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General Election 2010 Manifesto Summary

The General Election will be held on 6 May 2010, and the parties are now publishing their manifestos. This briefing summarises the policies of the Conservative Party, the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats.

For a summary of the Scottish National Party or for more information about all the parties' manifesto commitments relating to Scotland contact Shona Fisher on 0131 558 8137 or info@actsparl.org. For details on Welsh issues contact Geraint Hopkins on 02920 464371 or geraint@cytun.org.uk

This briefing follows the policy areas laid out in *Faith in Politics: Preparing Churches for the General Election 2010* produced on behalf of British churches by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. Copies of *Faith in Politics*, together with details about organising hustings and hustings meetings being held in your area, can be found at www.churcheselection.org.uk

Health Warning! This briefing contains extracts from the parties' manifestos, mostly using direct quotes, to allow **some** comparison across areas. Readers may find it useful to refer to the manifesto to determine the context of the policies summarized below. To ensure equality of representation we have not referred to policy documents if a party doesn't mention an issue in their manifesto. You may wish to look at the policy papers held on each of the parties' websites.

Subject	Conservative Party	Labour Party	Liberal Democrats
Children and Young People			
Youth Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early intervention measures such as "grounding orders" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family intervention Projects for '50,000' of 'the most dysfunctional families' • Mentoring, by ex-offenders, for young offenders when they leave prison 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the Youth Service a statutory service and 'encourage' local authorities to work with young people to provide youth services
Access to opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create 400,000 apprenticeship and training places over two years • National Citizen Service for 16 year olds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Jobs Fund mandatory for anyone unemployed for at least ten months • Government supported employment for anyone wishing to work who has been on disability benefit for two years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work placement scheme for upto 800,000 young people providing training and experience. This would involve a weekly pay scheme. • Reform access to work scheme to ensure disabled people applying for jobs with funding already in place for 'suitable adaptations' to be made to workplace
Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to request flexible working extended to parents with children up to 18 years • Flexible parental leave • "Support provision of free nursery care" for pre-school children • Review regulation of childcare industry • Clamp down on "commercialisation" of childhood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of 'Early Learning' spaces for 'disadvantaged' two year old children increased, goal of universal free childcare for two year olds • Shared parental leave after 6 months including Introduction of flexible fathers' month of leave which can be split over first year of baby's life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fathers right to time off for ante-natal appointments • Parents able to allocate maternity and paternity leave 'between them in whatever way suits them best' • Flexible working rights for all to enable wider family to act as carers • Regulation of airbrushing in adverts to challenge potential negative body image among children and young people

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-focus Sure Start on early intervention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend right to flexible working to include extended family of carers, not just immediate carer(s). • Childcare vouchers retained and increased flexibility explored • Childcare and 'constructive activities' for primary age children between 8am and 6pm in term time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a 'Default Contract Arrangement' that, assuming no 'threat to safety of child', divides child's time between parents in event of breakdown of family.
Children with disabilities/in care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End closure of special schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in number of teachers for students at 'special schools' 	
Criminal Justice			
Prisons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of places in prisons • More protections for householders defending themselves against intruders • Prisoners' Earnings Act to be used to deduct money to be paid into a Victim's Fund funding rape crisis centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 96,000 prison places by 2013 • EU and foreign prisoners potentially transferred aboard • Reduction in numbers of women, young and mentally ill people in prison. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prisoners wages used to contribute to a compensation fund for victims • Introduce a 'presumption against' sentences < 6months • Cancel the current governments prison building programme
Community punishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures to deal with anti-social drinking, including raising taxes on certain alcoholic drinks and banning outlets from selling alcohol below cost price 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24hr response to any complaint about anti-social behaviour • Local voting on what 'Community Payback' offenders carry out • Community vote on how assets seized are repaid to the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create Neighbourhood Justice Panels to provide a say in how 'petty criminals' and people who engage in anti-social behaviour are punished
Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation schemes provided for people leaving prisons, with payment by results for providers • Courts empowered to use abstinence-based Drug Rehabilitation Orders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand street teams using street pastors and ex-offenders to make contact with 'disaffected' young people • Mentoring of young offenders by ex-offenders • Trebling alcohol treatment spaces available to 'persistent' criminals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offenders with drug addictions or mental illness to held in 'appropriate' accommodation
Restorative justice		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a 'Restorative Justice Act' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Champion' restorative justice programmes
Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police authorities to be replaced with a directly elected individual 	<p>Monthly beat meetings to hold local police officers to account</p> <p>Replace high-level leadership of a police force that 'constantly fails'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,000 more police out on 'the beat' • Direct election of police authorities
Democracy and Accountability			

Standards in public life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Clean up” the expenses system • Members of Houses of Commons and Lords to be full UK taxpayers • Introduce “power of recall” if serious wrongdoing proven • Restrictions on lobbying by former Ministers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority which will cover both House of Commons and House of Lords. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constituents able to force a by-election for any mp ‘found responsible for serious wrong doing’ • Require all MPs, Lords and PPCs to be ‘resident, ordinarily resident and domiciled in Britain for tax’
Electoral reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First past the post retained for the Commons • Work to build consensus over a “mainly elected second chamber” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referendum on Alternative Vote for elections to House of Commons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a proportional voting system to election people to the House of Commons – preferred choice is Single Transferable Vote
Constitutional reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce number of MPs by 10% • Petitions with over 100,000 signatures eligible for a formal debate/vote in Parliament • Local residents given power to instigate referendum if 5% of population sign up • £1 million fund to help people with disabilities to stand for election • Community “right to bid” to run any services instead of the state 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gradual removal of hereditary seats from House of Lords (in thirds), electing replacements at subsequent general elections • Fixed Term Parliaments • All party commission outlining ‘path’ to a written constitution • Potential reform over rules governing who the monarch can marry and the role of gender in succession. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce number of MPs by 150 • Right to vote at 16 • Introduce fixed term parliaments • Introduce a written constitution
Devolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White paper to take forward proposals on devolution and increase mutual responsibility • New rules to address the “West Lothian Question” of Scottish MPs voting on English or Welsh issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement recommendations of the Calman Commission¹ including Scottish Parliament’s additional tax-raising powers • Referendum on enhancing powers of Welsh Assembly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement recommendations of the Calman Commission, providing more powers to the Scottish Parliament • Provide primary legislative powers for the Welsh Assembly so it becomes a ‘Welsh Parliament’ • Replace the Barnett formula with a ‘needs based’ system
The Economy			
Banking regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levy on banks • Bank of England to regain monitoring of overall growth in credit and debt • Pursue international agreements to stop banks engaging in risky activities • Consumer Protection Agency to take over Financial Services Authority’s consumer role 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banks ‘compelled’ to create living wills and hold more capital • Create greater competition in banking sector by ‘breaking up’ banks in which the Government has a leading stake • Encouragement of more mutualisation – with reference to the state-owned Northern Rock. • Introduction of global levy on financial services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a Banking Levy which will be used until ‘such times as they can be split up’ • Break up banks to ‘establish a clear separation’ between retail and investment banking. • ‘Support’ Local Enterprise Funds and Regional Stock Exchanges.

¹ For Calman Commission see <http://www.commissiononscottishdevolution.org.uk/>

Fiscal responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminate the “bulk” of national debt over the course of a Parliament Cuts to Govt departmental expenditure of £6+ billion Stop proposed NI rise for employers and anyone earning under £35,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half the deficit over four years through tax increases, cuts in low-priority government spending and reduced spending on benefits. National Insurance to rise by 1p in one years time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget printed in manifesto indicating how manifesto promises will be met via cuts elsewhere Emergency budget & spending review held on later than end of June 2010. An aim of it will be to help half the deficit by 2013/14
Income inequality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the minimum wage End tax credits for households earning over £50,000 Raise inheritance tax threshold to £1 million 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low Pay Commission given remit of raising minimum wage ‘at least’ in line with average earnings upto 2015. Whitehall departments to pay the living wage Households transitioning from benefit to work should be £40 per week better off – will ensure minimum wage/tax credits enable this 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove difference of minimum wage payment for 16 and 21yr olds making it equal for all over 16yrs old. Tax Free allowance increased to £10,000 per annum Fair pay audits for all companies employing over 100 people.
Education			
Spending on education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frontline increase with ‘back office’ and ‘quangos’ having savings applied 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce £2.5billion ‘Pupil Premium’ for headteachers to spend ‘in best interests of children’
Providers of education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow any “good education provider” to set up an Academy Allow existing schools to become Academies and extend to primaries Raise entry requirements for new teachers Any school in special measures for over a year to be taken over by an Academy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of ‘Teachfirst’, promotion of Teacher Training Academies and £10,000 ‘golden handcuffs’ tied to ‘challenging schools’ 200 further academies Coop trust schools ‘pioneered’ Create an accredited school group which create not-for-profit schools using leaders from mainted sector, faith schools, academy chains, independent schools, universities and colleges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academies replaced with ‘Sponsor-Managed’ schools which are accountable to local authorities but can involve education charities and parent groups in ‘delivering state-funded education’ Faith schools within state funded sector to ‘develop an ‘inclusive admissions policy’
Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain Key Stage 2 tests and league tables Focus primary curriculum on subjects like Maths, English and Science Allow schools to offer international exams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All primary schools to teach a modern foreign language Creation of teacher qualification for those wishing to teach Mandarin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace national curriculum with ‘Minimum Curriculum Entitlement’ ‘Scale back’ Key Stage 2 tests Create a ‘General Diploma’
Environment			
After Copenhagen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “work towards an ambitious global deal” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‘Continue’ to work for an ‘ambitious, fair and legally binding’ climate change agreement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with EU, emerging economies and developing countries’ An EU emission reduction target of 30% by 2020

Emissions of greenhouse gases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to reduce carbon emissions by 80% by 2050 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An EU emission target of 30% by 2020 • 40% electricity to come from 'low-carbon' sources by 2020. • 40x increase in offshore wind-power on existing size • A new generation of nuclear power stations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require companies and government departments to report on energy use and set targets for reducing energy use • Target of 40% of UK electricity to come from 'clean, non-carbon emitting' sources by 2020 and 100% by 2050
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans for a high speed rail network initially from London to Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds • Stop the third runway at Heathrow, and second runways at Stansted and Gatwick • "Fair Fuel Stabiliser" to smooth the cost of fuel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrify Great western main line, complete east-west Crossrail and consult over building a new high-speed rail line initially between London to Birmingham, Manchester, the East Midlands, Sheffield and Leeds then north and Scotland. • Widen motorways, including M25 • Third runway for Heathrow but no more runways after that in lifetime of 2010 parliament • 100,000 electronic charging points for electric cars throughout the UK 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Bus scrapage' scheme which will fund bus companies to change from 'polluting' to 'low-carbon' vehicles • If you use a rail replacement bus service than national rail would have to provide an automatic refund of a third of the value of your ticket.
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of green investment banks and green ISAs to fund low carbon economy • Reform Climate Change Levy to provide a floor price for carbon • New nuclear power stations – but with no public subsidy • Measures to promote low carbon energy production • Green Deal – with £6500 of energy improvement measures for each household paid out of savings on fuel bills over 25 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40% energy from low-carbon sources by 2020 • Reconsider options for a Tidal energy project for the Severn • Green Investment Bank created to finance transition from 'dirty' to 'clean' coal and new generation of nuclear power stations • Warm Home Standard ensure private and social accommodation is properly insulated • Pay As You Save scheme that enables home-energy improvements to be paid for via savings on utility bills • All household lofts & cavity walls insulated by 2015 and smart meters in all homes by 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run a national programme that will insulate 'many more homes' using savings from lower energy bills. • Change energy tariffs to ensure cheapest energy is the first you use. • 40% of energy from 'non-carbon emitting sources' by 2020 • Funding for shipyards in Scotland and North East England to be refurbished and enable them to produce 'marine renewable equipment' • Promote energy conservation and renewable energy rather than investing in a new generation of nuclear power stations
The developing world	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate adaptation fund in addition to 0.7% aid pledge. No more than 10% of aid will be counted towards climate finance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptation fund supported 'on top' of existing aid commitments. • Integrate the Environment into the objectives of International Monetary Fund and World Bank
Europe			

The UK in Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referendum on future transfers of power to the EU Never take the UK in to the Euro Negotiate specific guarantees on Charter of Fundamental Rights, criminal justice and social and employment legislation returning powers to the UK 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reform the EU budget including Common Agricultural Policy and ending export subsidies No membership of Euro without a referendum on the issue Further expansion of EU to include Western Balkan states and Turkey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referendum on an 'in/out' referendum when the UK government signs up to a 'fundamental' change in relationship between UK and EU Entry to EURO when economic situation 'right' and UK has voted, via referendum, to do so
Global Peace and Security			
Global threats and challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a National Security Council, Adviser and Strategy Pursue "liberal Conservative" foreign policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold a Strategic Defence Review to ensure military is able to deal with modern threats 'Lead' the campaign for a legally binding global arms trade treaty by 2012 'Advocate' an international convention which enables the prosecution of those committing acts of genocide and crimes against humanity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold a 'Strategic, Security and Defence Review' to ensure Britain is able to 'face' military and non-military threats to Britain's security Support establishment of International Arms Trade Treaty limiting sale of weapons to 'dangerous regimes'
Military involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move money from EU defence initiatives to UK Armed Forces Resource the operation in Afghanistan Support humanitarian intervention when "practical and necessary" Reduce MoD running costs by 25% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource the operation in Afghanistan Establish a European Peace Corps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act as 'critical supporters' of operation in Afghanistan, but strategise with aim of UK forces returning to UK during life of 2010 parliament. Work at an EU level for non-military participation in peace processes in areas such as the middle east.
Nuclear weapons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renew Trident 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain an independent nuclear deterrent Work for a world free of nuclear weapons at NPT review conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will not replace Trident, instead will look at alternative (and less costly) ways of having such a nuclear deterrent. Support multilateral nuclear disarmament and 'ensure' UK plays a 'proactive' role in arms reduction talks
Terrorism and civil liberties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrap ID cards Replace the Human Rights Act with a UK Bill of Rights Ban of organisations promoting hate or violence Govt bill to repeal the Hunting Act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the 'prevent' strategy Strengthen the Serious Organised Crime Agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrap ID cards Protect Human Rights Act 'Reach out' to communities 'at risk' of radicalisation Reduce detention without charge to 14 days Intercept evidence and post charge questioning allowed in court. Introduce a 'Freedom Bill' and reform libel laws Reform Public Order Act to 'safeguard non-violent protest' and limit scope of injunctions issued with 'vested interests'

Health			
Funding of services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase spending on health in real terms every year • Cutting NHS administration by a third • £8000 voluntary insurance premium to protect home from being sold off to pay for residential care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital investment to focus on primary and community services • Scale down the NHS IT programme • Support an active 'independent' sector in areas of care such as end-of-life care and cancer services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut the size of the Department of health by half, abolish 'unnecessary' quangos and 'cut' the budgets of remaining quangos • 'Prioritise' dementia research within health research and development budget.
Access to services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen powers of GPs, and patients' ability to choose their care provider • Commission a 24/7 urgent care service including GP out of hours service • Stop the forced closure of maternity and A&E depts. • Cancer Drugs Fund created to fund drugs approved by your doctor if not NIHCE • New dentistry contract – tie in newly qualified dentists for 5 years and fine people who persistently miss appointments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients requiring elective care will have the right to choose from any provider so long as NHS standards and costs are met. • 8,000 new psychological therapists to assist those with mental health disorders • 'GP lead' health centres open 7 days a week for 12hrs a day • All women to have access to a homebirth (if medically safe) and one named midwife to provide 'continuity' of care • NHS constitution created to guarantee rights of patients regarding access to treatment and drugs regardless of location • Creation of 'National Care Service' for those who require support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate health and social care enabling people to stay in 'their' homes longer before being transferred to care home or hospital • 'Improve access' to counselling for people with mental health disorders • Targets replaced with entitlements which, if not met by NHS will be funded to be met privately • Local health boards to replace Primary care Trust boards and LHBs to work with local people and local councils • GPs to be 'directly involved' in delivering out of hours service
International Development			
Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need "ambitious, pro-development global trade deal" • Encourage establishment of Pan-African Free Trade Area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote sustainable development • Quadruple funding for fair and ethical trade alongside a fair WTO deal • No enforced liberalisation, increased duty free and quota free access within any deal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Debt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on legislation that limited the actions of vulture funds in UK courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% cancellation of debts of the world's 'poorest countries' • Take 'measures' against Vulture Funds and 'lobby' for 'similar action at international level'
Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "honour our commitments" to spend 0.7% of national income as aid by 2013 • Transparency around aid spending • Create MyAidFund to people a say over aid funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit to spend 0.7% national income on aid, will legislate to do so. • Five percent of all funding for developing country budgets for use to strengthen the role of parliament and civil society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase aid budget to meet target of 0.7% of national income by 2013, will legislate to do so. • 'Support' a global fund that enables developing countries to build 'viable' welfare systems

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote free at point of access healthcare and education in developing countries 	
International Institutions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reform of membership of G8 and a clearer mandate for the World Bank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Support' reforms of World Bank and International Monetary Fund
Migration and Sanctuary			
Detention of Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End the detention of children for immigration purposes
Immigration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immigration is too high – take back to 1990s levels Set an annual limit on non-EU economic migrants English language test for all coming to the UK to marry Border Police Force established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electronic counting of people leaving and entering the country No 'unskilled' migration from outside the EU Points based system used to 'limit' those entering for high-skills work and/or university students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reintroduce exit checks for all ports and airports Provide National Border Police with Police powers Regionalise the points system to ensure migrants with skills fill jobs gaps where they exist – this would be coupled with 'rigorous checks' on businesses and a 'crackdown' on 'rogue employers' who use illegal labour
Poverty and Social Exclusion			
Child poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cut govt contributions to Child Trust Funds for all but poorest third and disabled Create single Work Programme for all unemployed including Incapacity Benefit Long term unemployed required to "work for the dole" Recognise marriage and civil partnerships in the tax system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the child element of the Child Tax Credit by £4 per week for children aged up to two years old. Expansion of free school meals for primary school children of families on a low income Pilot a scheme that offers universal free meals at primary school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Maintain' commitment to end child poverty in UK by 2020 'Restricting' tax credits and 'ending' government payments into Child Trust Funds
Inequality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restoring link between basic state pension and average earnings National Citizen Service for 16 year olds Introduce a health premium to weight public health funding towards poorest areas Freeze council tax for 2 years and scrap proposed council tax revaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automatic enrolment in occupational pensions and personal pension accounts Continue with Winter fuel Payments, concessionary public-transport fares, free eye tests and prescriptions for pensioners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore link between basic state pension and earnings Pension increase linked to growth in earnings or growth in prices or 2.5% depending on which is largest