

# Praxis



The Methodist Church



## The public issues newsletter of the Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches

September 2011

### Armed Drones

Following a request made by Methodist Conference, our three churches plan to issue a report on the UK's use of armed drones. The United States military have used armed drones for some years in northern Pakistan in a campaign of targeted killings. Rt Revd Humphrey Peters, Bishop of Peshawar, told Methodist Conference of the drone attacks that are causing a turmoil in his area as, in his estimation, for every terrorist killed 15 to 20 civilians die.

The ethical issues are complex and varied. Concerns expressed include:

- The increased use of a policy of targeted killings
- The obligation to distinguish between combatants and non-combatants
- The mentality of remote killing and the psychological effect on troops
- The prospect of autonomous drones capable of automated target identification and selection
- The asymmetric aspects of warfare in our high-tech age

At this stage we would be particularly interested to receive any contributions from the perspective of Christian ethics around the concerns outlined above, either directly in relation to drones or to other aspects of warfare that might have relevance. We will meet with experts in the field and plan to publish a report in the Spring of 2012.

Contact Steve Hucklesby <mailto:hucklesbys@methodistchurch.org.uk> Tel: 020 7467 5245

### Bearing Witness - Saturday 1 October in Manchester

On the eve of the Conservative Party Conference, Christian Aid, Cafod and Tearfund will lead an inspiring day of campaigning and worship on the issues of climate change and global poverty. There will be talks and workshops at venues in the city during the afternoon, then at 5.00 pm an ecumenical service at Manchester Cathedral followed by a procession and candlelit vigil outside the Conservative Party Conference venue. For detailed information and to register, go to:

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/ActNow/climate-justice/bearing-witness.aspx> or  
[http://www.tearfund.org/en/get\\_involved/campaign/climatechange/ccbearingwitness](http://www.tearfund.org/en/get_involved/campaign/climatechange/ccbearingwitness)

### Take action for a Robin Hood Tax

Show your support for a Robin Hood Tax to help stop cuts at home and to fight poverty and climate change worldwide. Write a personal message to your MP.

We'll help with tips and facts but there isn't any template text - it's your voice that counts.

<http://robinontheroad.org/action/>

### National Ethical Investment Week - 16-22 October 2011

Could ethical investment be the next big thing? It is now widely accepted that as consumers we can influence retailers and producers through our purchasing. Similarly we can influence our employers, bankers and pension providers through ethical investment.

Ethical Investment Week promotes the green and ethical options in the finance and investment decisions of individuals and pension fund managers.

Download the 12 page Action Guide for Churches from ECCR <http://www.eccr.org.uk/Article250.html>  
<http://www.neiw.org/church-guide>

Or obtain a printed copy from Helen Boothroyd ([helen.boothroyd@eccr.org.uk](mailto:helen.boothroyd@eccr.org.uk) 07503 931172).

**One World Week 2011 - Living for One World - 23-30 October**

Join with others in your community to celebrate diversity and learn more about issues of global justice. See <http://www.oneworldweek.org/v2> for resources, events listing and much more.

**Power, Poverty and the Church - Workshop at St. John's Waterloo, London SE1 8TY**

**Wednesday 9 November**

This workshop aims to gather together a mix of church leaders, Christian activists, thinkers and politicians to stimulate a debate about the church's role in tackling poverty and powerlessness in this country. Organised by Church Urban Fund and Church Action on Poverty, this is intended to be the first in a series of events to be held every 6 months.

To book a place, email [tom.sefton@cuf.org.uk](mailto:tom.sefton@cuf.org.uk) or sign up online: <http://powerandpoverty.eventbrite.com>

**Vulnerable Workers, Trafficking, Pornography and the Economics of Exploitation: London 2012 and beyond**

**Thursday 17 November**, 4.30-6.15 pm, Friends House (Small Meeting Room), 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ

Open debate, organised by the Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility. For further information, including event flyer and booking details, see

[http://www.eccr.org.uk/dcs/ECCR\\_open\\_debate\\_flyer\\_2011.pdf](http://www.eccr.org.uk/dcs/ECCR_open_debate_flyer_2011.pdf)

**Operation Noah Annual Lecture:**

**Climate Change: A Confessional Issue for the Churches?**

**Monday 14 November**, 6.30pm St Mary Le Bow Church, Cheapside, London EC2V 6AU

Professor Tim Gorrige, Professor of Theology will explore where our churches (local and national) stand on climate change. A reply will be offered by Christine Elliott, Secretary of External Relationships for the Methodist Church in Britain.

*If you would like to receive the Joint Public Issues Team Newsletter, or would like to publicise an event or project, please contact Wendy Cooper, e-mail - [wendy.cooper@urc.org.uk](mailto:wendy.cooper@urc.org.uk) Telephone - 020 7916 8632 Address - United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT*