

**APRIL 2014**

**MAJOR FAITH INITIATIVE  
TO COMBAT SLAVERY**



For the first time in their history, people drawn from the Roman Catholic Church and the Anglican Communion have joined forces to combat modern slavery and human-trafficking.

Pope Francis and Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby have personally given their backing to the newly-formed Global Freedom Network.

The agreement to help eradicate an injustice affecting up to 29million people was co-signed on March 17<sup>th</sup> by the Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative to the Holy See, Archbishop Sir David Moxon, the Chancellor of the Pontifical Academies of Science and Social Science, Bishop Sanchez Sorondo and Mr Andrew Forrest, the founder of the large international philanthropic anti-slavery organisation from Perth, Western Australia "Walk Free". The network has the resources it needs to carry out a five year plan.

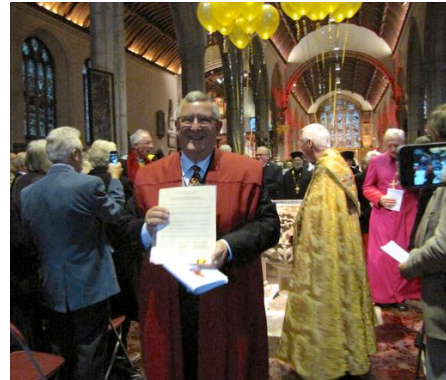
As Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome, Archbishop David Moxon has been closely involved in the negotiations which have brought about this landmark in church cooperation. He says -

*"Human slavery is a plague on a vast scale in many countries across the world today. This situation is not improving but is probably deteriorating. To quote Pope Francis, 'We must unite our efforts to free the victims and stop this increasingly aggressive crime which threatens not only individuals but the basic values of society.' Today representatives from our Churches have made an agreement to act together: one Church for one world - God's world - where everyone can walk free."*

Mission would drive ecumenism in this way: "We will find that as we walk together on the pathway of Justice, that our talking together will improve, and on this Emmaus journey we will meet the risen Christ who falls in step between us. This Christ is not divided, so neither will we be. The Emmaus journey led to a deep and abiding communion when Christ was recognised in the midst."

**Chairman - Revd Steve Wild**  
**Vice Chairman - Bishop Tim Thornton**  
**CTC Missioner - David H Smith**  
**Treasurer - Mike Cullen**  
Charity No 1053899  
[www.churchestogetherincornwall](http://www.churchestogetherincornwall)

**IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY  
SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2014**



Please put the above date in your diary, as it is the Sunday a year on since the Declaration of Intent was signed at St Petroc's Church Bodmin - signed in the presence of 750 Christians who witnessed this historic ecumenical occasion.

The atrocious winter storms have set some of the group work back, but after the most recent CTC Executive the Group Leaders are ready to start their work.

The results of that work will then be shared with those who will want to know what progress has been made.

**CTC Executive** - David H Smith

**Mission Events Together** - Lead - Rev R Greene, David H Smith

**Work Strategically Together** - Lead - Bishop Tim Thornton

**Ecumenical Ventures Together** - Lead - Rev Steve Wild

**Theological Issues Together** - Lead Rev Jez Brown

Some Churches Together Groups are already finding ways of challenging the areas which divide us, rather than unite us. But we all know we are on a journey of discovery and unity.

If your local CT Group has embarked upon some positive new and exciting ventures, or would like to hear more about achievement of other groups, then this afternoon gathering will be ideal for you and like minded members of your congregations.

The timings are not finalized yet but the thinking is to have afternoon feedback sessions from the four groups, short discussions involving all who wish to have a voice - an afternoon 'proper Cornish tea' followed by a rousing 6pm service of Christian Unity - and all this to take place in:-

**St John's Chapel St Austell.**

I sincerely hope that after attending the inspirational service At St Petroc's last year, you will feel compelled to join the rest of us as we Christian's work together for God's Kingdom here on earth.

## Churches' Tent, Royal Cornwall Show: Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> to Sat 7<sup>th</sup> June Advance Notice

### Volunteers needed. Can you help?

- Give a half-day assistance with **hospitality**: serving tea and coffee or washing up. Entrance tickets are provided. You will have the other half of the day to look round the Show.  
Contact Anne Tarry: [anne.tarry@gmail.com](mailto:anne.tarry@gmail.com) / 01841 540656
- Join the Show **Chaplaincy** team. Chaplains, from all the denominations affiliated to Churches Together in Cornwall, join a rota to provide cover throughout the Show, both in the Tent and around the Showground.  
Contact Rev Roger Greene, Chairman of the Tent Committee, for further details and to discuss the commitment required:  
[revrogergreene@aol.com](mailto:revrogergreene@aol.com) / 01726 885029

**All welcome at the Eve of Show Service**, Wed 4<sup>th</sup> June, 6.30 pm in Main Arena.  
Preacher : Major Ian Harris, Divisional Commander, South Western Division, Salvation Army.

Pasty Reception in the Churches Tent to follow.  
**The theme of the Tent for 2014 is 'Hope'**. Look out for further details.

## The Women's World Day of Prayer

This global ecumenical organisation was founded in the U.S.A. circa 1887 and is now celebrated on the first Friday of March in over one hundred countries. The British headquarters is in Tunbridge Wells and registered as a charity. Nineteen Christian denominations in Britain have appointed representatives. The charity also makes grants, in some cases substantial ones, to a world-wide long list of applicants.

On 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014 the Cornish branch met in St. Kenwyn Church Truro for the annual prescribed service, followed by tea. The format of the service which aims not only to provide a focus for worship but information about the country selected varies slightly. In 2014 Egyptian women had prepared the presentation which included hymns, prayers, mime and Bible readings. The theme was Streams in the Desert.

The speaker was Fr. Polycarpus, a monk from the Coptic Orthodox Church, who now lives in Buckfast Abbey. He has also written an overview of that church in book form. The Coptic Orthodox leader, known as a Pope, Shenouda 111 reposed (died) recently. His elected successor is Pope Tawadros the 118<sup>th</sup> Pope of Alexandria – one of the four original Christian Sees. Fr. Polycarpus explained the origins of his church and then spoke about the life and activities of a monk, which involves much prayer and fasting.

The ladies at Kenwyn took their roles seriously. They included a procession with flowers and other artefacts and pouring water, into a bowl on a table carrying appropriate representative cloths and candles. Some ladies wore costumes to represent various types of Egyptian women. There was a student, farm worker, office worker, and a splendid lady in the costume of Isis, an ancient Egyptian.

See also [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk)

Primrose Peacock.

## Government provides no credible plan to end child poverty, say Churches

27% of Britain's children already live in poverty  
Three major British Churches have attacked the Government's Child Poverty Strategy, saying that it fails to provide a credible plan to tackle child poverty.  
The Baptist Union of Great Britain, Methodist and United Reformed Churches welcome the Government's pledge to eradicate child poverty by 2020, but argue that the strategy fails to provide a credible plan to achieve this aim.

The [Institute of Fiscal Studies](#) predicts that by 2020 UK child poverty will have increased from 3.5 million to 4.7 million, and that the major driver behind this increase will be the tax and welfare changes introduced since 2010.

"Child poverty is set to increase for the rest of the decade and beyond and this strategy will not stop this," said Paul Morrison, Public Issues Policy Adviser and author of [The lies we tell ourselves: ending comfortable myths about poverty](#), a report dispelling six common myths about poverty. "Perversely the strategy trumpets measures that will actually increase child poverty. The Benefit Cap and the Bedroom Tax are mentioned as poverty reduction strategies yet we know that already both measures are driving families into poverty.

"By 2020 one in three of our children is set to live in poverty. But rather than addressing this fundamental problem, the strategy restates old policies - some positive, some negative, but none substantial enough to grasp the seriousness of the challenge ahead. For families which can't afford to heat their homes, or feed and clothe their children adequately, this strategy is a wasted opportunity.

"Jesus spoke of the preciousness of each and every child. The nation's commitment to eradicating child poverty is a beacon of hope on the political landscape. This strategy fails to turn that hope into a credible reality. A childhood spent in poverty is a sad and terrible failure of our society to prioritise those most vulnerable."

## PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS (July 5<sup>th</sup> Study Day - 10am 4.30pm)

**Truro Methodist Church, 18 Union Place, Truro, TR1 1EP**  
This Study Day will be free of charge and all are welcome to attend. Refreshments (and books) will be on sale. The broad aims are to...

- **Raise consciousness** amongst the laity/parishioners/clergy as to the existence and extent of the persecution specifically of Christians
- Every denomination is invited to the Study Day so this will be a great opportunity for **Church Unity**.
- **To empower** the ordinary believer/parishioner by discovering what they can do **practically, politically and spiritually**.

**A full list of guest speakers will be available shortly but will include:-**

Baroness Caroline Cox (C.E.O. of Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust).  
Dr Patrick Sookhdeo (Barnabas Fund / Political Advisor).  
John Pontifex (Catholic 'Aid to the Church in Need').  
Andy Dipper (Deputy Chief Executive of Christian Solidarity Worldwide).  
Dr Sheikh Muhammad Al Husseini (Muslim Scholar and Fellow in Islamic Studies: Westminster Institute).  
Dr Russell Blacker (Consultant Psychiatrist).  
Rev'd Mark Dunn-Wilson (Methodist minister).  
Rupert Shortt (Author and Religion editor of The Times Literary Supplement).  
MP Sarah Newton.

**The Methodist Mission Market  
TRURO March 1-8**

This excellent idea germinated during 2013, when it was decided to mount a church-sized market place to “sell” information, backed by a range of other activities.

*It was to be a place of vibrancy and surprise; a place to inspire and instruct. A place to meet together and to share new things or see things differently for the first time.*

I discovered the ‘Market’ by chance on the opening day but returned later for more in depth observation. I was told that an invitation to participate had been issued to each chapel in the circuit, plus a number of ecumenical or associated organisations. A religious bookshop in St. Austell, displayed their wares and had been involved as a ‘partner’. Otherwise there was no commercial activity, plenty of information and helpful stewards.

The centre aisle of the church was used for a large photographic display entitled *A Sideways Look*, by Marten Holmes who has made reproductions of ‘old master’ paintings in a modern setting and modern dress models.

Contributions from the other participants were around the walls. They were attractive and informative, with most groups having literature or at least contact addresses clearly displayed. There was practically no ‘touting’ and often a range of other activities taking place at the same time elsewhere in the building.

**Exhibitors included:-**

Truro Foodbank.  
Truro Street Pastors.  
The Bible Society –universal.  
World Bible Translators – mainly in Africa.  
Epiphany House Truro – a 2014 programme majoring on prayer.  
General and Specific mission work including The Gambia (W. Cornwall) S.E. Asia (Hicks Mill) The Phillipines (Shortlanesend) Methodist Women in Britain - India. The Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF) S.E.Asia Christian Aid.  
Open the Book (Trispen)  
Fair Trade.  
Open Doors (Bible distribution).  
Junior Mission for All.  
The Retreat at Porthscatho (An Anglican-Methodist Church)  
Tubestation Polzeath (Surfing & a chapel).  
Links to Hope (Shoe boxes to E. Europe – now includes family & elderly gifts)  
Methodist Chaplaincy.  
Lunch clubs for the elderly. (Several chapels.)

Shawls from Feock, The organiser, Mrs Ann Harris mounted a beautiful assortment of knitted and crocheted goods that are distributed to anyone that is old, sick, has a new baby or a special need. She told me ‘shawls’ is not a group but a loose arrangement, which anyone can join. She is also needing supplies of yarns etc and can be contacted on 01872 273388. Having made many shawls for Albania I know that their value greatly exceeds their cost.

The Superintendent Minister, The Rev. Mark Dunn-Wilson, led the opening morning service on 2nd March. The Rev. Ian Haile led the evening service preaching on the nature of God and aspects of His Church. The District Chairman, The Rev. Steve Wild, will lead the closing service on Saturday afternoon 8<sup>th</sup> March.

**Primrose Peacock**

**LOVE AND ADDICTION**

***“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, you shall love your neighbour as yourself.”***

Quaker faith springs from a deeply held belief in living our lives according to our spiritual experience. Some of our spiritual insights, which we call our testimonies, spring from deep experience and have been a part of Quaker faith for many years. These Quaker testimonies arise out of an inner conviction and challenge our normal ways of living and they require us to search for ways in which we can live out the testimonies for ourselves. Quakers constantly seek *‘that of God in everyone’*.

We recognise that each and every person is *‘unique, precious, a child of God’*. This means working to change the systems that cause injustice and hinder true community.



Quakers in Cornwall and throughout the country are concerned with what happens to those who are addicted to alcohol and drugs in our society today. Attitudes towards addiction vary hugely but are often borne out of society’s focus on drugs rather than on the human being who is addicted. Very often addiction results in spiralling crime in order to feed the addiction. This places the person at the mercy of the Criminal Justice system where (s)he now has the ‘criminal’ label in addition to the ‘addict’ label. If *fortunately* placed within this system, drug rehabilitation may be offered – with some success; if unfortunately placed in the prison system (which has its own problems of dealing with drug misuse) addiction can be exacerbated. We feel that addiction cannot properly and sustainably be helped or managed within the CJ system.

***Love is the hardest lesson in Christianity; but, for that reason, it should be most our care to learn it.*** (William Penn 1693)

Rehabilitation in prison can be good and can work but there is often piecemeal follow-through outside the prison gates. The problem of addiction is a long-term one encompassing not only the mental, physical and financial health of individuals but of the moral health of our communities which thrive when the needs of all are met in terms of education, health and employment. The ‘disconnection’ that addiction causes needs to change if we are to heal our society.

***Now let us see what Love can do*** (William Penn)

We need to think outside the ‘punitive’ box where crime caused by addiction gets all the attention and drug treatment is then considered as an afterthought. We do not condone crime and do not excuse it. It must be dealt with and there are less retributive and more restorative ways of doing this when addiction is at the root of the crime. Cluttering up the CJ system with those affected by addiction comes at a huge cost to the nation on almost every level.

People could be diverted at various stages towards a system where they would receive long-term treatment, education and support towards a more socially accountable future. A war on drugs is unachievable and wasteful; drugs have co-existed with mankind since the dawn of creation. Creatively tackling the problems that addiction causes for individuals, families and society will reflect not only our sense of responsibility but what kind of society we want our children to inherit. To achieve sustainability, funds will need to be diverted from health, education, the criminal justice system, probation and social services towards a more community-based long term programme. *(Some of the views expressed here are personal.)*

Lesley Chandler (Falmouth Local Meeting)