

APRIL 2015

As this period of Lent reaches its conclusion, many of us have involved in our prayers and reflections the Christians of the Middle East, focusing each week on the different areas they live in.

Lent Studies have allowed for a deeper understanding of the issues that Christians face and a chance to remember the lands in which Christianity has its roots.



During this time of reflection, please also keep in your thoughts and prayers the relatives and friends of passengers and crew members from the tragic Germanwings flight 4U9525 on route from Barcelona to Düsseldorf.

Ebola Crisis Response

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland have been meeting with organisations who deal with global missions and who have a link with the affected areas to hear and share what is being done, recognising that the Churches and Christian groups in the regions will be picking up the pieces long after the crisis is averted and that these regions are going to need ongoing support.

Opening up communications across the networks has allowed for news to be shared and partnerships to evolve. Updates have been sent from members highlighting the great efforts and work that has been generated to ensure that the Ebola victims are able to access the help and support they need during this stressing time in their communities. [More](#)

We wish you all a peaceful Easter.

Chairman - Bishop Tim Thornton
Vice Chairman - Reverend Steve Wild
CTC Missioner - David H Smith
Treasurer - Mike Cullen
Charity No 1053899
www.churchestogetherincornwall

PLANS FOR TWO ONE DAY CONFERENCES EAST AND WEST OF THE COUNTY

At the Churches Together in Cornwall workshops held in St Austell on 16th Nov 2014 the participants put East and West of County Day Conference high on their wish list.

I am pleased to report that two conferences are now at the planning stage.

I can immediately share with you, for your diaries, the daytime venues and dates. Please share these dates with those in your Churches Together Group and get them in your diaries now - thank you.

East of County - Saturday - September 19th - Shire Suite - Bodmin

West of County - Thursday - September 24th - Methodist Hall - Truro

After Easter the final programme of both days will be circulated in the next June CTC Newsletter.



PREPARING FOR THE GENERAL ELECTIONS: THE NEW WEBSITE IS LAUNCHED

Our dedicated website for the [2015 General Election](#) is now live. The website includes the *2020 Vision* statement with briefings on each of the five key issues, theological reflection and questions for candidates.

It also includes a Hustings registration system to search for Hustings in your area and to register your own event. Plus, we include a round-up of election resources available from the churches and other Christian organisations.

Take part in sharing this positive '2020 Vision' of the kind of 'Good Society' we want to help create, locally, nationally and globally over the five years of the next parliament. [More](#)

www.churcheselection.org.uk

Churches Together Tent Royal Cornwall Show, 4th - 6th June 2015

Help required with hospitality in the Churches Tent, especially to serve visitors with tea and coffee. For the offer of a half day's assistance in the Tent, an entrance ticket can be provided which will leave the rest of the day to be enjoyed around the Show.

Help also required for the Pasty Supper on the previous evening, following the Start of Show Service.

Please contact Anne Tarry to discuss further :
anne.tarry@gmail.com / 01841 540656

Many thanks,
Christine Todd

YOUTUBE DECLARATION OF INTENT SERVICE



Dear friends - You will all, of course, remember the Declaration of Intent Ecumenical service held in St Petroc's Church Bodmin on 17th November 2013. Well, at long last the video that was taken from the balcony at the back of the church has been published on YouTube at the address below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-X1W35_tk6w

Just copy and paste the address I would be very grateful if you, having viewed this historic inspiring video, would kindly click the "like thumb" icon in order that hits can be achieved and the video is able to remain popular and easily accessible.

Please also share it with your friends on any social media platform.

Kind regards

David

DAVID H SMITH

Churches Together in Cornwall Ecumenical
Missioner

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Dementia Action Day

Saturday, 20th June 2015 10.00 am—4.00 pm
am Truro Cathedral, pm Truro Methodist Church

Advanced notice of date



A day for everyone, all who wish to understand and explore what memory loss means, and how to enable support.

What are the implications for individuals, carers, families, the community and the churches – emotional, social, and spiritual?

Introduction: Rt Revd Tim Thornton, Bishop of Truro

Main Contributors:

Trevor Adams (Livability): Trevor has worked in Dementia Care for over 30 years and has written extensively. He speaks nationally and internationally, and runs courses, including how to promote Dementia Friendly Churches.

Az2B: A theatre group which performs throughout the UK to raise awareness of dementia issues. For this day they will bring to us Forum Theatre, a lively series of situations to aid our understanding and promote discussion.

The day will also include a 'Market Place' of community organisations working in this field, the opportunity to experience 'Music for Well-being' and will conclude with a **Memory Friendly Service**.

Further information contact: Christine Todd christine@mjcmtodd.plus.com or Margaret Barnes margy02@btinternet.com Booking details and joining instructions to follow in March but please note this date of the event in your diary.

A Project of Churches Together in Cornwall,
in association with the Diocese of Truro and the Cornwall Methodist District



**CHRISTIANS PRAISING GOD
TOGETHER ON THIS SPECIAL DAY**
you are warmly invited to come and join us at the

SPECIAL PENTECOST SERVICE
HELD AT GWENNAP PIT, BUSVEAL, REDRUTH
Celebrating the conversion of John Wesley

**Sunday
24th MAY 2015
starting at 3pm**
community hymn singing
from 2.30pm

Our preacher this year will be:-

REVEREND STEVE WILD
President Designate of the Methodist Conference

With Bishop Tim Thornton.

Our music will be played by
The Salvation Army Band (Cornwall Corps)

Tony Jasper enacting "TO SAVE BRITAIN & THE CHURCH"
a Methodist Drama of the conversion of John Wesley

Car and small coach parking is available at Gwennap Pit (TR16 5HH)
Large coaches may drop off and collect after the service
Please approach the Pit via Carharrack

If it rains it rains - the event will continue, so if the day is likely to be damp, please dress accordingly.

**Will you make the effort to attend? Please do.
We would love you to come and join us.**

CTC Charity Number 1003889

Churches call government welfare sanctions 'inhumane and un-Christian'

Report by religious leaders says Department of Work and Pensions targets vulnerable families in order to make cuts under guise of regulations



The churches' report found the government was more interested in simply cutting benefits than helping people back to work, resulting in greater poverty and reliance on foodbanks.

A group of churches has called for an urgent overhaul of the government's benefits sanctions regime, describing it as punitive, inhumane and un-Christian.

The churches say the sanctions regime deliberately causes harm to claimants, and suggest that it is aimed more at cutting welfare payments rather than helping people back into work.

More than 1 million unemployed claimants were subjected to sanctions last year – a punishment whereby benefit payments are stopped for between four weeks and three years for apparent breaches of benefit rules.

The churches warn that that the problems could be exacerbated under the government's proposed new welfare system, universal credit, which will extend the sanctions regime to low-paid working families who are in receipt of benefits.

A report by the churches, to be published on Monday, says: "We have concluded it is very hard to justify a system which impacts most harshly on the people who most need help and support ... It is incumbent on the Christian community to speak out against any system which treats people so unjustly."

The archbishop of Wales, Barry Morgan, said: "The findings of this report are disturbing. It exposes a system that is harsh in the extreme, penalising the most vulnerable of claimants by the withdrawal of benefits for weeks at a time."

Niall Cooper, director of Church Action on Poverty, said: "Most people in this country would be shocked if they knew that far from providing a safety net, the benefit sanctions policy is currently making thousands of people destitute. This policy must be reviewed urgently."

The report will further provoke the work and pensions secretary, Iain Duncan Smith, who last month [criticised the churches](#) for attacking coalition policies.

It is published by the Church of Scotland, the Church in Wales, the Methodist church, the Baptist Union of Great Britain, and the United Reformed church, as well as the charity Church Action on Poverty. It calls for a review of the system and an immediate suspension of sanctions on claimants who are mentally ill or have dependent children.

It says that while the churches accept that all social-security systems must have a measure of conditionality, the punishments imposed by the government regime are disproportionately harsh.

The report cites a series of case studies showing sanctions were imposed on vulnerable claimants for trivial breaches of the rules, such as missing appointments.

The effects on claimants have included stress, depression, hunger and in some cases suicide. It says the regime – which it describes as "one of the most severe in the developed world" often forces sanctioned claimants to become reliant on food banks to survive.

Although a Department for Work and Pensions hardship fund exists to help the most vulnerable the report says this is difficult to access. A separate investigation by Channel4's Dispatches, to be transmitted on Monday night, highlights claims from jobcentre officials who say that they were put under pressure by managers to sanction claimants.

Ex-jobcentre advisor Alan Davies told Dispatches he felt the sanctions regime he was forced to impose on claimants was ethically and morally wrong. "The pressure was enormous. I just felt that what they were asking me to do was totally wrong. They were asking me to hammer people who were in their own way doing the best that they can to get a job."

The findings [echo evidence](#) presented to a House of Commons select committee hearings into benefit sanctions in January and February. This is expected to report before May.

A DWP spokesman said: "The truth is that every day Jobcentre Plus advisers work hard to help claimants into work – unemployment is falling and a record number of people are in work. Sanctions are only used as a last resort for the tiny minority who fail to take up the support which is on offer. "

The DWP added that claimants who are sanctioned and have children receive hardship payments right away.

GOOD FRIDAY WALKS OF WITNESS - 3RD APRIL 2015 AND OTHER EASTER SERVICES

WADEBRIDGE AND DISTRICT CHURCHES TOGETHER

Good Friday - Start Wadebridge School 10.30am. Finish the Platt outside the Co-op. Join us for all or part of the Walk as we remember the events of that first Good Friday and as we pray for our town.

Easter Day - Sunrise Service

We meet together 6.00 am for sunrise 6.15 am at the Longstone, St Breock Downs - Christ is Risen - He is Risen indeed. Organised by the Methodist Church in conjunction with Churches Together in Wadebridge - Further information: tel. 01208 816043

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PENZANCE AREA

Good Friday Walk of Witness from the Penzance bus station 11.30am or meet outside the Lloyds Bank building 11.45am for short service. Join us for a hot cross bun and a cup of tea in the Salvation Army Hall, Queen Street, Penzance afterwards.

Easter Day 'Sonrise' Service 6am at St Mary's Church, Chapel Street, Penzance.

BUDE, STRATTON AND DISTRICT CHURCHES TOGETHER

Good Friday Walk of Witness - assemble outside Sainsbury, corner with Summerleaze Crecent, Bude to leave at 11.55am and walk down Queen Street and Lansdown Road for a short service at The Triangle.

CHURCHES TOGETHER UP THE CREEK

Good Friday walk from Carnon Downs to Feock setting off at 9.30am.

Saturday - Service of Light at Feock - 8.00pm.

FALMOUTH AND PENRYN CHURCHES TOGETHER

Easter Live 2015 on The Moor, **Good Friday** 3 Apr and Easter Day 5 April

Good Friday 3rd April: 8.30am breakfast followed by Communion at Emmanuel Baptist Church & then walk to The Moor 11am The Easter Story on The Moor

Easter Sunday 5th April 3-4.30pm: Celebration of Life: Bouncy Castles, Hot Cross Buns, Easter Egg Hunt, Children's Crafts, Praise & Reflection @3.45pm Live Music. FREE! All Welcome (inside Falmouth Methodist Church if raining)

ST AUSTELL CHURCHES TOGETHER

Good Friday Walk of Witness in St Austell at 12.30pm - meet outside Holy Trinity (coffee available from 12 noon in Holy Trinity). There will a march from HT to the town square in White River Centre for a 30 minute presentation to which all are invited.

CHURCHES TOGETHER LOOE & DISTRICT:

Maundy Thursday: Tenebrae Service, 7.30 pm at Riverside United Church, West Looe.

Good Friday: 10.00 am St. Nicholas' Church, West Looe - followed by Hot Cross Buns at Riverside Church and 12 noon Walk of Witness through Looe gathering at the Cornerstone Shop, West Looe.

PAR CHURCHES TOGETHER

Good Friday - A silent witness on the green outside St Mary's Church Biscovey from 12.30pm to 1.30pm.

CHURCHES TOGETHER AROUND TREGONNING

Good Friday Walk of Christian Witness at Porthleven from the Methodist Church 3pm, along and around the Harbour Side, finishing with "Service of Reflection" with folk from all the local churches in Porthleven and beyond.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN NEWQUAY

Good Friday Meditation at Holy Trinity Church, Tower Road, Newquay at 10am followed by a walk of Witness by CTIN through the town. Leaving at approx 10.30am.

Sunrise Service at The Old Life Boat House. 6.30am – organised by Newquay United Reformed Church

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ROCHE

A **Maundy Thursday** service will be held in the Parish Church at 7.30pm based on the Tenebrae Service.

Good Friday. Meet at the Methodist Chapel at 10:30 hours for a hymn and prayer, then process up the hill with readings etc., on the way to the Parish Church where we continue the service.

Saturday will see hot cross buns distributed in the village from about 1030 hours for about an hour, or until we run out of hot cross buns.

Easter Day. Sunrise service at Roche Rock starting at 06:00 A word of warning. Access to the foot of the Rock is not for the faint-hearted. A torch is required and the climb, although not lengthy, is steep and dangerous. If wet, it can be very slippery and the climb is rocky. Not wheel-chair friendly and difficult for someone who is not very sure on their feet. There will be a breakfast after the service, in the Methodist Hall next to the Chapel.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN TINTAGEL

Good Friday - 9.30am - Worship at Bossiney Methodist Church

10.30am - Walk of Witness from Bossiney to Trevenna Square, Tintagel with stops en route.

Sunrise Service on Condolden Mound 6.00am - followed by Breakfast at Tintagel Methodist Church.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CAMBORNE

Good Friday Walks of Witness at 10.30am from:

1. From Centenary Methodist Chapel with All Saints Tuckingmill
2. From Camborne Wesley
3. From Camborne Parish Church

Meeting for a service in the Square at 11am - followed by Hot Cross Buns, light refreshments and soup lunch in Camborne Church hall

Easter Sunday Morning Sunday 5th April at 6.30am - Dawn Service at Godrevy followed by Boiled Egg Breakfast at Camborne Wesley at 9am

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SALTASH

Easter Tridium, all this year at Our Lady of Angels, Saltash :-

- **Maundy Thursday @ 7.00pm** - Mass of Our Lord's Supper.
- **Good Friday @ 3.00pm** - Liturgy celebrated.
- **Saturday @ 8.00pm** - Easter Vigil Mass.
- **Sunday Mass** - Torpoint @ 8.00am
- **Sclerder Abbey @ 9.15am.**
- **Liskeard @ 11.00am.**

and...

Good Friday Sclerder Abbey. @ 3.00pm - Reading of the Passion of Our Lord

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN REDRUTH

Good Friday: A service at Redruth Methodist Church at 10am

Hymn singing in the main street from 11am

Easter Saturday A service in the main street at 11am

Easter Sunday Morning 6.30am Dawn Service at Carn Brae

