

### **Climate Change Bill**

The Climate Change Bill is now being debated in the House of Commons. Christian Aid are concerned that the Government has indicated that it is going to drop the amendment that makes it compulsory for UK businesses to report their annual carbon emissions. The next few weeks are crucial for persuading Hilary Benn, the Environment Secretary, to keep mandatory reporting for companies in the Bill.

For more information see: [www.christianaid.org.uk/pressoffice/pressreleases/june2008/climate\\_bill\\_eviscerated.aspx](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/pressoffice/pressreleases/june2008/climate_bill_eviscerated.aspx)

The Joint Public Issues Team briefing for you to write to your MPs about the Climate Change Bill is available at: [www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/jpit\\_climate\\_change\\_bill\\_ch\\_members\\_briefing\\_150108.pdf](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/jpit_climate_change_bill_ch_members_briefing_150108.pdf)

### **Refugee Week – Different Paths, Shared Future – 16-22 June 2008**

During Refugee Week hundreds of events exploring refugee experiences take place across the UK. These range from small community and school activities to art exhibitions, political debates, film screenings, conferences, big music festivals, sports events etc...

Anyone can get involved in Refugee Week either by organising or visiting an event or by just spreading the word!

Find out more information at [www.refugeeweek.org.uk/Home/](http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk/Home/)

For resources, prayers, reflections and worship material for use on Refugee Sunday – 22 June see [www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentogod.content&cmid=870](http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentogod.content&cmid=870)

### **Giving Voice to the Earth – Thursday 26 June 2008 – 9am-7pm**

Methodist Central Hall Westminster

A day conference, organised by Peace Brigades International UK, will explore threats to biodiversity and climate change presented by deforestation, pollution and mono-crop cultivation. It will also look at the links between these threats and the violation of human rights, as well as the role played by European and other international economic interests.

For more information and a booking form visit [www.peacebrigades.org.uk/pbi-uk.html](http://www.peacebrigades.org.uk/pbi-uk.html)

E-mail: [coordinator@peacebrigades.org.uk](mailto:coordinator@peacebrigades.org.uk)

### **Methodist Conference**

**3-10 July at the Spa Conference Centre, Scarborough**

Conference reports are available online at [www.methodistconference.org.uk/confreports.htm](http://www.methodistconference.org.uk/confreports.htm).

Conference debates will be available to listen to at [www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentogod.webradio](http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentogod.webradio)

'Created in God's Image', a special report on human embryology and early human life will be discussed on Wednesday 9 July from 2.30pm.

### Fringe Events

- Monday 7 July – Lunchtime – **'Get Fair' / Church Action on Poverty** at Queen Street Methodist Church
- Monday 7 July – 8pm – **Beckly Lecture: Hilary Armstrong MP** 'Building the new Jerusalem: a still unfinished task' at the Spa Vita Dome
- Tuesday 8 July – 8am – **Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment (JACEI)** Breakfast Meeting – Spa Vita Dome

## **United Reformed Church General Assembly 11-14 July at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh**

The Church and Society Committee will be presenting its final report this year – from now on the new Mission Committee incorporates Commitment for Life, Ecumenical Relations, Mission, Racial Justice and Multicultural Ministry, World Church Relations, and Church and Society. The Mission Committee is already working to develop a more integrated approach to the mission of the church in exciting and challenging ways.

Church and Society Report session will include:

- A resolution calling on churches and Synods to pay a living wage to their employees;
- Mark Dowd, Campaign Strategist for Operation Noah, speaking on the problems raised by environmental refugees.

### Mission Team fringe meetings:

Saturday 12 July (lunchtime)

- A personal account of the impact of climate change on the island of Kiribati (Revd Bureieta Koraiti, General Secretary of the Kiribati Protestant Church).
- Meeting for racial justice advocates and ethnic minority lay and ordained ministers.

Sunday 13 July (lunchtime)

- Contemporary challenges and principles relating to embryology and early human life (Revd Michael Peat, Baptist minister and member of the joint Baptist, Methodist, URC working group, and Dr Murdo Macdonald, Policy Officer, Society, Religion and Technology Project, Church of Scotland).
- Church Action on Poverty - exploring issues of poverty in the UK and introducing the 'Get Fair' campaign.

### **The Art of the Possible**

Exploring the meaning of faith in the world of politics – resources and materials for house groups now available - [www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/artofthepossible](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/artofthepossible)

### **Eco-congregation (England and Wales) - new website**

<http://ew.ecocongregation.org>

For Eco-congregation Scotland, see: [www.ecocongregation.org/scotland](http://www.ecocongregation.org/scotland)

### **Hope08 EDM**

Hope2008 is an initiative of the churches of Britain and Ireland which is helping to demonstrate Christian faith in action and to explain the meaning of that faith in villages, towns and cities throughout the UK.

MPs have signed an Early Day Motion (EDM) in support of Hope2008

"That this House welcomes HOPE2008 and its vision of encouraging and resourcing churches across the UK to engage in community service throughout the year; recognises the valuable work that churches do in their local communities, including voluntary work, befriending and the provision of services - particularly in the most deprived areas - and encourages them to sign up to HOPE2008; is heartened by the support shown to HOPE2008 by politicians of all parties, church leaders, police chiefs and other prominent public figures; and encourages churches to carry the spirit of HOPE2008 beyond the end of the year itself."

EDMs are a way to highlight certain events and issues that would not normally be mentioned in Parliament. Hope08 would like to encourage you and your congregation to contact your MP and ask them to sign EDM 1480.

To date, 45 MPs have put their name to the Motion. You can check on the progress of the EDM here:

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=35746&SESSION=891>

If you are not sure who your MP is, you can find out by visiting

<http://findyourmp.parliament.uk/commons/> or calling 020 7219 4272

### **Contact**

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 - 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT