

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY
18 – 25 January or Pentecost 2007
Breaking the Silence

The South African churches in Umlazi near Durban worked on the original material this year. The churches created the ideas from their experience of suffering caused by HIV/AIDS. Their work has been further developed by the International Committee (on which the Vatican and the World Council of Churches are equally represented) and by writers from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales on behalf of CTBI.

The material for the service is arranged so that attention may be drawn to local issues where people are suffering and may focus as little or as much on HIV/AIDS as is judged appropriate. Early ecumenical planning in Autumn 2006 is advised.

A pamphlet is now available which includes Bible readings and prayers for each day of the Week of Prayer and an Ecumenical Service which is suitable for teenage and adult congregations.

The accompanying Worship Resource Book contains guides to planning your events, extra hymns and prayers, and information for worship leaders and preachers/speakers.

The intention is that local churches may think and pray together about local needs and find appropriate joint responses which express our unity in love.

For enquiries and orders, telephone 01733 325002 or contact sales@mph.org.uk
Order online at www.ctbi.org.uk

Somerset Churches Together Annual Forum
Wells United Church, Union Street, Wells
21 October 2006
9.30 am – 1.00 pm

TOGETHER IN THE COMMON LIFE

Keynote Speakers: Peter Lynch, Andy Sewell and others from Weston-super-Mare Churches Together plus Colin Brown from the Fresh Expressions of Church Team

ALL WELCOME

COPYDATE FOR THE NEWSLETTER: 10 DECEMBER 2006

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

New Senior Regional Minister for South West Baptist Association

Greetings from the South West Baptist Association! I am Revd Jeremy (Jez) Brown and I am the newly appointed Senior Regional Minister for this Association. My office is in Exeter, and I live in Paignton. I am married to Sue, a community Dental Nurse. We have three children: Matthew is serving in the Royal Engineers; Simon has just completed a foundation degree in graphic design and is thinking about his future. Our daughter, Emily, is 15.

One of my responsibilities and privileges is to serve as the ecumenical representative on the various Church Leaders' forums that cover the southwest region - Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Dorset.

I am very much enjoying the fellowship of the Somerset Church Leaders and looking forward to gaining first hand insight into all that is happening ecumenically in Somerset Churches Together. I have known Revd Elsie Howell, our Baptist Ecumenical Officer, for a number of years, and we are well served by her regular reporting of life in Somerset Churches Together and the mission initiatives that you are engaged with.

At the present moment a substantial part of the time that I have available for ecumenical engagement and promotion is taken up with two church planting initiatives in Devon. Please forgive me for this – but hopefully in due course I will be able to serve Somerset Churches Together in a more 'hands on' way too!

But I do want to encourage you with the good news that we enjoy an exceptional degree of ecumenical co-operation in mission in Devon at this time. At Cranbrook, on the outskirts of Exeter, the Anglicans are taking the lead in seeking to plant an ecumenical Christian presence and enjoying good co-operation. Similarly, the Baptists are acting as 'lead denomination' in seeking to create a Christian witness within a proposed new community at Sherford, on the outskirts of Plymouth.

Both of these projects are a great witness to what the Lord can do amongst his people when they decide to pray and work together in unity. I look forward to meeting many of you in the days to come.

Jez Brown, Senior Regional Minister, South West Baptist Association

On the Move in Bridgwater

The big event of the year for Bridgwater Churches Together began on Wednesday evening, 12th July, when we met with the *On the Move* team for a time of worship, prayer and instruction about the next few days. We were all beginning to wonder what we had let ourselves in for, but the team were very encouraging, especially those who had come from places as far apart as Scotland and Cornwall to help and support.

The idea was to sing worship songs out in the street, invite passers-by to a free barbecue where we could chat together, hopefully about Christian things, and maybe pray for (and with) them.

Much to our relief, the weather on the following three days was warm and sunny, making it easy for all of us, whether musicians, singers, inviters, cooks and hosts. Did I say *easy*? The worship groups were busy playing and singing from 10 am until 1.30 pm, others at the same time were busy giving out invitations to the barbecue; back at base there were tables and chairs to put ready, the barbecue to set up and burgers and sausages to cook, then people to serve and chat with until 2 pm.

Many people came, and several indicated that they wanted to know more about the Christian life. Some even gave their lives to Christ, but the main emphasis was that all these people were loved by God, and the churches were giving away free burgers and sausages as an expression of that love. Over the three days, people commented that the music groups seemed very lively and happy, and so they enjoyed listening.

We had wondered about doing this over three days, but the momentum gathered pace from day to day, and certainly our confidence grew. As the people from the various churches began to get to know one another, there were many comments about “doing something *together* more often”.

Many thanks to Martin Holmes and his team who organised the Bridgwater side of things and to all those who contributed to the cost of £2,500. More was actually contributed, and this was given to help the staff of *On the Move*.

Keep other local groups of churches informed of what you are doing and plan to do together! Send any news to the Newsletter Editor on sctog@blueyonder.co.uk

Living Flame in Wellington

Living Flame is an event being planned for Pentecost 2007 by the churches together in Wellington. The idea is to demonstrate what the body of Christ can do to help the people of Wellington develop their spiritual lives. It will take place in Wellington Park.

The churches intend to offer opportunities to encounter the kingdom of God in practice, encourage people to invest time in their spiritual lives and challenge people to consider and accept the fullness of life which Jesus offers. The event will include opportunities for prayer ministry, space to be quiet, live music, seminars, examples of service and community life and a labyrinth, giving a contemplative opportunity to consider God's plan for one's life. A Steering Group has been formed and coordinators have been found for the various aspects of the event.

The aim is to encourage the 'spiritually interested' to come along as the churches represent their faith in an attractive way.

Harvest Festival Celebrations in Batheaston

In September, Batheaston celebrated Harvest Festival in a rather different way from what is usual there. This year, the celebrations were an opportunity to reflect on all the different skills which people in the village offer in service to their community.

The celebrations involved twenty different demonstrations. Batheaston Freeholders showed their ecological care for the land through their work on local common land, the Youth Club provided a display of 'what they enjoyed doing', and a local horse-trainer showed pictures of his local training enterprise. There were displays of traditional home-made foods from the coffee-shop, products from the local vineyard and ethical services from the garage.

A highlight was a long knitted blanket put together by a number of women's groups which required the skills of knitting blanket squares, sewing them together, crocheting the outer edges and then packing the finished blankets into sacks and transferring all of them to containers in Bath and Bristol for shipment to the needy in Africa. It was also a pleasure to see the Batheaston-Oudon Twinning Association Chairman showing pictures of Batheaston's partnership with the beautiful French village on the River Loire.

ChAt Chaplains Commissioned

The first twenty-four members of the ecumenical Chaplaincy about Town (CHAT) team were commissioned at a special service in Weston –super-Mare in July. The Chair of North Somerset Council was present and Bishop Peter Price, patron of ChAt .



1807 -2007

25 March 2007 marks 200 years to the day that a Parliamentary Bill was passed to abolish Britain's involvement in the Transatlantic Slave Trade – the forced transportation of Africans from their continent to the British colonies in the Americas.

The Abolition of the Slave Trade and the Later Abolition of Slavery

This did not, of course, mean that the vile trade stopped immediately. And slavery itself was not made illegal for several further decades.

Historical Truth-Telling

The bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act gives an opportunity for the historical truth-telling of aspects of the abolition movement that have not previously been well-known by many. William Wilberforce has a high profile as the MP who persisted in bringing his bills to Parliament until the slave trade and later slavery were outlawed in the British colonies but there were many abolitionists, black and white, male and female, enslaved and free, whose stories have been hidden.

The Legacies and Contemporary Forms of Enslavement

Racism and contemporary forms of enslavement have their roots in the ideologies that underpinned the justification for the slave trade and slavery and through the poverty and deprivation that enable them to thrive.

Networking Group and E-bulletin

One year on after its official launch, *set all free* has developed an extensive networking group of around 500 people interested in sharing information about their bi-centenary plans, working collaboratively, and avoiding duplication of events or resources where possible.

Our bi-monthly e-bulletin is sent direct to over 700 people each month and 'virally' to many others.

Resources

We have a range of resources available including our website www.setallfree.net with its articles and unique 'what's on' web diary; resources for schools and churches; a church resource pack for 2007; and a bicentenary church service outline.

For more information or to find out how to be involved in bicentenary commemorations, please contact Richard Reddie or Kate Yates on 020 7529 8141 or visit the website www.setallfree.net



Churches Together in England Forum 2006
Some Ideas for Reflection Together in Small Groups

Which of these quotations do you find the most inspiring?

Whatever their gifts or limitations, people are all bound together in a common humanity. Everyone is of unique and sacred value, and everyone has the same dignity and the same rights.
L'Arche International Charter

Time lost is time when we have not lived a full human life, time un-enriched by experience, creative endeavour, enjoyment, and suffering. Christ is really only present in the community. The church is the presence of Christ just as Christ is the presence of God. God expects us to be in relationship to others if we are to be fully human.
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Jesus considers his allies and his friends all those who struggle against evil and who work, often without realizing it, for the coming of the Kingdom of God. Jesus asks us to have a love that can become dialogue, which means a love that, far from closing itself proudly within its own circle, knows how to be open to all, and to collaborate with all people of good will so as to build peace and unity in the world together. So let's look afresh at all the neighbours we meet, to admire the good they do, to understand their point of view, to be in solidarity with them and to encourage each other on the path of justice and love.
Chiara Lubich

Together we will discover how to put people first and programmes second...and how we can create churches where everyone knows they are loved and accepted and that they belong.
Spring Harvest

If every single person is made in the image and likeness of God, then every single person can tell me something about God which nobody else can...That makes me very anxious to listen to everybody because they may be saying something that only they can say.
Basil Hume

The glory of God is a living person and the life of humanity is the vision of God. If the revelation of God through creation already gives life to all living things on earth, how much more does the manifestation of the Father through the Son give life to those who see God?

And Two Questions for Discussion.....

What questions are raised for the churches by those who are new Christians and by new forms of Christian congregations and meeting-points?

Cardinal Kaspar wrote, 'We can already do much more together than we actually do, without danger of betraying our faith or our conscience.' What should we be doing together to remove pains and burdens which bow down the human spirit, and to enable ourselves and others to be more fully alive?

The Grace Given You in Christ New Report from Catholics and Methodists

This is a report of the Roman Catholic-Methodist international dialogue which began in 1967.

The heart of the report is touched upon in its third chapter: 'It is time now to return to the concrete reality of each other, to look one another in the eye with love and esteem and to acknowledge what we see truly to be of Christ and the gospel, and thereby of the Church in each other.'

There are four chapters. The first describes the history of the ways in which Catholics and Methodists have related to each other. In the second chapter, there is a description of the way in which a common understanding of the church has developed. The common missionary emphasis of both churches is considered and, towards the end of the chapter, there is mention of the acknowledgement by both churches of the need for continual growth and renewal. 'There must be growth in love to achieve more insightful knowledge of the riches of faith. In other words there must be growth in holiness'.

What the two churches might be able to give and receive from one another is considered in the third chapter entitled *Deepening and Extending our Recognition of Each Other*. The final chapter recognizes that many difficult theological issues remain. However, it makes clear that 'If relations between Catholics and Methodists are to develop further, gestures are required from both our communions that are both realistic and appropriate at the present time. It is important to deepen the already existing degree of communion between the two churches and to advance 'unity by stages'. The report recommends acceptance of the idea that each church has gifts which can be shared with the other.

The report encourages Catholics to pay careful attention to lay leadership in the Church, women's contribution to the ministry of the church and to 'the church's corporate assurance as the context for the infallibility of the Pope'. The report encourages Methodists to consider the historic succession of bishops and the individual exercise of episcopate within a collegial ministry of oversight. The report encourages both churches to invite members of the other church to discover their forms of worship and prayer and examine how the boundaries of legitimate diversity are set within the Church.

The report invites Catholics to find inspiration in the example of the Wesleys and to promote the place of evangelical preaching, Bible study and hymn singing. Methodists are invited to consider the weekly use of the eucharist in their Sunday regular pattern of worship and to explore Catholic devotional forms such as the veneration of Mary and the Stations of the Cross. The report encourages both churches to work together in mission.



World Council of Churches



The World Council of Churches (WCC) is the broadest and most inclusive among the many organised expressions of the modern ecumenical movement, a movement whose goal is Christian unity.

The WCC brings together more than 340 churches, denominations and church fellowships in over 100 countries and territories throughout the world, representing some 550 million Christians and including most of the world's Orthodox churches, scores of denominations from such historic Protestant traditions as Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist and Reformed, as well as many united and independent churches. While the bulk of the WCC's founding churches were European and North American, today most are in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific.

World Council of Churches 9th Assembly

The 9th Assembly was led in Porto Alegre, Brazil in February 2006.

Addressing the core issues of Christian unity, the Assembly agreed on a new text, 'Called to be One Church,' and urged that WCC and its member churches give priority to the questions of unity, catholicity, baptism and prayer.

The delegates called for renewed efforts to manifest visible church unity which would allow the ecumenical movement to offer to the world the 'coherent, grace-filled spiritual message of Christianity.'

The Assembly pointed to ways in which collaboration with the Roman Catholic Church which is not at present a member of the WCC, and with Pentecostal churches, could be reinforced in the coming period.

Delegates agreed to focus work on a limited number of issues: unity, spirituality and mission; ecumenical formation focusing on youth in particular; global justice; and bringing a credible voice to the world.

New Resource

In God's Hands, Common Prayer for the World, edited by Hugh McCullum and Terry McArthur, WCC, 2006. ISBN: 2-8254-1488-3. Offering valuable aids to intercessory prayer, this book includes prayers and other worship materials from many Christian traditions and communities, enabling the reader to journey in prayer through each week of the year and through all the regions and countries of the world. It is a complete revision of the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle last issued in 1989.

Transforming the World

Revd Dr Keith Clements, Dr Mary Tanner and David Carter reflect on the Porto Alegre WCC 9th Assembly at Sarum College from 29 to 1 December 2006. Detailed information from 01722 424800 or www.sarum.ac.uk

God's Elusive Gift

In the last newsletter, Cathy Horder helped us to reflect on 'The Precious Gift of Water'. This article came at a time when we were all basking in tropical temperatures and being reminded daily on television screens, by way of radio waves and news-print, that we should use water sparingly as there was widespread fear that we could run out. Particularly in the east of our country, there were hosepipe bans.

Some of us reading this are old enough to remember when we had to draw water from the well outside and store it in large receptacles for convenient use. Water was used sparingly after the effort of collecting it for the household, unlike today when it is there at the turn of a tap. On average, every person in every household uses 70% more water per day than they did 30 years ago. Those were the days when we bathed on Saturdays and had clean clothes for Sunday. Monday was washday. Using the 'twin tub', items were sorted, starting with the whites, then coloureds, followed by dark, heavily soiled clothes, all passing through the same water. Nowadays automatic machines use several draws of water for washing and rinsing.

In our complacency, we all take for granted plentiful supplies of water as it gushes from our taps upon demand, forgetting that this plentiful supply is not unlimited. Generally we associate water shortages with far off places having no real impact upon our personal lifestyles in 2006.

Recently I conducted an act of All Age Worship upon the chosen theme "Water: God's Elusive Gift." This was an interactive service beginning with the consideration of the importance of water for each one of us, without which we would die. Younger members of the congregation were surprised to learn the human body comprises 60% water. We then travelled on an imaginary trip to West Africa where finding clean water is a challenging mission. Women and girls spend more than half their lives fetching water from rivers, wells and pumps up to four times per day, trekking up to two miles to carry their precious consignment home upon their heads. It fell to me to relate how one really can manage with eight gallons of water per day, which for a few years in my life was my experience.

At this time I lived on a compound where there were three houses, one for the Methodist Minister and his family, one for the Health Clinic Staff and my own house. During the rainy season we collected as much water as possible from rooftops and stored it in large water tanks, but come the dry season, when the weather is hotter than we have experienced this summer and lasting from September through to April, it was a different story. At the end of busy working days, it fell to me to collect two girls from each house, load the bus with 45 gallon drums and 4 gallon containers to drive some five miles over very dusty, potholed roads to our nearest borehole. As the bus approached the borehole, stragglers from the nearby villages rushed to get there before us and scabble to fill their buckets and water pots before the Clinic party got started. With all our containers full, it was my responsibility to carry this precious load back home

without spilling too much, there to share it out between all of us living on the compound. My own ration was just two four gallon buckets full.

By now, you are asking, it is surely impossible to last 24 hours on this amount of water. Be assured, it is difficult, but not impossible. Three gallons immediately passed to the kitchen to be boiled and filtered for use in drinking and cooking. Two gallons was set aside for general use in the house. My shower was a plastic bucket with a sprinkler set in the bottom to limit the amount of flow. To shower, one stood in a large bowl and caught the water, to be returned to the bucket for a second shower. This same soapy water then passed on its way to be used for cleaning the house after which it was used for watering the kitchen garden. The remaining three gallons were used to wash clothes, here again carefully used and then set aside to clean the Clinic Bus. Once the water was used, there was no more until the next evening. Memories of these difficult days leave me feeling angry when I see water being wasted and its usage abused.

In worship, this experience was followed by a powerful dramatic presentation of St John Chapter 4. For the purposes of this article, our thoughts are directed towards the fact that our whole world faces a water emergency, that each and every one of us must learn to treasure the commodity of water. When it rains, we should cease grumbling, and rather give thanks to God that we are receiving a portion of a precious gift that only he can provide. We too must give attention to individual responsibility for how we use this commodity alongside all other resources necessary for daily living if this our world is to be conserved as a viable entity for future generations.

My prayer is that everyone reading this page might be prompted to ask what more they could do to sustain the energies that we are given and, where possible, change our lifestyle accordingly. Then we shall have done our part in sustaining God's Creation.

Grace Mortimer.

Roma Christian Fellowship

The Community of Praise was founded on a vision over twenty years ago by a small group of Christians seeking to live out the gospel and to promote the teachings of Jesus. For many years, meetings and conferences were held regularly in the house and grounds. However, times and situations change and it is now believed that a new phase of work is beginning. The meeting rooms have recently been renovated and would be very suitable for church retreats, or for anyone looking for a quiet space to study, or for reflection and meditation. Further information can be obtained from Roma Christian Fellowship, Roma, High street, Keinton Mandeville, Somerton, Somerset TA11 6DZ

Eco-News

For Tomorrow Too. This booklet from Tearfund explains, from a Christian perspective, the causes and impacts of climate change and what you can do about it. It's clear, practical and every church member should have one. You can also have fun with their Climate Change Pentathlon. www.tearfund.org. Cost: Free! Order on 0845 355 8355

The Climate of Poverty. In this important report Christian Aid shows from its work how climate change threatens development for billions of the world's poorest people. Cost: £5. Order on 08700 787 788 or download it free from www.christian-aid.org.uk/climatechange



Creationtide Material. Liturgical material for 2006 has been published by the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN). It takes the form of a series of biblical meditations accompanied by short prayers. Cost: Free! Download it from www.ecen.org

Christian Ecology Link Eco-Teams. This is a practical, community based activity that helps households to reduce their impact on the environment and to save money. Eco-Teams are small groups of six to eight people who each represent their household. The Eco-Team meets once a month for approximately 4 months. At each meeting Eco-Team representatives share experiences, ideas and achievements on the environmental actions they have taken. Volunteer Facilitators are needed. If this is an opportunity for you, contact Chris Walton at GreenEditor@aol.com www.globalactionplan.org.uk



Riding Lights Theatre Company tours *Pipe Dreams* from 26 September to 2 December, visiting 57 venues around the country. A hilarious whodunnit about what is happening with our water and unmasking a villain rather closer to home than one might think. *Pipe Dreams* connects the water rich with the water poor. Contributions to WaterAid which is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Monkton Combe Senior School, Bath on 18 October. National Box Office: 01904 613000



Noticeboard

Corymeela Sunday Pack for 2007 is now available from the Belfast Corymeela office at Corymeela House, 8, Upper Crescent, Belfast BT7 1NT, Northern Ireland. The theme for 2007 is *Christ's Ambassadors in the Work of Reconciliation*. The material includes elements of political analysis, theological reflection and liturgical suggestions.

31 Ways to Tackle Debt. Churches Action on Poverty, which works with churches, Christians and other partner organizations to tackle poverty in the UK, produces resources to inform, aid reflection and give advice on practical action. This leaflet contains practical ways to tackle debt and financial exclusion, campaigning ideas and ways to understand more about the issues. It is available from www.church-poverty.org.uk/resources

Living Spirituality Network exists for people who are exploring the meaning of spirituality, both within and beyond the traditional churches. The Network provides supporters with information, encouragement and contacts as they seek to understand and deepen their spiritual lives. It works with a wide range of individuals, groups and communities, many of whom find themselves on the edges of the mainstream church structures. For further information, contact the Living Spirituality Network on 01908 200675.

Prisons Week is 19 – 25 November. Resources are available from www.prisonweek.org.uk

Homelessness Sunday is 28 January 2007. A pack is available which equips local churches to explore a number of different injustices relating to homelessness. Contact Housing Justice on 020 7723 7273.

The Path of Spiritual Peacemaking is a workshop to be held at the Ammerdown Centre near Radstock on Sunday 19 November 2006 from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. It will be led by Eliyahu McLean and Sheikh Abdul Aziz Bukhari, co-directors of Jerusalem Peacemakers. For further information, contact the Centre on 01761 433709.

Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund – Open to Applications. The Community Development Foundation has again been commissioned by the Race Cohesion and Faiths Directorate, part of the Department for Communities and Local Government, to run the second round of the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund. Organisations are invited to apply for small grants (up to £5,000) or large grants (between £5,000 and £30,000) which are available between April 2007 and March 2008. Closing date for applications is 1 November 06. Further details from www.cdf.org.uk or phone 01223 400341.

New Resources

A Harmony of Church Finance (2nd edition) by Roger Mead, Churches Together in England, 2006, £4.95. ISBN: 1 874295 28 X. What we really believe is shown as much by our agendas and budgets as by our hymns and creeds. If that is true, it is vital that we understand how other churches manage their finances and why. **A Harmony of Church Finance** is a helpful guide in a puzzling area for all those who are trying to make local ecumenism work. This new edition replaces the highly regarded work by Basil Hazledine. Since that was published in 1995, the ways in which the churches organize their local finances have seen major changes.

Enriching Communion by Bill Snelson, Churches Together in England, 2006, £4.95. ISBN: 1 874295 29 8. The experience of communion is a reflection of the life of the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Therefore the search for communion is not an optional extra in Christian discipleship but an essential element in the pilgrimage to be more God-like, to resemble more the God whose life is community. For many Christians, 'communion' means 'Holy Communion', the sharing of bread and wine at the Lord's Table, at the Eucharist. **Enriching Communion** argues that there are other forms of communion to be experienced by Christians and that they should be held alongside the shared Lord's Table, parallel to the Eucharistic experience and neither inferior or superior to it.

Church Resource on the Slave Trade for 2007. The bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in 2007 is an opportunity for churches to remember, reflect and respond to slavery past and present. Order your *set all free* church resource pack to uncover the forgotten history of the Slave Trade, see how it still affects us today, examine the role of the Church, work and pray for healing and reconciliation and campaign against slavery now. The resource pack contains study material for Lent or other times of year, prayer cards, ideas for an Order of Service for 25 March 2007 and suggestions for worship throughout the year. Cost: £10.00 plus P&P. Order on 0870 444 1994 or via www.setallfree.net

Bonhoeffer and Britain by Keith Clements, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, 2006, £14.95. ISBN: 085169 307 5 (CT169) . Keith Clements details for the first time the people and places in Britain whose influence on Bonhoeffer meant so much. The book offers new insights into Bonhoeffer for those already familiar with him and a valuable introduction for those to whom he is still just a name.

Changing Mission: Learning from the Newer Churches by Stuart Murray, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, 2006, £8.99. ISBN: 085169 305 9. The book continues the series commissioned by the Building Bridges of Hope team. As the director and initiator of *Urban Expression*, a mission agency stimulating and sustaining creative urban church planting, Stuart Murray believes that the challenges we face are theological and missiological rather than ecclesiological.

Dates for Your Diary

OCTOBER

- 6 CAFOD Family Fast Day. 020 7733 7900
- 22-29 One World Week. 0118 939 4933
- 10 World Mental Health Day
- 16 Stand Up Against Poverty – Zambians on Zambia. Contact Jenny Humphreys on 01749 670777
- 29 Bible Sunday. www.biblesociety.org.uk

NOVEMBER

- 12 Remembrance Sunday

DECEMBER

- 1 World Aids Day. www.worldaidsday.org
- 10 Human Rights Day. www.un.org

JANUARY

- 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- 26-28 Weekend of Services for Peace and Disarmament
- 28 Homelessness Sunday. www.world-disarm.org.uk

Gracious and liberating God
Lift us beyond the burdens of pain and guilt
Build our memories into life-giving resolutions
Give us the vision of a new creation
Strengthen us to act for justice and human dignity
And set all free.