

### **CHURCH LEADERS' DELEGATION TO THE PARTY CONFERENCES**

Leaders from the Baptist Union, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church will join with leaders from the Salvation Army and the Quakers in a delegation to the Conferences of the three main political parties later this month. The group will attend conference sessions and meet with a number of MPs. In addition, a key element is the breakfast meetings with the Christian groupings within each party which members of local churches are welcome to attend:

#### *Liberal Democrat - Tuesday 16 September*

7.45-9.00 am at Richmond Hill St Andrew's United Reformed Church, 8 St Stephen's Road, Bournemouth BH2 6JJ

Theme: Get Fair - Tackling Poverty in the UK

Speakers: Steve Webb MP (Shadow Minister for the Countryside), Alison Jackson (Vice-Chair, Church Action on Poverty)

#### *Labour - Tuesday 23 September*

7.45-9.00 am at the Friends' Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS

Theme: Get Fair - Tackling Poverty in the UK

Speakers: Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP (Minister of State, Department of Work and Pensions), Commissioner Betty Matear (Moderator, Free Churches Group), Niall Cooper (Church Action on Poverty)

#### *Conservative - Tuesday 30 September*

7.50-9.00 am at Birmingham Christian Centre, Parade (off Helena Street, off Edwards Street), City Centre, Birmingham B1 3QQ

Theme: International Development

Speakers: Matthew Frost (CEO, Tearfund), Alistair Burt MP

### **50 GLOBAL DAYS OF ACTION AGAINST POVERTY AND INEQUALITY**

Join with campaigners worldwide in a 50 day mobilisation against poverty from 1 September - 20 October 2008, organised by the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP). The focus includes:

**Global Debt Week, 12-19 October** See [www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/debtweek](http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/debtweek) or ring 020 7324 4722 - preceded on *Saturday 11 October* with End Poverty Now Activist Forum, 10.30 am - 5.30 pm at Dragon Hall, Covent Garden, London WC2B 5LT; to register, email [events@jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk](mailto:events@jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk)

#### **Stand Up and Take Action Against Poverty and Inequality, 17-19 October**

Take part in this year's world record attempt for the most people taking a stand against poverty. For all the background, action ideas, a churches' guide (including worship materials) and details of how to participate, see [www.bond.org.uk/campaign/gcap2008.htm](http://www.bond.org.uk/campaign/gcap2008.htm)

#### **Micah Sunday - 19 October**

In 2000, world leaders signed up to the Millennium Development Goals to halve global poverty by 2015. Micah Challenge is a worldwide movement of Christians raising their voices together to see those Goals achieved. Micah Sunday provides opportunity to stand together with thousands of churches worldwide in prayer that the firm commitments won't

become broken promises. For worship and action resources, see [www.micahchallenge.org.uk/micahsunday](http://www.micahchallenge.org.uk/micahsunday)

## **ENVIRONMENT/CLIMATE CHANGE**

**Creation Challenge** (Methodist/URC Environmental Network) To read the latest newsletter/sign-up for future issues, see [www.creationchallenge.org.uk](http://www.creationchallenge.org.uk)

**Operation Noah** The full text of Mark Dowd's address to the URC Assembly in July is available at [www.operationnoah.org](http://www.operationnoah.org) (select 'News' > 'News on site').

**Llanidloes Green Fair - 4-5 October** With speakers including Helen Northmore, Head of Energy Saving Trust Wales, and activities for all ages. Tickets for talks: £12 per day, other activities free. See [www.lles.co.uk](http://www.lles.co.uk) for details.

## **THE IMMIGRATION GAME - Migration training for ministers and church leaders**

**Thursday 25 September**, 10.30 am - 4.30 pm at the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, County Hall, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7PB. Aim of the day is to resource and support ministers and other church leaders dealing with migration issues. The event is being organised by (but not restricted to) the Thames North Synod of the United Reformed Church. For further details/to book, contact Geoff Duncan: [world.churchandsociety@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:world.churchandsociety@urcthamesnorth.org.uk) ; 020 7799 5000.

## **SRNet CONFERENCE - 30 September - 2 October 2008 - 'Less about projects, more about people'**

The 2008 Social Responsibility Network conference is meeting at the Thurrock Hotel, Aveley, Essex to explore issues to do with regeneration and communities. There will be input from Rt Revd Laurie Green, Bishop of Bradwell and Canon Duncan Green, the Church of England's Olympic Co-ordinator for the 2012 London Games. The Conference costs £250. Further information available at [www.srnet.org.uk](http://www.srnet.org.uk) or from Ann Wright, [wright@btinternet.com](mailto:wright@btinternet.com) ; 01293 821322.

## **FAITH MATTERS TOO - Working with offenders**

**Wednesday 15 October**, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm at the Abbey Centre, Great Smith Street, London SW1. Conference for the faith-based voluntary and community sector working with offenders, to help improve understanding of how statutory services can work with faith groups and communities to help offenders lead crime free lives. Arranged by the Prison Service Chaplaincy, in partnership with the Youth Justice Board, and voluntary organisation support group Clinks. For flyer and booking form, see [www.clinks.org/events.aspx](http://www.clinks.org/events.aspx) or contact [karen.desai@clinks.org](mailto:karen.desai@clinks.org) ; 01904 673970.

## **RESOURCES FOR:**

**Racial Justice Sunday - 14 September** (or choose a more suitable date as appropriate) and throughout the year: [www.ctbi.org.uk](http://www.ctbi.org.uk)

**One World Week - 19-26 October** (or choose a more suitable date as appropriate); theme: 'Growing Together - locally and globally'; all resources web-based: [www.oneworldweek.org](http://www.oneworldweek.org)

**Prisons Week - 16-22 November**; theme: 'Worthless or Talented?'. To order copies of the prayer leaflet and download other resources (outline sermon, additional prayers, sketch, powerpoint presentation), see [www.prisonweek.org](http://www.prisonweek.org)

## **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, [wendy.cooper@urc.org.uk](mailto:wendy.cooper@urc.org.uk) ; 020 7916 8632 ; address - URC, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT.