



Churches Together in Cornwall

MAY 2013

**Churches Together in
Cornwall
Invite you to
Praise Prayer
& Pasties**

**at the Eve of Show Service
On Wednesday Evening
5th June 2013**

**Pasty Supper at the
Church Stand
Stand 1**

**It's your
tent.**

**Please
support it.**

**We need
your help!!**

**The Churches Tent at the Royal Cornwall Show
Volunteers are needed to help in the Churches Tent at
the Royal Cornwall Show Thursday 6th, Friday 7th,
Saturday 8th June.**

**Give half a day's assistance with hospitality, serving
drinks and washing up - and the rest of the day is free
to look round the Show. Entrance tickets provided.**

**Contact Anne Tarry: anne.tarry@gmail.com 01841
540656**

Open throughout the Show, the 'Tent' is financed through a generous grant from CTC, together with the donations from those who enjoy the tea, coffee and soft drinks - and the chance for a sit-down! - offered to all Show visitors. The total cost to include the site fees - marquee, water, electricity - together with transportation of equipment, publicity, is approx £5,500.

The volunteer committee come from the full range of denominations, chaired by Revd Roger Greene, Methodist Rural Life Officer. It has planning meetings four or five times a year, meeting at Lanivet near Bodmin - a reasonably central meeting place when committee members come from St Just and Porthleven in the west and Saltash in the east, with all points in between!

The theme of the Tent this year is 'Journeys' - 'How lovely (on the mountains) are the feet of one who brings good news'. It looks particularly at the varied journeys of the churches, who belong to Churches Together in Cornwall, in the past twenty years and the work in which they are involved. This year, we will, very shortly, have Walk Cornwall 2 coming twenty years after the memorable Walk of a Thousand Men which made a huge impact on many.

Doreen Sparey-Delacassa writes, "We are asking churches to send us pictures and information about all the things they do to spread the good news of the Gospel in their communities - this includes aspects such as enquirers courses, outreach events of all sorts, Fresh Expressions of Church, work with children, teenagers and other specific groups - and too, 'living the Gospel' through social and community action.

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

The display will also include a section on the activity of the church in Cornwall from its inception. Anyone with specific knowledge of the history of the church in Cornwall, particularly their evangelism and social involvement, we would be very pleased to hear from you. If (as we hope) we have too much information to display on the walls it will be compiled into folders for people to browse through at the show. We would also be very grateful if any groups or individuals feel able to volunteer to cut out footprints from thin card to mark a track. The template will be provided.'

Please e-mail information to doreen.sd@btinternet.com for inclusion in the display or if you have any enquiries.

As usual, the 'Tent' will host a Fair Trade stall and a Christian bookstall. A team of chaplains will be on duty throughout, both in the 'Tent' and visiting the exhibitors; prayers are said every hour. Children's activities will be in full swing and there are 'Mocktails' for the teenagers and the young at heart.

Offers of non-stop drinks are an essential part of the way hospitality and care are shown to Show visitors. Without the help of a large number of people who offer their assistance on one of the half-day teams, this service - in the very real sense of the word - would not be possible.

What other help is needed? It takes two days - the Tuesday and Wednesday of Show Week - to set up the Tent. The furnishings have to be collected from their various storage points, all cleaned thoroughly and then arranged, and the 'Tent' decorated.

On the Saturday evening comes the reverse process. If you can help, please contact Patrick Kirrane, Site manager - patrick@kirrane.com / 01637889414

The Start of Show Service

Wednesday evening 5th June comes the Start of Show Service at 6.00pm, organised in conjunction with RCAA, in the Main Arena. This event has grown in attendance and significance in recent years. If you can attend your presence will be appreciated. This year's preacher will be announced shortly.

This service is important in signifying to the Cornish agricultural industry the support and appreciation Cornish Christians wish to demonstrate.

Afterwards there is a Pasty Reception (with Skinner's beer!) in the 'Tent'. A word of warning: do allow plenty of time to park your car!

If you are unable to help with the above, but if you can attend the Show, do at least visit the 'Tent'. You will be made very welcome.

For further information contact :
Roger Greene, Chairman Tel: 01736 788506
revrogergreene@aol.com
or Christine Todd, Publicity - 01208 816043 /
christine@mjcmtodd.plus.com

A Falmouth Quaker Friend, David Wheeler wanted me to pass this on in relation to local working ecumenism.

Agreed May/June 2009

'Falmouth Churches Together is an association of Christian congregations in Falmouth (and Penryn) and the surrounding areas, providing a forum in which we can explore, and through which we can put into effect, ways of serving God together both in worship and in service to the community.'

CHRISTIANS PRAISING GOD
you are warmly invited to come together and join us at the

**ANNUAL UNITED PENTECOST SERVICE HELD AT
GWENNAP PIT**

Sunday

19th May 2013

starting at 3pm

community hymn singing from 2.30pm

Our preacher will be:-

The Provincial Moderator of the United Reformed Church
Reverend David Grosch-Miller.

**Reverend Steve Wild and Bishop Tim Thornton
will be present.**

**Much of our music will be played by
The Falmouth Salvation Army Band**

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 for you to come and join us.**

POPE FRANCIS ON MAUNDY THURSDAY WASHING THE FEET OF WOMEN AND MEN



STATEMENT ON ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

18 March 2013

The Revd Jan Ainsworth the Church of England's Chief Education Officer said: "The APPG Report provides strong evidence for our continuing concern that RE is being downgraded as part of the curriculum. We have spoken out strongly about this over the past couple of years, particularly since RE appeared to lose its status in the original development of the Ebacc. We are concerned about the provision and quality of RE in all schools.

The Report shows that initial teacher training in RE is inadequate and the provision of in-service training is drying up. We are pleased that Church of England diocesan education teams are still offering CPD which is open to all schools, but that can't make up for the lack of support across the subject as a whole. RE is about religious literacy for all, growing understanding of the importance of faith, especially in this country, built on Christian values, to the lives of individuals and communities. It is has never been more important than in today's multi-faith society. We hope the Report is a wake up call for the Department for Education."

Notes

1. The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Religious Education was set up in November 2012 and is chaired by Eastbourne and Willingdon MP, Stephen Lloyd. In November 2012 it announced its inquiry to investigate the supply of and support for teachers of RE. [See the full report 2.](#) More information on Church Schools and Academies can be found at <http://www.churchofengland.org/education/church-schools-academies.aspx>

ELDERSHIP & OVERSIGHT QUAKER STYLE

are often described as a 'leaderless' church and it is true to say that there is no hierarchy as Quakers believe that all people can have a direct relationship with God and so The Religious Society of Friends describes itself as a priesthood of believers. All Friends are entitled to participate in decision-making processes and to help run the Society and those with specific roles such as clerk, treasurer, elder and overseer are asked to serve for a limited period, after which time others take their turn to serve.

As a recently appointed Overseer for Falmouth Local Meeting, I had the opportunity of attending an Elders and Overseers conference in Birmingham. The title of the conference was '**Being Faithful in Present Times**'. The appointment of Elders and Overseers dates back to the 1600s when it was proposed that each meeting* should appoint '*one or two most grown in the Power and the Life, in the pure discerning of the Truth*' to take responsibility for the spiritual and pastoral welfare of the meeting and its members. Daunting really!

The weekend developed into quite a challenge and began with a quotation from QF&P 10.11* – "*It was said of the early Christians, 'Behold how they love one another'. Could this equally be said of us? Or are our meetings places where newcomers may not always be welcomed, where people feel alone? What happens to those who are part of our meetings? Are their lives changed? Do they care more? Love more? What do we know of one another's lives outside the meeting.....?*" (June Ellis 1986).

We continued to be challenged throughout the weekend as we learnt of the demographic changes within the Society over the past few decades. Many more Friends, like myself, are SQIFs* with no early background of Quakerism and many come to Quakers from other spiritual disciplines. We were reminded of Rowan Williams' Rome sermon where he made reference to '*religion becoming one of those nice leisure activities*' warning against complacency in spiritual matters and falling church attendance.

We left with a list of **Ways of Being Together** which I feel holds good for every church so that '**Behold how they love one another**' will resonate as much in the 21st century as it did with those early Christians.

- † To come to the group with as much of ourselves as possible
- † To presume welcome and extend welcome
- † Always invitation – never invasion, always opportunity – never demand, always challenge – never confrontation
- † When the going gets tough, turn to wonder
- † Speak for yourself – use 'I' statements
- † Listen with 'soft eyes'
- † Trust and learn from silence
- † Observe and respect confidentiality
- † Respect differences and enjoy them as much as similarities
- † Accept imperfections
- † Think about from whom you haven't heard.

Lesley Chandler.

* 'Meeting' – congregation of worshippers* 'QF&P' – Quaker Faith and Practice aka The Book of Christian Discipline of the Yearly Meeting of The Religious Society of Friends.*'SQIF' - Single Quaker in Family.

Anyone over the age of 21 can be considered to adopt. You don't have to be married, have had children or own your own home. We are looking for families from a wide variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds who can offer permanent loving home and a secure environment to a child.

Families for Children Adoption Agency would like to talk to you about adoption its process and rewards. We are holding an information event on:

Wednesday 17th April at Epiphany House,

I didn't ask to be born, but I am asking to be adopted.

To be an adoptive parent, you don't have to be married, have children, or own your own home. Give a child a chance.

Please come and talk to us on:
Wednesday 17th April 5pm to 7pm
 Epiphany House, Truro TR1 3DR

01872 444100 Families for Children ADOPTION
www.iwanttoadopt.co.uk

Registered Charity Number 1093131. To protect privacy a model has been used.

EASTER MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS

Dear brothers and sisters in Rome and throughout the world, Happy Easter! Happy Easter!

What a joy it is for me to announce this message: Christ is risen! I would like it to go out to every house and every family, especially where the suffering is greatest, in hospitals, in prisons. Most of all, I would like it to enter every heart, for it is there that God wants to sow this Good News: Jesus is risen, there is hope for you, you are no longer in the power of sin, of evil! Love has triumphed, mercy has been victorious! The mercy of God always triumphs!

We too, like the women who were Jesus' disciples, who went to the tomb and found it empty, may wonder what this event means (cf. Lk 24:4). What does it mean that Jesus is risen? It means that the love of God is stronger than evil and death itself; it means that the love of God can transform our lives and let those desert places in our hearts bloom. The love God can do this!

The lies we tell ourselves: ending comfortable myths about poverty

As Christians we are called to have a distinctive and joyful presence in the world. Our calling leads us to seek after truth, and that means facing up to our own blindness as well as holding others to account.

This report is entitled *The Lies We Tell Ourselves: Ending Comfortable Myths About Poverty* because it is clear that we are often complicit in the myths that we have been willing to believe about poverty in Britain today.

The report has demonstrated how statistics can be manipulated to support a story that is comfortable to hear: that the poor are a distinct group of people, somehow deserving of their poverty, and therefore deserving of the deprivations and cuts which they increasingly face. It will always be possible to find examples of individual good or bad behaviour, including by people living in poverty. It is also possible to use such a story to justify an opinion.

However we should not attempt to understand a large group of people on the basis of a single story. We should look at the evidence and test our prejudices and our opinions against it. We should never allow the evidence to be bent to fit our prejudices, and we should be outraged when others do it on our behalf - even if we find the prejudices reassuring.

If poverty in the UK were caused by the faults and laziness of the poor, then many of us might feel more comfortable with it. Our charitable instincts might prompt us to offer help, but there would be no injustice to be righted.

But the truth is that poverty is an injustice crying out for correction and cannot be explained away as the problem of individual families. Responding with charity can help to break down the barriers in society and is a partial solution, but we all have a moral responsibility to build a more just and more understanding society. As Christians we believe that the infinitely loving creator, shared by us all, demands no less of us.

In researching this report, we found many of the facts made us uncomfortable. Reading much of the press coverage around poverty and welfare reform was equally uncomfortable. We hope many readers of this report are a little less comfortable at the end of it than they were when they began, and that some prejudices and assumptions have been challenged. Most of all we hope readers are moved to seek to understand the reality of poverty as it is experienced in Britain today.

As citizens we have the right and duty to expect more from our politicians and the media. We expect them to cease perpetuating myths which, although convenient for themselves, are no longer credible. We ask them to enable real leadership and be willing to say things that we may all find uncomfortable, even unpalatable.

We need to develop an understanding of the depth and breadth of UK poverty that is compatible with the evidence available. Just as importantly we need to match the language of public debate with the reality of people's lives. It is a task we must approach with humility one which puts the lived experience of poverty at its heart, and one which is committed to truthfulness – no matter how uncomfortable we find those truths to be. Please join with us in this challenge.

**“Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands at a distance;
for truth stumbles in the public square, and uprightness cannot enter.”**

Isaiah 59:14 (NRSV)

For the full report go to <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Truth-And-Lies-Report-smaller.pdf>