

Encouraging Transition: How Churches Can Change

A Changing Lives Day jointly organised by Somerset Churches Together and Bath and Wells Diocese's Council for Mission

4 October 2005

**The Old Deanery
Wells**

Course Leader: Terry Tennens, Director, Building Bridges of Hope Project, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

SESSION ONE

10.00 am – 4.00 pm

A session which will look at the process of Mission Accompaniment and what the Building Bridges of Hope Project has to offer to Somerset churches in this time of change.

SESSION TWO

7.00 pm -9.15 pm

A shortened version of Session One which will be of particular interest to those involved with Local Ecumenical Partnerships and Churches Together Groups.

Terry Tennens is a Baptist Minister who has experienced team leadership in a large town centre church and as a solo minister in a small rural church. He has been Director of CTBI's Building Bridges of Hope project since December 2000, working with churches ranging from Catholic to Pentecostal. Building Bridges of Hope's unique service has been to develop the value of the skilful outsider, known as the 'mission accompanier' in order to encourage churches into transforming lives and communities for the kingdom of God.

To book a place on either session and for further information, contact Robin Dixon on 01225 872903 or sctog@blueyonder.co.uk

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Somerset Churches Together Newsletter appears four times each year in **October, January, April, and July.**

Please send copy to **Robin Dixon, County Ecumenical Officer, 25, Claverton Road West, Saltford, Bristol BS31 3AL.** e-mail: sctog@blueyonder.co.uk

An Opportunity for Renewal

What is perhaps the most striking aspect of contemporary Christianity is the convergence of practice and belief across the denominations. We have moved almost seamlessly into the post-denominational age as the pressures of contemporary culture force us to re-think the meaning of the church. Increasingly, the talk is of sharing the resources across denominational boundaries. The old divisions of either the sixteenth or eighteenth centuries seem less and less relevant as we see our influence and strength ebb away. Interestingly, the divisions of the twentieth century are proving more difficult to overcome. The British churches proved, in the main, to be poor hosts during the *Windrush* years. This was a failure to welcome the stranger which led directly to the establishment of what have become known as 'black majority churches'.

A little while ago, the South Western Synod of the United Reformed Church was hosting visitors from one of our partner churches in Korea. The reflection of our guests upon our work in Somerset was that the URC was to be praised for our ecumenical endeavours and our desire to overcome historic barriers between Christians. However, they went on to say, they were concerned that in the desire to be ecumenical we had lost our sense of competition with the result that our enthusiasm for evangelism was not apparent. Their impression was that in ceasing to compete with other Christian denominations we had also ceased to actively compete with the influences of contemporary culture. Part of me wants to argue that the apparent lack of enthusiasm for evangelism has to do with other factors such as the militant secularism that ridicules the church and faith, or an over dependence upon clergy which has disempowered the laity, or the burden of maintaining outdated buildings and institutions but part of me wonders how much is down to a lack of confidence in the Gospel that is at the heart of faith. This is a confidence that is very evident when I visit Christian partners in Korea or Ghana or even the United States.

If I could have bottled the enthusiasm that was evident in the congregations that I worshipped with in Ghana or in Chicago's south side and given it to the URC congregations, would it have made a difference? Well, there is an easy way to find out. There are an increasing number of Christians coming to this country from Africa and the Far East. The Church here is praying for renewal. What if God is answering that prayer by sending help from 'distant lands afar'? Even in the rural parts of the county there are new immigrant groups, often isolated and frequently feeling unwelcome. The church missed an opportunity for renewal when it failed to welcome the people of the *Windrush* years. We cannot afford to repeat it. As ecumenical partners and pilgrims, we need the enthusiasm and the fresh vision of those from other parts of the world. That does not mean simply opening our doors to allow others in but genuinely being willing to change as we discover a new way of being church. Convergence in the ecumenical pilgrimage is only a good thing if we converge on the radical Christ who calls us to live in the ways of God.

We can celebrate the emerging post denominational age while being cautious that we do not confuse that with an easier way of being in the world. When things start getting cosy, it is time to listen for the restless God who calls us to leave our settled ways and set off in search of a promise.

.David Grosch-Miller

Weston's New Lighthouse

Weston-super-Mare has a new lighthouse. It stands three quarters of a mile inland as a beacon of welcome. Like a lantern, it sits at the top of a tower that rises above the sanctuary of the new ecumenical church of St Andrew's at Coniston Crescent on the Bournville Estate.

'What better nickname for a church than The Lighthouse?' asked Revd Bethan Guttridge, the Anglican minister of the new church. 'What a wonderful vision – to be a lighthouse shining out the light and love of Christ...'

The new St Andrew's is a Local Ecumenical Partnership of Anglicans and Methodists who formerly worshipped in separate buildings nearby but have now come together as one united congregation under one roof. The new building was dedicated on 24 April 2005 at a special service in the presence of Rt Revd Peter Price, Bishop of Bath and Wells and Revd Peter Mortlock who represented the Chair of the Bristol Methodist District.

The new St Andrews is part of the Healthy Living Centre, created at a cost of more than £3 million to serve the physical, mental and spiritual needs of the people living on the four surrounding estates.

In addition to the church, which will be open everyday, there is a day centre and doctor's surgery, café, nursery and community hall. The complete complex is built around the four sides of an open courtyard which forms a quiet garden. The Centre is to be run by a community partnership of five: North Somerset Council, North Somerset Primary Care Trust, South Weston Community Association, a Sure Start pre-school facility and the combined Anglican and Methodist Churches.





***From Fay Wilson-Rudd – Chaplain – Somerset Partnership –
NHS & Social Care Trust and Chair of the Mental Health Working Party in the Diocese of Bath & Wells***

In February 2003 the General Synod of the Church of England discussed mental health issues for the first time in 10 years. The outcome was collaboration between the charity **mentality** and the Archbishops' Council to produce a Resource Pack for use by churches and other faith communities.

Within the Diocese of Bath & Wells a number of groups were involved in piloting the material that was launched by the Bishop of St Albans in October 2004 at St Paul's Cathedral, London. The pack offers a variety of suggestions, including case studies, to help churches develop their understanding of mental health issues.

Somerset Churches Together received a presentation in March, as did the Bath & Wells Diocesan Synod. A number of people, including those who use the Mental Health Service, Carers and others are available to meet with congregations or groups. If your church or group would like to learn more, please contact me and I will be happy to arrange speakers for you.

faywilsonrudd@msn.com

or write to me at

Flat 3, Old School Place, North Grove, Wells BA5 2TD

Church Sharing Celebration at Milborne Port

There was a great service of celebration and thanksgiving on 21 June 2005 at 7 pm in St John the Evangelist, Milborne Port to sign the formal sharing agreement of the Parish Church between the Anglicans and the Roman Catholics.

In 1969, when ecumenical relations were only just beginning to develop, the proposal of Prebendary Edmund Buxton, at that time Vicar of Milborne Port, to offer to share the church with the Roman Catholics, albeit on an informal basis, was radical and visionary. It has taken 36 years to get to this point, and now, after a very long 'betrotal', the 'marriage' – the legal sharing – has been celebrated. Over 80 parishioners from both churches joined in the service, and the celebration in Church House afterwards.

In the service, whose theme was 'New Beginnings', water was poured into the font to remind everyone of the common baptism which Catholics and Anglicans share, and those present committed themselves to 'dare to explore all the ways...to become one in Jesus Christ...even in the face of difficulties'. In his sermon, Rt Revd Declan Lang, Bishop of Clifton, encouraged everyone to see this as a new stage in a journey together, and to continue to seek opportunities to work, witness and worship together. He said that ecumenism was not an option but an essential part of the Gospel message. Later, Rt Revd Andrew Radford, Bishop of Taunton, affirmed the warm working relationships between the churches. The presence and participation of Revd David Plumb, Methodist Minister, reminded everyone that in Milborne Port for the past 14 years the Anglicans, Roman Catholics and Methodists have also been part of a Local Ecumenical Partnership.

The celebration continued afterwards with wine and refreshments in warm sunshine in the garden of Church House (the church hall).

New Ecumenical Church in Clevedon

The congregations of Linden Road Methodist Church and the Anglican Christchurch in Clevedon have united as a Local Ecumenical Partnership. They will share the Anglican building, living a common life together under one roof and will be known as Christchurch.

At an Inaugural Service in June, Rt Revd Peter Price, Bishop of Bath and Wells, and Revd Ward Jones, Chair of the Bristol Methodist District, signed the Constitution.

In his sermon, Bishop Peter appealed to the new congregation to be sensitive to the sufferings of others in the community and beyond and to work together to fulfil the biblical vision of God's justice.

Some Reflections on Covenant

Covenant is a well used word in ecumenical life. Churches in Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPs) make covenants with one another. Some churches in local churches together groups form covenants without becoming LEPs. Church leaders form covenants with one another as happened in Devon some years ago. The Anglican-Methodist Covenant was signed in London last year and the event celebrated throughout the country, including Wells Cathedral.

Yet do we really understand the word when we use it? What are we really being called to do in a covenant relationship if it is to be true to biblical witness?

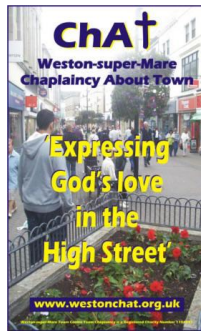
At the Somerset Churches Together Annual Gathering held in May over fifty people explored these questions with John Cole, the Church of England National Advisor for Unity in Mission. The following emerged as some of the key characteristics of a covenant made between Christian communities which is grounded in the witness of the Old and New Testaments.

- A covenant made between Christian communities will aim to express the same characteristics as God's covenant relationship down the centuries.
- Its basis will be an act of deliberate choice.
- It will be purposeful, part of God's ultimate plan through which all things are to be brought together into unity in Christ.
- It will be characterised by gracious giving (liberating, not patronising) and grateful receiving (love-enhancing).
- It will be marked by Christ-like self-sacrifice and mutuality.
- It will seek its energy from the 'koinonia' of the Holy Spirit and from the 'constant love' which God reveals to us.
- At its centre, it will be Eucharistic. 'It will seek to be an expression of the Holy Communion in which Christ calls us to share – the Holy Communion of three persons in one God, the Trinity – the Holy Communion that we are called to experience as a holy people as well as in the bread and wine'. (John Cole)

Covenant, then is not about structures and rules but about gratitude, loyalty, discipleship and relationship.

Where do you stand on the ecumenical staircase? Competition? Cooperation? Commitment? Covenant?

Robin Dixon



ChAT, Weston Town Centre Team Chaplaincy, was constituted in 2003, and is Registered Charity No. 1101541. The aims of the charity are to set up a Town Centre Chaplaincy Team led by a half-time Chaplain and a team of volunteers, based in adapted shop premises in the heart of the town in order to:

1. Offer friendship and a listening ear to all people regardless of faith, background or lifestyle.
2. Direct those in need to an appropriate local agency or church if they so wish.
3. Contribute to the life of the town by representing ethical, personal and spiritual values based on Christian principles.
4. Build bridges between church and society.
5. Make visible God's love and concern for many people in diverse situations

The vision for ChAT was conceived after I had heard an inspirational challenge from the then Archdeacon of Bath, the Ven. Bob Evens, in 1999 when, during a Deanery Away Day, he had encouraged churches to work in clusters, ecumenically and secularly if necessary, to serve the community in ways that we could not do as individual churches. A subsequent visit to a successful shopping centre chaplaincy at Lakeside in Thurrock confirmed to me that this was a service which could benefit Weston-super-Mare. An ecumenical steering group of like-minded people was formed and the project has been moved forward by the Trustees who include representatives from the Anglican, Methodist, Roman Catholic, U.R.C. churches and from the Police.

PROGRESS :

The priority has been to continue developing the project whilst raising awareness of it in the town, among local authorities, professional agencies, businesses, employees, and churches.

We have also introduced ChAT to leading local figures and asked for their endorsement of the vision. The Trustees are delighted that the Rt. Revd. Peter Price, Bishop of Bath and Wells, has agreed to be one of the Patrons.

Efforts have been made to source funding, both locally and from the wider community. ChAT Week was held at the beginning of November 2004, resulting in good local press publicity, and raising just over £1,200. This was an encouraging result for an initial launch and it is intended to make it an annual event which could be a good source of ongoing funding

particularly as ChAt becomes better known and is seen to be making a significant contribution to the life of the town centre.

Funding has also been obtained from the Methodist Church, at Local and District level for five years at £5,000 p.a., and a decision is awaited from them on a further £5,000 p.a. for five years. Their support is reviewable after three years, and is dependent on a further £5,000 p.a. being raised locally, i.e. ChAt Week, contributions from local churches, businesses, individuals, etc. This will enable the project to sustain a Half-time Chaplain for the first five years. The Diocese of Bath and Wells Parish Development Fund has agreed to match the total of the Methodist District funding (£20,000) over a three year period on a decreasing scale. Grants have also been confirmed from Central Church Fund for £2,500 p.a. for 3 years and from the Bramble Trust, a one-off contribution of £2,000. Other funding is being sought both locally and nationally, and the plan is for the project to be self sustaining by Year 6.

THE FUTURE:

The Trustees hope to have appointed a Half-time Chaplain by early July. Shortly after that we shall be inviting applications from volunteers from local churches in order for the project to be operational by September. A Training Plan will be in place, and all volunteers will undertake this, and be CRB checked, before they are commissioned. As well as volunteers out in the town, the project will also be seeking one or two administrative volunteers, as well as someone with fundraising experience.

Suitable premises are being sought but, should these not be found by September, the project will start with the team working out of temporary office accommodation.

The Trustees are grateful for the support received and ask that this will continue as the time approaches for the vision to become reality. Prayer needs are that –

- God's chosen person will be appointed as Half-time Chaplain.
- The Appointment Panel will have discernment and wisdom.
- Volunteers will recognise God's call and respond
- Suitable premises will be found
- Sufficient funding will continue to be forthcoming.
- There will be a continued outpouring of God's blessing on ChAt so that many may know the joy of being touched by God's love through this new way of being church in Weston town centre.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE, VISIT www.westonchat.org.uk OR CONTACT gillianputnam@yahoo.co.uk, 01 934 416917

Gill Putnam

Living More Sustainably

Two years ago, the parish of Cleeve and Claverham where I serve registered as an Eco-congregation. This is an award scheme which encourages a congregation to find ways of living more sustainably.

The scheme is divided into four sets of modules under the headings: Grounding in Faith (including a compulsory audit of current practice and worship resources), Growing in Faith (children's, youth's and adult's learning), Managing Churches in Faith (maintaining a church building and grounds in an environmentally conscious way), and Living in Faith (personal lifestyles and community projects). To gain the award, churches need to have undertaken modules in each of the four areas. Each set has three modules, though there is room for flexibility in all of them. There is no charge to enrol on the scheme and modules can be downloaded free from ecocongregation@rase.org.uk

So far, some of the projects we have completed include a course of Theology/Bible Study on the theme of Creation, recycling computers, furniture, bicycles, spectacles, ink cartridges and providing a compost bin in our churchyard. We have a youth group called 'Eco-friends' which meets once a month and which, amongst other things, has made bird boxes and feeders which now adorn our churchyard. Creation is a theme which crops up frequently throughout the year in our worship, and we mark Environment Sunday (now the first Sunday in June) as well as Rogation Sunday, when we have a parish walk between the two churches where a simple service is held in each. We have a Good Shopping Guide in our church library for anyone who wants to check up on ethical/green purchases. One of our church members, as school governor, has worked on an environmentally friendly transport policy for our local primary school.

In addition to all of this we have a Traidcraft Stall once a month, we are supporting the Make Poverty History campaign by displaying a banner, we are replacing light bulbs with low energy bulbs when they blow and pursuing many other, perhaps rather obvious, initiatives. We are planning to have a parish visit to a recycling centre and landfill site, to emphasise that each of us needs to do whatever we can to make our personal 'footprint' on this planet a little lighter than it has been.

Has joining the scheme been worthwhile? I think you would have to talk to a member of the congregation to answer that one. But many of these initiatives have been carried out by members of the churches. As for me, Eco-congregation has helped me not only in my own drive towards a more sustainable lifestyle, but also it has given me opportunities to promote positively the need to increase our wonder at and our responsibility towards God's glorious creation in the churches I serve.

Cathy Horder

Caring for Creation

Eco-congregation provides a structure to help churches get going on environmental issues:

- A check-up for churches
- Modules designed to resource church life
- Newsletter 3 times a year
- Support from the co-ordinator
- An Awards scheme

Contact Jo Rathbone at Eco-Congregation, The Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LZ (024 7685 3061) or ecocongregation@rase.org.uk or www.ecocongregation.org

If people switched to buying locally produced foods they would save £2.1 billion a year in environmental and congestion costs. One of the facts from a paper published on 2 March which measures the environmental cost of transporting food around the UK from farm to supermarket. The answer is of course to buy local. Have a look at the Farma website for a directory of farmers' markets and farm shops: www.farma.org.uk

Computers for Charities. www.computersforcharity.co.uk offer recycling facilities for computers (of specific types), mobile phones, inkjet and laser printers etc. They also offer refurbished computers for church and charity use for low prices. If you have large numbers of computers to recycle, then do have a look to see if Computers for Charity can use them.

Community Re>Paint is a network of paint reuse schemes across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The purpose of the project is to collect leftover reusable paint from householders, and redistribute it to those who need paint but cannot afford it. More than 80% of us live within 20 miles of one of over 50 schemes now running in the UK. Have a look at the website: www.communityrepaint.org.uk

Tree Aid works in the poorest villages in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana and Mali, areas where 90% of people depend for their survival on trees but where rapid deforestation means millions of families are being deprived of essential resources. These include wood for building homes, cooking, heating and making furniture, fruit, berries, nuts and leaves for food and medicines. Trees can also provide products from which people can earn vital income to pay for school fees, healthcare or other everyday essentials. To find out more about TREE AID, phone 0117 909 6617, email info@treeaid.org.uk or visit www.treeaid.org.uk

'Love all God's creation, the whole of it and every grain of sand. Love every leaf, every ray of God's light. Love the animals. Love the plants. Love everything. If you love everything you will perceive the Divine Mystery in things'. *Dostoevsky*

An Ecumenism Worthy of the Name

The Christ who through his cross draws all people to himself prayed and prays that we should be one. Effecting our reconciliation with the father through the cross, he commits to us the message of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5.19). Unity and reconciliation come at a cost. For Christ, the costliness of crucifixion. For us, the sacrifice of confident prejudice, comfortable familiarity, myopic satisfaction, unchallenged power, and elements of our own self-identity. In short, we need to put on sackcloth and ashes, to 'Turn from sin and be faithful to the gospel'. (Ash Wednesday Liturgy). The pilgrim path of unity requires repentance of ourselves as individuals, and our churches as corporate entities; acknowledging personal sin and institutional sin; and resolving in the grace of Christ and with the encouragement of fellow-travellers, to do better.

The voice of the 2nd Vatican Council reaches across the years:

Of our personal renewal:

There can be no ecumenism worthy of the name without a change of heart. For it is from renewal of the inner life of our minds, from self-denial and an unstinted love, that desires of unity take their rise and develop in a mature way. (UR Nov. 1964 (7)).

And of the renewal of the Church:

Every renewal of the Church...is undoubtedly the basis of the movement toward unity. Christ summons the church to continual reformation as she sojourns here on earth. The Church is always in need of this insofar as she is an institution of men here on earth...Church renewal has therefore notable ecumenical importance. (UR, (6))

Upwards of 300 people came together at the CTBI Assembly in Swanwick. We celebrated the movement to unity, or at least to collaboration, in the past 18 years: *bless the Lord, my soul and praise God's holy name*. Realism might have taken us along routes of repentance, asking – what has gone wrong? why? what hasn't gone anywhere?

With a change of heart, we may have moved on to further our common life, to affirm diversity, to seek new ways to develop our rich relationships, to offer to share more of ourselves – money, energy, availability. There is no cheap ecumenism, and the purposeful, mission-driven search for unity is to be realised in the present, as well as held as a vision for the end-time: unity is not only the journey's end, but also the way of journeying now.

The Eschaton does not refer to an historically unrealised future reality. With Jesus Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit it has entered into history once and for all and is present in the church (The Ecumenism Decree – read anew after 40 Years, Cardinal Walter Kaspar).

If such unity is in the Church, the ecumenical structures may support it, as the skeleton supports the body. But the structures are not the body, and the breath of life is God's alone.

Bill Snelson, General Secretary, Churches Together in England

Resources

Changing Rural Life is a new book published by Canterbury Press (£19.99 ISBN 1 85311 599 1). Written by fourteen Bishops from rural parts of Britain, it looks at the underlying issues and reflects on the part that the countryside plays in a predominantly urban society. It includes a challenging end-piece from the Archbishop of Canterbury. It is useful for all those working in rural communities and with rural churches.

Rural Migrant Workers – Modern Slavery? The Churches Rural Group and the Arthur Rank Centre have produced a leaflet called ‘Rural Migrant Workers – Modern Slavery?’ It is particularly suitable for churches in rural areas where there are migrant workers. Contact the Arthur Rank Centre on 024 76854 3060 or visit www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk

Mary, Grace and Hope in Christ. The text of this latest ARCIC document can be downloaded free from www.ecumenism.net.

Prayers for Services to Mark the End of WW2. See www.ctbi.org.uk for prayers to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The material is taken from ‘Beyond Our Tears: Resources for Times of Remembrance’, published by CTBI and JLG in June 2004. The National Day of Commemoration is 10 July 05.

Sanctuary, Guidelines for Churches Offering Asylum Protection provides Churches and others with clear guidance when asked to protect people seeking refuge and safety in Britain and Ireland, particularly those who have not had a fair opportunity for a hearing in the immigration courts. The booklet, produced by Churches’ Commission for Racial Justice, is available at £4.95 from CTBI publications on 01733 325002 or info@ctbi.org.uk and www.ctbi.org.uk

Unmasking Methodist Theology, ed. Brian Beck et al, (Continuum 2004, £12.99) contains 22 chapters by 25 writers which illustrate the variety, style and method of doing theology in British Methodism in its most exciting period of history, from 1932 to 2000

Silence and Witness: The Quaker Tradition, Michael L Birkel (DLT 2004, £9.95) offers an introduction to Quaker spirituality and helpfully explores its main themes. Throughout the book draws on the experience of friends throughout the years – the texts is supported by writings of the past.

The Revd Will Thompson died suddenly on the morning of Sunday 15 May (Pentecost) aged 59 years. In addition to his ministry at Yeovil Baptist Church and his work with spiritual direction and retreats, he was an active member of both the Standing Committee and Council of Somerset Churches Together for many years. He was deeply committed ecumenically and a key figure in the development of the Yeovil Town Centre Churches Partnership. We thank God for him, his life and ministry.

Noticeboard

Christians Aware Meeting on Palestine Today. On Saturday 23 July, there will be an opportunity to hear from a number of people who have recently visited the West Bank and Jerusalem. This will be a day conference at St Andrew's Church Hall in Taunton. Two of the speakers were part of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme sponsored by the World Council of Churches. For more details and a booking form, contact Revd Janet Fulljames, 12, Obridge Road, Taunton TA2 7PX Phone 01823 333585 or e-mail janet@fullj.freeserve.co.uk

BBH Future Church Conference 2005 will take place at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddeson, Hertfordshire on 2-3 November 2005. Theme: Spirituality Sustaining a Mission-Shaped Church. Cost: £75.00 all inclusive. For more information or to register, please contact Revd Terry Tennens on 020 765 47236 or e-mail terry.tennens@ctbi.org.uk

Comfort and Warmth is the Weston Charity that provides help for homeless and disadvantaged people living in Weston-super-Mare. It provides a meal and a warm, friendly shelter on two evenings a week during the summer months, seven evenings in the winter and a 24 hour shelter for five days over the Christmas period. We rely on your help to provide clothes and bedding for people without a home. Can you help by contributing second-hand blankets, sheets, duvets, sleeping bags or clothes such as jumpers, coats, trousers or socks? If you have items to donate or would like more information, contact Malcolm on 01934 522454.

Faith Communities Response to Major Emergencies. Should a major disaster occur, there will be a vital role for the Faith Communities. ISR in collaboration with Avon and Somerset Constabulary has arranged some familiarisation days and follow up events. Familiarisation Days: Wednesday 27 July or Friday 21 October or Monday 17 October at Zion Baptist Church, Creech St Michael, Taunton. Follow Up Beta Days: Monday 18 July at Avon and Somerset Police HQ, Portishead or Monday 17 October at Zion Baptist Church, Creech St Michael, Taunton. Booking and further information from Sheila Tubey at ISR on 01179 9557430 or e-mail: sheila@ccisr.org.uk

Exploring Spirituality Course, run by the Diocese of Bath and Wells, is designed to allow participants to explore their own personal spiritual growth and self awareness. It also develops listening skills, looks at different traditions of Christian spirituality and helps people form a simple rule of life. It is a one year introductory course open to Christians of all denominations. The course, which restarts in September 05, takes place fortnightly during term time on Thursdays from 10.00 am until 3.00 pm. For further information and application forms, contact Revd Jane Eastell on 01275 332554 or jane.eastell@btclick.com

A Harvest with a Difference. For the third year running, SPCK and Feed the Minds are making harvest resources free of charge to churches. For a free pack, phone 08451 212102 or e-mail harvest@spck.org.uk

Dates for Your Diary

JULY

- 16 Network Counselling Great Summer Booksale. Wesley College, Bristol, 10.am – 3 pm.
- 23 Land, Water, Olives: Palestine Today. Christians Aware Conference, St Andrews Church Hall, Taunton. 01823 333585.
- 31 July – 6 August New Wine. Royal Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet. 020 8567 6717 or www.new-wine.org.

AUGUST

- 15 – 19 Soul Survivor. Royal Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet. 0870 054 3331
- 26 – 29 Greenbelt Festival 2005 – Tree of Life. Cheltenham Racecourse. 020 7374 2760 or www.greenbelt.org.uk

SEPTEMBER

- 5 – 8 Prophets Then...Prophets Now. An Ecumenical Study Retreat led by Richard Rohr OFM. Sarum College, Salisbury. 01722 424800.
- 10 Somerset Churches Annual Sponsored Bike Ride and Walk. 01225 316600
- 11 Racial Justice Sunday. 020 7523 2121

OCTOBER

- 7 CAFOD Harvest Family Fast Day. 020 7733 7900
- 23 – 30 One World Week. 0118 939 4933