



"May they all be one...so that the world may believe..." John 17:21

## WELCOME/GOODBYES CHURCH LEADERS

Welcome to **Bishop Donald McAllister**. Since becoming Bishop of Peterborough diocese in April, he has already met with the Northamptonshire Church Leaders and others.

Goodbye & thank you to **Bishop Frank White** at the end of September. After much good work in the county and beyond, he returns to his roots (and favourite football team) to become Assistant Bishop of Newcastle.

Good bye and thank you also to **Major Jonathan Roberts** who moves from Nottingham in August to the Salvation Army's International HQ in London. The new East Midlands Regional Commander will be **Lieut-Colonel Mike Caffull**.

## WELCOME /GOODBYES EXEC MEMBERS

The Chair of Shire and Soke is appointed by Church Leaders and rotates around the denominations, so as URC **Revd Lynn Fowkes** moves to St Stephen's Leicester & University Chaplaincy in September, we welcome our Anglican DEO **Revd Giles Godber** as Chair for the next two years. Our treasurer, **Mgr Peter Wilson**, retires this summer and leaves our accounts in very good shape. Thank you all.



[www.cte.org.uk](http://www.cte.org.uk) has **INTER FAITH** pages listed under "Working Together"

where you can read, buy or download the following documents:

**An Inter Faith Strategy for the Churches** from ecumenical collaboration based in the Leeds area between the Anglican & Roman Catholic dioceses and the Methodist District.

**Meeting God in Friend and Stranger** is a new Catholic document on interreligious dialogue.

**Sharing the Gospel of Salvation** is a new Church of England report, with examples of good practice in the context of a society with many faiths, where many people have little or no faith.

**Faith Matters** Case studies from the Faiths in Action Fund demonstrate how faith and inter faith work bring real and lasting value to communities.

**CHURCHES TOGETHER FOR FAMILIES** have grants available up to £1000 for a small piece of work at local level that promotes engagement with families through ecumenical initiatives. Apply by 1st Sept 2010. Details from CTE.

## EAST OF ENGLAND SHOW

**This year** a team of chaplains went out in twos around the showground, talking to stallholders and customers alike, being a church presence, without need of a church tent.

**Next year** it would be good to have a more ecumenical team, so if you are interested, please take note of the dates: 17,18,19th June 2011 and keep in touch with Shire and Soke.

## VISION DAYS

Our Shire and Soke **VISION DAY** in Northampton on 8<sup>th</sup> May was a great success! See our **SPECIAL REPORT** supplement.

Sadly our Peterborough Vision day in October has had to be cancelled, due to other events on the same day. Therefore there are no more Council meetings in 2010, but be assured that the Exec and Church Leaders will continue to meet together in the autumn. We will keep you informed.

## PENTECOST FESTIVAL

### Leaders bask in warmth of unity

Church leaders from the mainstream denominations in Northamptonshire have reaffirmed their commitment to work together that was made ten years ago at the turn of the millennium.

Under a cloudless sky and blazing sunshine on Pentecost Sunday afternoon, they gathered under the shade of the bandstand in Northampton's Abington Park to recite together the words of their covenant.

They were then joined by leaders of other independent and ethnic churches in a demonstration of unity.



Some 3,000 Christians – many sheltering from the heat under the shade of trees some distance from the bandstand – had commandeered part of the Park for the entire afternoon, starting with a lunchtime service and including the local contribution to the Global Day of Prayer. Worship was led by songwriter Graham Kendrick and his band and at the end of the afternoon a mass of helium balloons with prayers attached were launched."

*[from Peterborough Diocesan Monthly News]*

**TIME FOR GOD** is a Christian volunteering organisation looking for churches or community groups to benefit from hosting a volunteer on placement. Need help with children's or youth work, or a social project? See [www.timeforgod.org](http://www.timeforgod.org)

**CROSSWAYS** at Yardley Hastings. This Retreat and Conference Centre is an ideal venue for church days out and meetings; it also has accommodation (ideal for young people) and serves cream teas on Sunday afternoons in July and August! Tel 01604 696307 [www.crosswayscentre.org.uk](http://www.crosswayscentre.org.uk)

Shire and Soke News is produced for all Shire and Soke Council members, LEPS & Churches Together Groups. PLEASE COPY THIS AND DISTRIBUTE IT WIDELY AROUND YOUR CHURCHES.

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