



**SOMERSET
CHURCHES
TOGETHER**

Newsletter

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www.sctog.org.uk

SOMERSET CHURCHES TOGETHER

The Anglican and Methodist Covenant:
Five Years On

An Evening of Reflection, Exploration and Discussion

With

The Revd Ward Jones, Chair of Bristol Methodist District
and
The Ven. Andy Piggott, Archdeacon of Bath

At Midsomer Norton Methodist Church, High Street, Midsomer Norton
BA3 2DR

On Thursday 13 November 2008 at 7.30 pm

The Anglican Methodist Covenant was signed in November 2003. The latest Joint Implementation Commission Report was published in June. Now is a good time to take stock of developments.

Some are disappointed that progress towards their idea of full visible unity can best be described as sluggish. But this is a covenant, not a roadmap!

Covenant is not about each side compromising its dearly held beliefs and ways of being. It is about travelling together, learning from one another and discovering how someone else's viewpoint is equally relevant, especially when we disagree. Disagreement can be the time when we may dare to learn that difference is not necessarily the way to division but an opportunity to celebrate our God given diversity. From the story of Cain and Abel to the musical 'Oklahoma', and tragically even today with all its worldwide conflicts, humankind struggles to respect difference.

The Anglican Methodist Covenant is opening up a new way to resolve 'difference'. All around the Somerset area, there are examples of people of faith from different traditions working together for the Kingdom of God. We may have different ways of worshipping and serving in Christ's name - some noisy, some quiet - but all help us in different but equally relevant ways to a sense of God among us.

COPYDATE FOR THE October NEWSLETTER: 10 September 2008. Please send copy to Robin Dixon, County Ecumenical Officer, 25, Claverton Road West, Saltford, Bristol BS31 3AL. e-mail: sctog@blueyonder.co.uk

An Awkward Question

The young boy said to his mother: “So what if it is all untrue? What if God does not exist? What then?” His mother was temporarily silenced. She was reminded that children have a habit of asking some very searching questions, often at a time when you are trying to get them to do something else or when everyone is in a rush to get out of the house to school or work. As a quick answer she replied: “But what if God does exist; what then?” Her son was satisfied with the response but only if they could talk about it later.

So what would your response be? When told the story by the mother, I was unsure what I would have said first thing in the morning when trying to do something else. On reflection I thought about Abraham and his act of faith as he left his homeland and set out on a journey to a promised land. He acted on a promise which he did not know for certain would be fulfilled. And he was tested about his faith in the promise made to him by God.

In a sceptical age people often say that they want certainty before they will commit themselves. But that is not how life is. There are times when we have to act in faith – believing, hoping that what we are about is true. Faith is a necessary part of life and it enables relationships to grow and love to increase. True faith is not blind. It takes everything into consideration and then acts in trust. Faith uses reason but goes beyond it, recognising that reason has its limits but love crosses boundaries.

If we act in faith in our human relationships, we do so in our relationship with God. God is greater than we are and we can never know what God might ask of us – the God of surprises. Our faith in God is not irrational but it does go beyond reason – faith without reason can become superstition and gives faith a bad name. True faith gives purpose and direction and deepens our experience of life. Faith requires questioning if it is to grow and help us interpret our experiences in life. The young boy may have asked an awkward question at an inconvenient time – but it was a good question.

Rt Revd Declan Lang, Bishop of Clifton

Some Useful Websites

www.cte.org.uk The Churches Together in England website, full of information about the churches working together nationally and locally.

www.gfe.org.uk The Group for Evangelisation is where denominational leaders and agencies for mission and evangelism in England meet.

www.rejesus.co.uk The website which explores the life, character and teachings of Jesus.

www.christianity.org.uk The Christian Enquiry Agency provides information about Jesus and the Christian faith on behalf of all the major churches in Britain and Ireland.

www.ciasa.org.uk The Church in a Spiritual Age website supports the workbook ‘Equipping Your Church in a Spiritual Age’.

Taunton Christians Moving Forward Together...

Like many these days I have a short paragraph after the signature on all my emails. At present it includes a quotation from Rhidian Brook's book, 'More than eyes can see' which reads:

"The church [is] at its best where it doesn't look like a church, really. By that I mean it's not about a building, and it's not about a feeling that you're some sort of club, and it's not about serving 'the church'. It's about a thing that serves the lost, the broken - all the things we know in theory, and they're all there in scripture"

In Taunton we're learning what it really means to be churches in relationship together in the early twenty-first century and the process requires a heady mix of challenging mindsets, experimentation and big helpings of forbearance.

Taunton Christians Together (TCT) draws together 34 churches from the urban and rural hinterland of the County Town. The pattern of activity has traditionally been 4 united acts of worship a year (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Good Friday, Summer and Advent Sunday). Recent years have seen some other joint working; a themed stand at Taunton Big Flower Show and, since its inception for the Millennium, a dramatised 'Living Nativity' event staged in the town centre on the last late night shopping date before Christmas. Lent study groups or centrally-based meetings have waxed and waned although a debate format in 2006 focussing on 5 'hot topics' worked particularly well a couple of years ago.

Taunton has long had a lively evangelical network that overlaps a little with TCT but events such as missions and acts of worship with a more contemporary feel have been largely organised separately by the local Evangelical Alliance group or by an ad hoc cluster of individuals. Into this scenario a new grouping of churches has emerged in the town.

'B1' is a group of church leaders that meet together on a regular basis to pray together and seek the transformation of Taunton. The churchmanship ranges from Anglican to Pentecostal. The name 'B1' comes from Jesus' prayer of in John's Gospel Chapter 17; "That they all might be one". The leaders pray together early every Wednesday morning and the congregations unite for prayer and worship on the third Sunday of each month.

TCT's Good Friday arrangements were varied in 2008 to attract the participation of the B1 churches. A formal United Service took place as usual and a more informal 'Family' Service was held nearby which B1 friends attended for the first time and packed the place. Instead of a procession of witness through the town to Church, the two congregations united after their worship and a long crocodile of Christians made its way along the pavement in the midst of shoppers at about noon for an impressive short act of worship at a large Cross on the site of the traditional Christmas Tree in the town centre. More than 250 were present as we ran out of service sheets! The hour of reflection that followed was filled with live music and the broadcast reading of the seven statements from the Cross, which was at times quite dramatic.

The summer Service, which in recent years has been held in a picturesque Parish Church with a picnic in the grounds, is being relocated to the Bandstand of Taunton's Vivary Park on 27th July 2008. We hope to have a Salvation Army Band and to adopt a 'Songs of Praise' format incorporating interviews with prominent local Christians. It was felt after Christmas 2007 that the Living Nativity had run its course although the 'slot' granted by the town centre management was valued and some mix of musical presentation, with carols and contemporary Christian music will probably replace it. A visionary idea to launch an Advent Festival day culminating in an open air concert by a well-known Black Gospel Choir was rejected on the grounds that it would not be well supported, cost and the demands required of busy church personnel.

Well-attended (50 people) meetings of representatives from each church take place 4 times a year to share news and hear a topical presentation. The group supports the Open Door centre for homeless and vulnerable people and undertakes the usual networking and promotion of member churches' and various groups' activities. The active Youth for Christ project in the town warrants TCT's greater future attention.

Last autumn a relatively new minister in the town was invited to share his experience of relational ecumenical activity in his previous town. This fresh insight was well received with recognition that TCT's present structure and programme is at risk of becoming stale and not engaging effectively with either the church congregations or the wider community.

For some years consideration has been given to a possible town centre chaplaincy project but this is a slow process and a steering group has recently been established to see if it is really viable. Recently, a team of potential Street Pastors has commenced training, hoping to begin patrols on Saturday nights from May onwards.

A bi-product of the Street Pastors initiative is greater ecumenical interaction. Not its primary purpose, but very effective and getting folk in the pews to encounter each other in the course of engaging in mission and prayer together. It will also be Taunton's significant contribution to the Hope 08 targets; the long hours of high-profile voluntary service to the wider community funded by many churches and underpinned by prayer can be identified as the collective response of the Christian Church here. The legal agreement with Street Pastors International was signed by the three 'leaders' of the TCT, B1 and EA member churches, a very significant 'first' as the Christians of the town seek to serve the community together.

The founder of Street Pastors, Les Isaac, was in Taunton recently and made a deep impression on all those who met him, both the secular and church representatives he encountered. He explained that his abiding desire is to see 'unity in diversity' as the Street Pastors project develops worldwide. If you wanted to sum up the approach to be followed as TCT evolves in relational rather than structural ecumenism then 'unity in diversity' is probably the best description.

There is much to build on as we allow the edges of ecumenical activity to become fuzzier in order to foster greater trust and cooperation between the various expressions of church.

Adrian Prior-Sankey, Chairman, Taunton Christians Together

CHURCHES LAUNCH 'HOPE FOR CREATION' RESOURCES

Hope for Creation! That's what British and Irish Churches have at a time when many scientists and campaigners are painting an apocalyptic image of a future dominated by climate change, and some find it difficult to have any hope at all.

The Churches are not burying their heads in the sand, and they recognise the need to deal with and pray about the ecological problems that face humankind. To help people to do this, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) has put together a programme of resources for use in what is being called 'Creation Time', which runs from the beginning of September until the feast day of St Francis on 4 October.

This is one of a number of initiatives that have their roots in a recommendation from last year's Third European Ecumenical Assembly in Romania. The assembly said, "We recommend that the period from 1 September to 4 October be dedicated to prayer for the protection of Creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles that reverse our contribution to climate change."

The theme of CTBI's resources for Creation Time 2008 is, "Hope for Creation - a time for worship and action". They come with a choice of two five-week frameworks. One is based on the Lord's Prayer, and the other on the Revised Common Lectionary. The materials are flexible, so it is possible either to follow the whole five weeks or dip into the material and use it as required. They include sermon materials and additional resources for inclusion in worship services and liturgies, together with group study ideas, children and all-age resources, and action ideas. All these will help churches, groups and individuals to focus on Creation Time, either for one week or the whole month. The resources contain links to many Christian organisations that have already developed useful study packs and liturgical materials on environmental issues.

The Hope for Creation resources are available as free downloads from www.ctbi.org.uk/creationtime

The Church in New Housing Areas

It is estimated that up to an extra three million homes will be needed in England in the next 20 years. So how should the church respond?

To help the churches meet the challenge, Churches Together in England has created a website at www.cinha.net which explores the chief concerns of local and regional church leaders. They are:

- How to engage with the planning process
- Creating community, especially where there is no community
- Considering the best expression of church in new housing areas



Churches in Community

There is much to celebrate about the common life of churches of different traditions in Somerset. Difficulties remain in some places, but the Spirit seems to be very much at work in others. This year, Somerset Churches Together's Annual Gathering offers another opportunity to meet and worship with a wide variety of people engaged in this exciting work, to celebrate successes and to learn about new ideas and developments. There will be more workshops than before, some stimulating presentations about work in progress, an opportunity to catch up with Hope 08 and reflections from two church leaders. Various organisations - including the Ammerdown Centre and Sanctuary at the Glastonbury Festival - have promised displays and the venue is easily accessible from the M5 at Junction 21.

The prime purpose of the Annual Gathering – which has evolved slowly over the years – is to catch a glimpse of the many ways in which people of different traditions in the Somerset area participate together in God's mission – from working with children and caring for the environment to exploring fresh expressions of church and working with the homeless. This year, as usual, the day has a particular focus – churches working together in the community. Local communities have changed greatly over the last twenty years and the Government since 1997 has tried to meet the challenges with increased attention to problems of social exclusion and community breakdown. At the same time, it has continued to give priority to market forces. As part of its efforts, the Government has called for more cooperation between statutory, commercial and voluntary sectors including the churches and other faith groups. As a result, there are increasing opportunities for the churches to be part of collaborative partnerships in community, social, welfare and educational provision. It is a fact that some churches and other Christian enterprises in our area have taken up these challenges and opportunities through setting up local projects that have sometimes involved new forms of ministry and fresh ways of working.

This year's Annual Gathering will offer the usual broad picture of Christians together in the common life but it will also provide some particular insights into the new relationships which are emerging between the churches and their local communities. We hope that you will be able to join us!

Robin Dixon



Mission Shaped Ministry Course

This course, established jointly between Bristol Methodist District and Wesley College, is designed for clergy, laity and for all trained church leaders. The course has a particular focus on the development of new areas of outreach which engage those outside the reach of traditional church. The course will run on eleven Monday nights from 7 pm to 9 pm at Wesley College, Bristol. Course hosts are Charity Hamilton, Fresh Expressions Trainer for Bristol Methodist District, and Wesley College Staff. For further information, contact Mark Barrett on 01242 269803 or e-mail markrev55@aol.co



**SOMERSET CHURCHES
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ANNUAL GATHERING 2008**

**Churches in
Community
From Vision to Action**

**Saturday, 8 November 2008
10.00 am – 3.45 pm**

**Locking Castle Church, Bransby Way,
Weston Super Mare
BS24 7BW**

Keynote Speakers:-

**Rt Revd Declan Lang, Bishop of Clifton
Rt Revd Peter Price, Bishop of Bath & Wells**

**Presentations, Workshops,
Displays and Resources.**

Aims and Objectives of the Day

- To maintain a supportive network for local ecumenism among the churches throughout Somerset.
- To enable local ecumenical groups in Somerset to share their successes and discoveries.
- To explore the potential role for our churches to work with government policies that want our help to develop the social capital.
- To explore the opportunities available for churches to work in partnership with statutory, private and voluntary organisations in order to make a real impact on the quality of life in our communities.
- To discover ways in which the churches can work with other faith groups to provide a faith reference point for public bodies to consult with
- To develop an understanding of the concept of the spiritual health and well being of the whole community and the churches' role in supporting it.

PROGRAMME FOR THE ANNUAL GATHERING

- 10.00 am Welcome and Worship
(Revd Nigel Coles—Chair of Somerset Churches Together)
- 10.10 am The Ecumenical Scene – An Overview (Bishop Declan Lang)
- 10.35 am Churches in Community (Bishop Peter Price)
- 11.15 am Coffee
- 11.45 am Churches in Community -Some Good Practice
- The Lynx Project
The Churches in Yeovil
The Genesis Trust, Bath
More to Life 08
- 1.00 pm Lunch
- 2.00 pm Workshops
- Fresh Expressions of Church (Revd Roger Medley)
Hope 08 – Looking Back, Looking Forward (Roger Allen)
Working with Young People (Tony Cook)
The Church in New Housing Areas (Jim Currin)
Working with Local Authorities (Alistair Beattie)
- 3.00 pm Workshops (repeated)
- 3.45 pm Closing Worship and Depart

Please note: Refreshments, including lunch, will be provided. Donations welcome

For more information and a booking form contact:

Robin Dixon, 25 Claverton Road West, Saltford, Bristol, BS31 3AL

e-mail: sctog@blueyonder.co.uk





MORE TO LIFE 08

A Significant Day. On Wednesday 11 January 2006, a group of church ministers gathered for lunch in Keynsham Rectory. They endeavour to meet in this way every couple of months in order to share news and fill up their diaries! There was no set agenda but, during the course of the meeting, it became clear that we all felt the challenge to reach out into the community in a fresh way. Nothing specific was decided at the meeting. We simply agreed 'we must follow this up'.

That evening the Keynsham and Saltford Churches Together AGM was due to be held at the Victoria Methodist Church. Most of those attending had no idea about the lunchtime meeting, let alone the ideas that were discussed. Imagine our surprise when, completely spontaneously, a number of lay members of different churches echoed exactly the same thoughts as we had shared over lunch! It was agreed that a group of interested people would meet, pray and discuss possibilities.

The Visit of J John. The group met at regular intervals and initially felt led to invite J John to come and speak at two community Carol Services to be held in December 2006. In the event, just under 1100 attended these services. No tickets were distributed, virtually every seat at each service was filled, no-one was turned away and a number of those present renewed their commitment to God.

A Growing Vision. It had soon become clear that a considerable lead-in time was needed to prepare a community-wide programme. As a result, 2008 became the target and, as ideas flowed, the plan to take key passions of life for each month began to take shape. The order of the themes was in part associated with the rhythm of the year (February/St Valentine's Day/Relationships, July/Music Festival/Music and Arts etc). A budget was set at £20,000. A gift day for all the churches on Pentecost Sunday yielded nearly £10,000 and before long further generous gifts raised this to over £16,000. This was before ideas had been fully developed and was a huge encouragement.

A Partnership. All the churches in Keynsham and Saltford pledged their support to 'More to Life 08' and the planning meetings have verified this commitment to work together. It was only after a year of planning that we heard about 'Hope08', a national initiative to make known God's love in communities through the nation – we began to realize that the partnership was much wider than the local area!

Generosity. People have generously offered their gifts to make the project a success. All publicity has been designed without cost by a local graphic designer, Tony Grady, who also designed the website built by Alex Duller, a local university student. Much of the publicity material has been produced and delivered without cost by printers in the SE of England. Their managing director is a Christian and he was inspired by the scope of the project and offered his support. Schools, clubs and other local venues have offered their facilities for meetings free of charge and the local Town Council has made a grant towards the programme. Pubs, schools and shops have generously received publicity (leaflets and beer-mats) and are happy to display it. Local businesses have offered support in many different ways.

Generosity and partnership have become the hallmarks of 'More to Life 08' – not very surprising as they are the hallmarks of God.

What is it all about? Underpinned by the belief that 'God plays in every scene of life', the aim of 'More to Life 08' is to show that there are spiritual signposts to God in every sphere of life. Indeed, whatever our passion, we will discover something more by including the spiritual dimension. To discover God in the midst of community, laughter, activity; in the midst of each generation from the youngest to the oldest; in the midst of unlikely activities as well as in church; through meeting some people who have made a significant contribution to life this is what it is all about. Meeting new friends and learning new things this is what it is all about. Jesus said: 'I have come that you may have life and have it to the full.' MoretoLife08 seeks to demonstrate the living truth of these words in Keynsham, Saltford and the surrounding villages.

Sowing Goodness into the Community. Through the year projects have been identified which enable those who come to 'More to Life08' events to sow goodness into the community, either locally or further afield. Raising money to dig a well for water in the Third World, providing power-driven transport for a stroke victim, providing a trip to the seaside for the housebound, supporting street children the possibilities are endless. 'More to Life 08' is non-profit making – all profits will be dedicated to sowing goodness.

How Is It Going? As More to Life08 continues to unfold, it is fascinating, indeed exciting, to see how the Lord is revealing spiritual signposts in the midst of our passions of life. Sometimes this is happening during the talks and events organised and, at others, it is happening in conversations arising out of the More to Life programme. What is noticeable is that More to Life is widely recognized in the community as a programme which is offering quality and much food for thought.

May – Gardening Month - began memorably with the maypole dancing in Queen Charlton village. The ecumenical band offered delightful Christian music, villagers and visitors gathered round the green and plants were available to give to friends. Stefan and Beverley Buczacki of Gardener's Question Time spent a number of days in the schools and wider community, delivering assemblies, meeting with pupils and launching Keynsham in Bloom. Their final task was to open the magnificent Flower festival organised by St Mary's church in Saltford – the life of Jesus was so beautifully displayed and free plants were distributed as a sign of God's grace.

More to Life is giving us opportunities to get alongside people in a non-threatening way. A particular example of this has been the schools which have opened doors to the whole programme. Both the state secondary schools have made significant contributions to the budget as have the Town Council. More to Life is also offering the chance to invite friends along, to establish new relationships and to help people to understand that God is interested in every sphere of our lives – that Jesus is 'the way, the truth and the life'.

John Samways

For more information about More to Life 08, visit www.moretolife08.org.uk

Stop Talking About Climate Change

Amen! I hear you reply. But I say it, not because we all get fed up with hearing about climate change or because we know we should be doing something about it rather than talking. I say it because climate change is not the issue. It is just the most obvious symptom of a much `deeper sickness' as Dave Bookless describes it in his challenging new book *Planetwise**:

'At the heart of it, as human beings we have got our relationship with the planet all wrong. It is not just that populations are growing and energy-hungry lifestyles are increasing, but that we have been living in a way that simply cannot continue. It goes right to the heart of who we are.'

The real issue is something that we Christians, perhaps more than anyone else, should be taking seriously because it has to do with the way we choose to live. I know when it comes to life style most of us are hypocrites. Certainly I am. But that does not mean that as a Christian I should have no concern for how I live. That would be a denial of the Gospel I live by.

As we are seeing with escalating oil and food prices and the turmoil they provoke, if we do not face the issue of life style, sooner or later it is going to face us, full on. Today most of us can still choose our life style, but there are many at home and abroad who cannot. Before very long it will be the availability of the world's resources that determine how we live. It is already happening and the evidence is there.

Results of research into changes in bio-diversity published in May by WWF (World Wild Life Fund), the Zoological Society of London and the Global Network Footprint **show that back in 1961 humanity's consumption was equivalent to about half of the earth's biological productive capacity. But by 2003 it was taking *fifteen months* for the world to produce the resources used by the total human population in *twelve months*. That degree of imbalance is unsustainable, and it must be even worse today.

There are countries that do still consume at a sustainable rate. Despite all the criticism to which it is continually being subjected, China is one of them. But then China is just beginning its journey towards affluence. It is not going to stop now. If everyone lived the way they do in Europe and the USA we would need four or five planets respectively. Perhaps that is why Mars and the moon are looked on with so much interest? As we exploit that level of the world's productivity, somewhere else in the world they are loosing out massively. We know its true.

In his introduction to *Planetwise*, Revd Dr Robert Frost wrote: ' the realities of climate change, over-fishing, global pollution, ozone depletion, and soil instability through over-grazing and deforestation are increasingly apparent, yet we fail to recognize that they arise because we have ignored our God-given responsibility to his world.'

The life style that everyone in the West will one day be forced to adopt is the life style that Christians have been called on to adopt from day one. As people who believe in a Creator-God, we have the motivation built into our faith. The time spent

arguing about whether climate change is caused by us, or even whether there is such a thing as climate change, is wasted time. It's the world that is changing and we have to do something about it.

The choice is ours, for the present at least.

Brian Kellock, Somerset Churches Together Sustainability Group.

*Dave Bookless's book, *Planetwise*, is published by IVF and is available from A Rocha UK (price £7.99). Also available to accompany the book is a resources pack to help individuals, groups and churches better understand what the Bible says about God's world and develop practical ways to care for people and the planet. The pack (price £10 or £16 for the pack plus book) contains service materials, a 6-week bible study course, Powerpoint presentations, videos, recordings of talks and much more. www.arocha.org.uk.

** An even more disturbing statistic revealed in the WWF report is that over the 35 years from 1970 to 2005 there has been a 27 per cent overall decline in the number of animal species. The report can be downloaded from the Zoological Society of London website at www.zsl.org.

Environment News.

Minehead Eco-Day. On 4th October 2008, Christians Together in Minehead are organising an 'Eco Day' in the town. The morning will centre on 'Christian concern for the environment' and the afternoon on perspectives on the local situation. There will be talks, presentations, drama by young people, interactive activities etc. The morning will be led by Revd David Osborne and the afternoon by Lorna Scott of Forum 21. It is hoped to feature environmental initiatives in displays around the venue at Minehead Methodist Church.

Eco-congregation's new website, made possible by a grant from Christian Aid, includes a page for local groups. Jo Rathbone, the organization's coordinator says: 'I'd like to put up here any local group of Christians meeting regularly to address environmental issues, so that there's a national picture of what is going on. Please contact me if you are involved in a local group, and you'd like your group to be on the map! There is also a new events page, so if you hear about any event, then do send me details.' Visit ecocongregation@arocha.org.uk

BacktoChurchSunday



On 28 September 08, thousands of people will be inviting someone special back to church with them. People lose touch with church for all sorts of reasons but millions would come back with an invitation. To find out more and order materials, visit www.backtochurch.co.uk

Noticeboard

Bible Sunday 2008 is on Sunday 26 October but your church can celebrate on any day you choose. Based on Psalm 119, the theme is 'Buried Treasure?' and invites young and old to unearth the riches of the whole Bible in order to know God better and live his way. On offer is a treasure trove from which to create an engaging worship service that best suits your church's need – from all age to traditional. Resources are available in August. Register your interest now at www.biblesunday.org

What's the Difference? is a Mobile Exhibition from the different faith communities in Somerset. It was inspired by the Somerset Anne Frank Exhibition held in Taunton in March 2006 which was visited by over 2000 people from across the county and beyond. The exhibition aims to help people appreciate the joy of living in a county of many faiths. Somerset County Council, Avon and Somerset Police, Somerset College of Arts and Technology and *faithnetsouthwest* were all involved in the exhibition's production. If you want the exhibition to visit a particular venue, please contact Revd Bruce Thompson on 01823 275275 or e-mail revbruce@tiscali.co.uk

Greenbelt Festival is an all-age festival of arts and contemporary culture with its roots in the Christian faith and keeps thousands coming back year after year. It features a great range of music across five stages and talks from leading Christian thinkers. Greenbelt 2008 is at Cheltenham Racecourse from 22 until 25 August. For more information, visit www.greenbelt.org.uk or phone 0207 3742760.

Soul Survivor 08 is at Shepton Mallet Showground from 11 to 15 August and 16 to 20 August. It is a five day event where people journey together with God, worship Him, learn more about Him and are changed in the process. For more information visit www.soulsurvivor.com or e-mail info@soulsurvivor.com

Homeless charity **Julian House** will be staging their eighth Circuit of Bath Walk on Sunday 28 September. The 20 mile circular route takes in some fantastic countryside on the edge of the city. Participants can walk anywhere between 2 and 20 miles thanks to the unique shuttle bus service that operates between start points on the day. The route comprises public rights of way through Monkton Combe, Englishcombe, Newton St Loe, Upper Swainswick and Bathampton. Solsbury Hill, the Midford Valley and Woolley are just a few of the scenic highlights.

Not only is this a great day out but participants will also be giving a welcome boost to the charity's work. Although Julian House is best known for its busy Night Shelter, this is only one of services it provides for homeless men and women. Recognising that homelessness is not a single issue Julian House has developed new projects and facilities which aim to tackle the underlying problems which force men and women onto the streets.

Participants can start at any of the five check points, where detailed route instructions are supplied. Further information is available on the Julian House website – www.julianhouse.org.uk or by calling Cathy Adcock on 01225 354656. email cathya@julianhouse.org.uk

Dates for Your Diary

AUGUST

- 3-9 New Wine. Royal Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet. 020 8567 6717 or visit www.new-wine.org
- 11-20 Soul Survivor. Royal Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet. 0870 0543331 or visit www.soulsurvivor.com
- 25-25 Greenbelt Festival 2008. Cheltenham Racecourse 020 7374 2760 or visit www.greenbelt.org.uk

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Time for Creation begins. Visit www.ctbi.uk/creationtime
- 13 Friends of Somerset Chapels and Churches Sponsored Bike Ride and Walk. 01823 254362
- 14 Racial Justice Sunday. 0207 6547254 or visit www.ctbi.org.uk
- 21 International Day of Peace

OCTOBER

- 3 CAFOD Harvest Fast Day. 020 7783 7900 or visit www.cafod.org.uk
- 19-26 One World Week. Growing Together: A Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. 0118 939 4933 or visit www.oneworldweek.org

Resources for One World Week 2008

All OWW resources for 2008 will be available only at www.oneworldweek.org, apart from limited numbers of leaflets combined with posters which will be available from the office later. There will also be links to appropriate resources on other websites. New resources are being added as they become available, so, if you don't find them now, do return later!