onwards. The rota included 24 volunteers from the covenant churches with additional help from the Salvation Army and Catholic Churches in Pill. Twenty five people filled the rota, and about another thirty visitors came in over the course of the day to pray. Feedback from those attending was uniformly good. The displays were helpful to prayer and were thought provoking. Thirty candles were lit round the font, to signify prayers given. Several visitors were moved to tears by the experience, and found their visit cathartic, yet helpful.

Although the prayer vigil is not reaching the wider population of the village, and many church members failed to visit, those who came were challenged and helped by the event in a way they did not expect.

**David Yates**

***FAITH COMMUNITIES RESPONSE TO MAJOR EMERGENCIES  
An opportunity for leaders of faith communities & their nominated  
representatives to attend a FAMILIARISATION DAY introducing the  
Major Emergency Plan on November 8th, Avon & Somerset Police HQ,  
Portishead from 9.45 am to 3.00 pm***

*Contributors include representatives of the Emergency Services, the Local  
Authorities' Civil Contingencies Units, the Avon & Somerset Constabulary  
Operational Planning Dept and the Faith Communities  
For further information contact CISR on 01179 557430*



*in our villages, towns & cities*

**HOPE 08** is intended to provide churches of all shapes and sizes throughout the UK with a fresh opportunity to work together across their communities over a twelve month period. It is as relevant for urban churches as it is for rural ones, regardless of tradition. It is very relevant to Churches Together groups which might gain new energy through the involvement of young people and the independent churches in many of the activities which the HOPE 08 programme suggests.

After Soul in the City in London in 2004, three agencies together with a wide range of denominations, networks and charities concluded that focused mission is possible if we all work across the whole nation. Churches of all kinds can work in partnership with other churches, with Christian agencies, the local authorities and the police to make a real impact on their communities.

HOPE 08 is a grass roots initiative. The approach is menu based with a vast range of ideas to choose from, none of them prescriptive or obligatory. Many Churches Together groups might want to focus on just one or two. For details and a DVD visit [www.hope08.com](http://www.hope08.com)

The year will comprise Five High Points and a series of other seasons, all of which resonate with the churches traditional calendar, but each of which provides fresh ideas to enable all to participate.

During 2008, there will be lots of different events happening across Somerset in which young people can play a part. Your local youth group might find just the right opportunity to serve the local community and express the love of God in practical ways. For further information on opportunities for young people, contact [tony.cook@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:tony.cook@bathwells.anglican.org)

Also, for young people, there will be an Ecumenical Launch Event and Celebration in Wells Cathedral on 30 November from 7.30 pm to 9.00 with Youth for Christ and other partner agencies.

Somerset Churches Together's Annual Gathering will also focus on Hope 2008. Ian Chisnall, Hope 08 National Coordinator, will speak and lead discussion at Locking Castle Church in Weston-super-Mare on 20 October from 10.00 am. To book a place, contact Robin Dixon at [sctog@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:sctog@blueyonder.co.uk)



## So That the World May Believe

The ecumenical movement, the movement of the Spirit that draws Christians together in unity, is worldwide, not just something which happens in the British Isles or Somerset. It faces many challenges and is entering a new stage on its journey. These facts were clearly brought home to me when, with ecumenical officers and others, I stayed for a few days in September at the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey and visited the offices of the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Geneva.

The WCC is a Council of Churches which is now more than fifty years old. There are 347 member churches, representing roughly one quarter of the world's Christians. It has a special relationship with the Roman Catholic Church which is not a member but has an important associated role. At the heart of the WCC is the search for the worldwide visible Christian unity for which Christ prayed. The Ecumenical Institute at Bossey was founded by the WCC in 1946 to educate and form ecumenical leaders, both clergy and lay, for service in parishes, classrooms and ecumenical centres around the world.



The WCC is facing many challenges including severe financial constraints. Most of the churches to which the 500 million or so Pentecostal/Charismatic Christians in the world belong remain outside the WCC and the Roman Catholic Church is not a formal member, although it supports the WCC in many ways. However, the WCC's newly formed Global Christian Forum is creating a new space for all the main Christian families to come together regularly to share personal testimony and build a community. In November this year, 250 representatives from all the main Christian denominations, the leaders of the World Evangelical Alliance, the World Pentecostal Fellowship, the Christian World Communions and worldwide Youth Movements will gather together for 'mutual discovery and recognition of each other as Christians'.

The ecumenical dream is still alive and new growth is emerging from the old. Could it be that, by embracing diversity, new possibilities for unity will open up?

**Robin Dixon**



## To Begin at the Beginning.

Your church will want to play its part in fighting climate change. But where should it begin? Maybe it already has. From my discussions with different groups, the most common reaction to the challenge seems to be to draw-up a list of practical actions; recycling plastic cups, fitting low energy light bulbs, buying fair trade or organic products, changing to electricity from a renewable source and so on.

These are all good, and eventually necessary, actions to take. But making such a list is not *the* priority. There are dangers in starting this way. Chiefly it can result in by-passing what for Christians is the most important priority.

A church community must start with a clear understanding of why it is taking action. It must not be assumed. We don't do it because everyone from politicians to supermarkets is saying we should. The world at large may see saving the planet from destruction as a good enough reason for action. But it won't work; all the disagreements, controversies and vested interests make that obvious.

No. The world at large cannot set the agenda for the church community.

For Christians, or anyone who believes in a creator God, there are ethical and transcendent reasons. But they have to be spelled out at the start, so that everyone participating in an environment programme understands why they are.

The reasons should be stated at the beginning so that everyone knows where they are going. They should also be stated in order to prepare everyone for those times ahead when there will be differences of view about what actions to take, and in what order. It will happen, and without clear biblically-based motivation it is likely that discouragement will kill enthusiasm and stifle progress.

There is plenty of evidence of this happening in the world around us, even locally. Whether it is wind farms or nuclear power or the Severn barrage – all issues relevant to Somerset – there is contention and vested interest. The world will never agree. But Christians should be able to.



**Christian Ecology Link** produces a monthly Prayer Guide. It is available by e-mail ([prayer-guide@christian-ecology.org.uk](mailto:prayer-guide@christian-ecology.org.uk)) and it is also posted at the end of the month on CEL's website at [www.christian-ecology.org.uk](http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk)

The reasons why the church community should take action to fight climate change are few, clear and simple. If we open our bibles we find three things:

1. The world is God's creation and he cares about it, long term.
2. We are commanded to love our neighbours, both those in the world around us and those who will come after us
3. Our ultimate hope is in God

1) The world is God's creation and we are to think of ourselves as stewards of it, not exploiters of it as is so often the case. We are to take care of it and protect it on God's behalf. The world belongs to Him, not us.

2) We are called to love our neighbours. It may be those who are being flooded out of their homes, or have lost everything as a result of fire. It will also include our children and grandchildren whose 'future we are borrowing'. For all their sakes developing a sustainable live style is therefore a Christian imperative.

3) For the Christian the future is not all hopelessness and gloom. Our hope is in God. We must keep that assurance at the forefront of all that we do. That does not mean placing our hope in God to the point of doing nothing. God has created us to be responsible. But it does mean we are not doing it on our own.

Nor are we on our own when it comes to resourcing our motives, our decisions, our actions. Below I have listed some useful websites that give access to material dealing with these fundamental issues.

[www.sageoxford.org.uk](http://www.sageoxford.org.uk): (useful seven-part bible studies)

[www.ecocongregation.org](http://www.ecocongregation.org): (comprehensive modular resource)

[www.bathandwells.org](http://www.bathandwells.org): (new environment policy: Changing Lives, Changing Churches, Changing Communities for a Changing World)

[www.cofe.anglican.org](http://www.cofe.anglican.org): (in depth document: *Sharing God's Planet*, written by Claire Foster)

[www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk) (*Creed and Creation* – this contains practical advice for when you have got the theology sorted, foreword by Bishop of London).

**Brian Kellock. SCT Sustainability Group.**



## **Be Adventurous This Year**

Present Aid has been a real success in the West over the past few years and it has been exciting to see the way individuals, schools and groups have taken this up as a way of putting real meaning into giving at Christmas. But this is not the only way of helping the poorest communities in the world during the Advent and Christmas season. Christian Aid groups in several towns in the area have held carol singing fundraising days at their local supermarkets for several years now and they regularly collect several thousand pounds in this way.

Do not forget that your church can make a real difference by having a collection for Christian Aid's Christmas appeal. Contact Christian Aid on 01454 415923 for resources to help you with this.

Why not join Christian Aid at Bath Abbey for a special carol concert, Advent Hope, on Monday 3 December at 7.30 pm? More information on 01454 415923.

## **Lent Courses 2008**

**Churches Together in England** is working on a 2008 Lent Course on Spirituality. For updates on this go to [www.churches-together.net](http://www.churches-together.net)

**York Course for Lent 2008: The Lord's Prayer - Praying it, Meaning it, Living it.** Participants on the CD/audio tape are: Dr David Hope, who introduces the course, Canon Margaret Sentamu, Bishop Kenneth Stevenson, Revd Dr David Wilkinson and Dr Elaine Storkey. Course Booklet: £3.50 (£2.75 each for 5 or more); Audio Tape: £ 8.95 (£6.95 each for 5 or more); Audio CD: £ 10.95 (£8.95 each for **2** or more); Transcript (of audiotape/CD): £ 4.95 (£2.95 each for **2** or more); CD Taster Pack £15.95 (1 booklet, CD & transcript - **worth £19.40**) **Free** packing and second class postage. Contact York Courses, PO Box 343, York YO19 5YB (01904 466516) [www.yorkcourses.co.uk](http://www.yorkcourses.co.uk)

**Listening to God's Word**, an Ecumenical Lent Course produced by the Diocese of Exeter. The aim is to involve churches in a fresh encounter with their surrounding community and to encourage them to engage creatively with the issues that arise. In a world where people still seek the spiritual life but where Christians and the church are viewed negatively, how can we express our Christian faith in fresh and vibrant ways which are relevant to God's world today? Available from [www.exeter.anglican.org](http://www.exeter.anglican.org) in early 2008.

## New Resources

**Changing Evangelisation: Themes and Stories from Catholics in Local Mission** provides an important resource for all wanting to understand the movements and changes in the Roman Catholic understanding of evangelisation in their recent history. It gives both a broad overview of these developments and tells stories of renewal and growth in evangelisation in Roman Catholic experience. This is the fourth and last book in the *Changing* series, all of which were inspired by the Building Bridges of Hope project. Copies of *Changing Churches*, *Changing Communities* and *Changing Mission* as well as *Changing Evangelisation* are available from the Methodist Publishing House, 4 John Wesley Road, Werrington, Peterborough PE4 6ZP.

A new **On-Line Directory of Black Majority and Asian Churches** has been launched at [www.bmcdirectory.co.uk](http://www.bmcdirectory.co.uk) A UK-wide directory of Black-majority and Asian churches and agencies is now available on the internet. The free to access online directory lists church headquarters, local churches, agencies and theological institutions as well as a diary of national events. The service is expected to aid networking between and beyond the Black and other minority Ethnic Christian communities, enabling easier contact with groups that are not always easy to find because of their dynamic growth and spread.

**Migration Principles: Statement for Churches Working with Migrants and Engaging with Migrant Issues** is published by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. Devised by a British and Irish inter-denominational study group, the publication contains a set of principles to enable the churches to contribute to the national debate on migration. The principles will also help churches respond in practical ways to the presence, gifts and needs of migrant communities. The book is edited by Paul Weller and is available at £5.00 from CTBI Publications, 4 John Wesley Road, Werrington, Peterborough PE4 6ZP (01733 325002) [www.ctbi.org.uk](http://www.ctbi.org.uk)

**Abolition!** by Richard S Reddie, Lion Hudson, £9.99. This book tells the story of the slave trade in the British Empire and examines the movement to bring it to an end. Subjects covered include the history of slavery, the push for abolition and the legacies of the slave trade.

**Heart of Flesh** by Gillian Court, CTBI Publications, £15. The book examines the prophetic dimension of Bonhoeffer's life and work and demonstrates that his vision, passion and love for God can continue to move and inspire in equal measure. Gillian Court is an Anglican and a Quaker. Available from CTBI at [www.ctbi.org.uk](http://www.ctbi.org.uk) or by phone on 01733 325002.

## Noticeboard

In November 2004, Churches Together in England organised an excellent conference for anyone in the churches together networks at Stoke Rochford Hall in Lincolnshire. Next year, a similar conference will be held on a theme which has been a key to much of the Church's work and thinking over the past few years: Engaging Spirituality. **Engaging Spirituality @ the Gathering** will take place from Friday 30 May to Sunday 1 June 2008 at The Hayes, Swanwick, Alfreton, Derrbyshire. Further details are available from CTE at [www.churches-together.org.uk](http://www.churches-together.org.uk) or on 020 7529 8133.

**Receptive Ecumenism and the Call to Ecumenical Learning** is a day conference to be held on 3 November 2007 from 10.30 am to 4.00 pm at St Mary's Church, Cadogan Street, London SW3. Organised by the Society for Ecumenical Studies, it will consider what the Churches can and do receive with integrity from other Christian traditions. All welcome. Bookings at [www.ecumenicalstudies.org.uk](http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.uk)

**BBC1** plans to show peak time half hour episodes of the whole passion narrative after Eastenders throughout Holy Week in 2008. The intention is to be as accurate as possible to the Biblical narratives and include the Resurrection appearances on Easter Day. What an opportunity for millions to consider Jesus. How can we respond? Do pass around your networks so as many people as possible know that this is on the horizon.

**Challenge and Change** is an ecumenical residential seminar open to clergy and laity on the rural community to be held at St Francis Convent, Compton Durville from 20 November to 22 November 2007. It is designed for those who are new to or thinking of entering rural ministry. It may also be beneficial to those seeking a refresher course. For further information and an application form, contact Revd Robert Widdowson on 01749 841688.

**Sound of Many Waters** is a year long exploration of our need to care for our environment. Organised by the Diocese of Clifton, the celebrations at Clifton Cathedral in Bristol draw on Catholic teachings, insights and networks and are open to everyone. For further information visit [www.soundofmanywaters.org](http://www.soundofmanywaters.org) or phone 01179 738128.

**Ecclesiastical Insurance plc** offers an affordable insurance scheme for public liability insurance for churches together groups. Contact Joanne Waters on 01452 528533 or visit [www.ecclesiastical.co.uk](http://www.ecclesiastical.co.uk). Similar schemes are also available from Finance Re-Direct Ltd ([www.financeredirect.co.uk](http://www.financeredirect.co.uk)) and Methodist Insurance plc ([www.methodist-insurance.co.uk](http://www.methodist-insurance.co.uk))

## Dates for Your Diary

### OCTOBER

- 5 CAFOD Family Fast Day. 020 7733 7900
- 10 World Mental Health Day
- 20 Somerset Churches Together Annual Gathering. Locking Castle Church, Weston-super-Mare. 10.00 am to 3.30 pm. 01225 359014
- 21 – 28 One World Week. 0118 939 4933
- 28 Bible Sunday. [www.biblesociety.org.uk](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk)

### NOVEMBER

- 11 Remembrance Sunday
- 30 Hope 08 Launch Event with Youth for Christ. 7.30 pm. Wells Cathedral. [tony.cook@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:tony.cook@bathwells.anglican.org)

### DECEMBER

- 1 World Aids Day. [www.worldaidsday.org](http://www.worldaidsday.org)

### JANUARY

- 18 – 25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- 27 Homelessness Sunday. [Ww.world-disarm.org.uk](http://Ww.world-disarm.org.uk)

'Unity is not about doing extra ecumenical things, things that absorb precious time and energy, but about doing the things we should be doing anyway *ecumenically*: worshipping, witnessing, serving and evangelizing as one and so releasing energy rather than absorbing it.' (Paul Avis, 'Rethinking Ecumenical Theology' in *Paths to Unity: Explorations in Ecumenical Method*, Church House Publishing, 2004, page 102)