February 2015

LOGOS

Churches Together Northampton

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urgent circumstances.

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editor based on policy agreed by Churches
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COMMENT FROM THE EDITOR

With much in the news about free speech, we should remember that having the freedom to state an opinion is no guarantee that the opinion will actually be worth stating. What is often forgotten is that for an opinion to be worth something it needs to be an informed opinion, and for it to be worth a lot it should be both informed and considered.

For Christians, part of the task is to be informed by the Bible, to consider what we learn there and, where necessary, to learn also from historical precedents, ethics, philosophy or whatever disciplines are relevant to the matter in hand.

Also, most Christians believe that, however you term it and in whatever form it takes, God imparts wisdom and guidance to his people in contemporary situations.

It is quite important therefore, that when we do express an opinion on a matter, we ourselves are aware whether it has been plucked out of the air - that is something we have heard from someone, somewhere, and passed on with a minimum of thought or examination - or whether it has been arrived at by careful consideration of as much relevant information as we have been able to gather in an attitude of dependence upon the grace and wisdom of God.

Opinions abound about ecumenism, church unity and inter-church cooperation, but many of them do not appear to be either informed or considered. Having started my own journey from a position which was extreme and vehemently anti-church unity, I recognise in some of those opinions prejudices which I myself once firmly embraced.

Over this coming year I would like to challenge us all to re-examine where we stand in respect of working together. Embracing unity is not about agreeing to be woolly minded, but about being informed, considering facts and being so clear about our own position that we are secure in God, in spite of the disagreements and arguments we will inevitably have with our brothers and sisters.

I would love to talk things through with any who have doubts and challenges and I would welcome emails with questions and queries.

Joe Story

CHURCHES TOGETHER ENGLAND

As we enter a new year, what is the biggest issue facing the Church? David Kerrigan of the Baptist Missionary Society answers the question from a UK perspective.

THE BIGGEST ISSUE FACING THE CHURCH IN 2015

Some years ago Bishop Lesslie Newbigin pleaded that we needed a genuine missionary encounter between the gospel and our culture. It spawned a ‘Gospel and Culture’ movement which has profoundly influenced the Church in the UK.

In the years since, there is much to encourage me that this call to action has been given due attention. A cursory glance around church life reveals the presence of thriving Alpha courses, committed Street Pastors, overly-busy food banks and debt counselling services.

And as well as many thriving traditional churches there are many new expressions – bold experiments such as Messy Church, Café church, Surfer’s church and Pub church.

Will all of these last and bear fruit? Probably not. But that has always been the case and such a thing should never prevent us from courageous experimentation.

In the midst of all these encouragements I would suggest that the greatest challenge facing the UK church today is a lack of confidence in the gospel message that sits at the heart of all of the activity outlined above.

One of Lesslie Newbigin’s other quotes goes like this: “The relativism which is not willing to speak about truth but only about what is true for me is an invasion of the serious business of living. It is the mark of a tragic loss of nerve in our contemporary culture. It is a preliminary symptom of death.” Action without conviction is just social work – good in itself but not the whole gospel. And conviction without action is mere pontificating.

Blend the two together and what we have is truly gospel. Truly ‘good news’. Our nations need that.
New Directors at the Evangelical Alliance

Gavin Calver, an accredited Baptist evangelist, has been appointed to the leadership team of the Evangelical Alliance.

Gavin, currently national director of Youth for Christ (YFC), will take up his position as director of mission/England at the Alliance in June 2015.

He succeeds Dr Krish Kandiah, who left his position as director: churches in mission earlier this year to become president of the London School of Theology and founding director of Home for Good.

He said, ‘After six years as national director, and 13 years at YFC, I feel the time is right for me to move on from this role. I feel God has called me to serve the local Church by helping to mobilise mission across England. I am passionate about seeing the local Church fulfil its calling to take the gospel of Jesus – in both words and deeds – into every community in the land.’

In this new role, Gavin – who has been a Council member of the Alliance since 2012 - will be responsible for developing creative initiatives to draw together member organisations into coalitions that serve the Church and help position the Alliance as a catalyst for change, as well as being a voice for the Church to government and media.

Also joining Gavin on the leadership team is Chine Mbubaegbu, who has been appointed the Alliance’s director of communications. Chine, a journalist, author and former head of media and communications, is among the youngest members of the leadership team in the Alliance’s history. She is also the EA’s first black female director.

daily news updates

If you are on Twitter follow daily news from the churches so the right hand know what the left is doing @churchesengland or from the home page of our website www.cte.org.uk where the twitter feed is automatically displayed.

The news via twitter is updated more than once a day and provides a lot of detailed information from the member churches, partners, agencies and groups linked together through Churches Together in England.

To join twitter visit: www.twitter.com and search for @churchesengland to follow on your phone or computer.

Churches Together in Peterborough and Northamptonshire – Shire and Soke AGM

7:00 pm  21st April 2015
at Kairos Centre, Grange Park
Northampton, NN4 5DW

Speaker - Dame Mary Tanner, Theme - Receptive Ecumenism

Dame Mary Tanner, is a former European President of the World Council of Churches. She has been a member of the WCC Faith and Order Commission since 1974, serving as its moderator from 1991–98.

Dame Mary has been involved in various ecumenical conversations on behalf of her church, including the Anglican-Roman conversation. From 1982–98 she was active within the Church of England body which ultimately became the Council for Christian Unity.

She became a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire In the 2008 New Year's Honours List for services to the worldwide Anglican Communion.

Receptive Ecumenism

In essence, receptive ecumenism is simple. As we engage with people who belong to Churches other than our own, we often focus on what gifts our own tradition can add to the ecumenical treasure trove. That’s important. But receptive ecumenism goes further. Instead of looking at what we can bring, our strengths perhaps, it invites us to look at our weaknesses and the gifts and strengths of others, to notice what we can learn or receive from them.
EDUCATION SUNDAY 1st February 2015

The Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) falls on 2 February. Many parishes and churches will be celebrating this feast on the nearest Sunday, February 1st.

The readings for this Sunday, and the story of Jesus being presented in the temple, point to the heart of what education is about - discerning the potential in people and helping them to realize that potential.

In Luke, Simeon and Anna see what others don’t see; this is not just a baby boy but one with universal potential, as every child has. They share a glimpse of what he might become.

In Hebrews, the writer recognises that Jesus became a human person in every respect, so that he might help us to fulfill our potential, as he himself has done.

A Reading from Malachi suggests that perhaps what we do is less important than how we do it. We are told that the messenger is coming; he will refine and purify, so that we may all achieve our potential, which is to become the means of God’s justice for the oppressed, widows and orphans – for the poor.

2015 marks the deadline to meet the Millennium Development Goals, including the goal to achieve universal primary education. Enrollment in primary education in developing regions reached 90 per cent in 2010, up from 82 per cent in 1999, meaning one in ten children of primary school age were out of school in 2012.

Resources
- Suggested Hymns & Songs - Suggested Sermon / Homily notes -
- Vocation Workshop - Vocation Handout - All Age Worship suggestions


CHURCHES TOGETHER NORTHAMPTON

Women’s World Day of Prayer Service

7pm Friday 6 March 2015 St Andrew’s Great Billing NN3 9ED

Prepared by women of the Bahamas

The Women’s World Day Of Prayer is a worldwide movement led by Christian women of many traditions who call the faithful together to observe a common day of prayer each year. More than 170 countries participate which brings together people of various races, cultures and traditions, sharing together in God’s word and worship. This is an ecumenical service. Prepared By The Christian Women Of The Bahamas

The theme this year is taken from John 13: 1-17 “Do you know what I have done to you”, the women of the Bahamas ask us to dress in tropical colours of pink, yellow, turquoise or green.

Refreshments available after the service. For more information contact: Revd Lorna Lavarello-Smith 01604 403938 or revdlorna@gmail.com
**ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE AUDIT?**

Watch out for your invitation to take part in the Cinnamon Faith Action Audit for Northamptonshire. Invite will be sent out via email to churches, faith groups and faith based charities on 1st February. We hope to demonstrate the depth and breadth of faith-based social action across the UK. This will be a benefit to you, to the local and national government and to others with whom you may wish to work.

To find out more visit [http://www.cinnamononnetwork.co.uk/faa-welcome/](http://www.cinnamononnetwork.co.uk/faa-welcome/) or contact nickamis@cinnamononnetwork.co.uk

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**Peterborough Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship**

**AGM and fellowship evening**

**Monday 9th March, 7.30pm: Moulton Church Centre**

including a reflection on ‘the state of the nation’ by Bishop Wallace Benn.

Details from Andrew Presland on 01933 316927 or at andrew-presland@harboroughroad58.freeserve.co.uk

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**SEASONS OF MY SOUL**

Anglican/Methodist publication

Seasons of My Soul is the result of an Anglican – Methodist project, and is a resource which all churches can use. It explores questions of spirituality and discipleship for the older active person

to find out more go to [http://www.methodist.org.uk/deepening-discipleship/small-groups/seasons-of-my-soul](http://www.methodist.org.uk/deepening-discipleship/small-groups/seasons-of-my-soul)

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**CROSS/NON-DENOMINATIONAL**

**Contributors:**

We have been very fortunate to engage **Dr Rob Waller** to speak on 27 January at St Giles Church centre. He is a Consultant Psychiatrist working for the National Health Service in Scotland, a Director of the Mind and Soul Foundation and is on the Board of Mercy Ministries UK.

He believes the good news of Christianity brings an essential contribution to mental health services

The aim of Mind and Soul is to:

To EDUCATE by providing high quality, accessible resources that engage with mental and emotional health, informed by the Christian theology and the latest scientific expertise.

To ENCOURAGE local support networks, empowering and engaging the local church and enhancing mental health services.

To ENABLE people to meet with God and receive healing in the midst of emotional distress, presenting a holistic approach to mental health that incorporates the spiritual and the psychological

The **Manna House** is a local Christian bookshop and counselling service that also provides counselling in GP surgeries.

**Kate Bellamy** has worked within the NHS as a peer supporter in the mental health team and also as project manager with six churches trained and supported tutors of the Living Life to the Full course. This was positively evaluated by the University of Northampton for both participants and tutors with the tutors having the most improvement in their well-being!

**Dr David Smart** is a local GP and member of the congregation of St Giles and is involved in mental health commissioning for Northamptonshire.

**Agenda**

7.45: welcome - Dr David Smart

7.50 : Dr Rob Waller discussing Mind and Soul and involvement with Living Life to the Full course and overcoming stigma

8.20: Kate Bellamy Living Life to the Full and partnership with Manna House

8.40: panel discussion and questions including next steps and opportunities

9.10 : close in prayer

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[An opportunity to come together to explore how the local church can be supported and involved in promoting positive mental health](http://www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk/faa-welcome/) all welcome.

Doors open 7.15 pm for 7.45 start.

With support from The Manna House

For info or to register interest: e: kate.bellamy@pacesettersports.co.uk
**Dirty Hands**

Website created to promote Christian social action in Northamptonshire was launched nearly a year ago, at www.dirty-hands.co.uk. It’s also accessible from Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dirty-Hands-website/205151263018276) and Twitter (https://twitter.com/DirtyHandsweb).

Posts on to the home page within the past month include ones about:

- **TLG Early Intervention** – keen to help struggling families in Northamptonshire
- ‘**Dress a Girl around the World**’ – helping local communities in Northamptonshire to make a difference worldwide
- **The All-Party parliamentary food banks report** – a digestible summary...
- **Growing number of Church of England parishes providing help to people in debt**
- **Avoiding homelessness** – ready-made lessons for secondary schools
- **Faith groups helping to prevent crime in Northamptonshire**
- **How can the church help people in mental distress?** (event in Northampton on Tuesday 27th January)
- **Youth chaplaincy launched in Corby**
- **Cinnamon Network** – looking back at 2014 and forward into 2015.
- **Calling Christian coders**
- **Are you ready for the audit?**

**Global Justice Now**

WDM Milton Keynes invites you and all supporters of like-minded groups seeking a fairer world to a film and discussion evening to mark the group’s relaunch as Global Justice Milton Keynes.

Wednesday 18th February
7.30 (refreshments from 7.00) – 9.00pm
Freeman Memorial Methodist Church Hall, Buckingham Road, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 5HH

5 minutes’ walk from Bletchley bus and train stations.

From the bus station go to the roundabout by the shopping centre and turn right under the railway. The hall is a further 250 metres ahead on the right side of Buckingham Road.

From the train station go to the road in front and turn left to pass the fire station. Turn right at the roundabout and continue for a further 300 metres.

- **The stop TTIP campaign**
- **Climate Justice**
- **Campaigning**

Take back our world!

mary@northamptonhopecentre.org.uk

**Arise Northampton Youth Event**

6:30pm-9:45pm  28th Feb 2015   Kingdom Life Church

Games, Tuck Shop, Prayer Ministry  Worship – Arise Worship Team

Speakers – **Andrew Murray from Generation Builders, Hull**

Rachel Clarke from Christian Celebration Church, Northampton

Tickets £3 each from. northamptonsouth@nayc.org or buy them on the door

There is also a youth leaders lunch on the same day, called Arise Connect, (Which comes under the Arise Movement) Also at Kingdom Life Church – 12pm to 2:30pm

This is an opportunity for Youth Leaders/Pastors to hear of the vision of Arise and to network over lunch, build relationships and pray together. Details contact Jon Ford, Northampton South Youth Development Worker M: 07960855893

Email northamptonsouth@nayc.org  W: http://www.nayc.org
Church campaign 'in hub of Rugby World Cup activity'

Engage 2015, a campaign to help UK churches serve the rugby community during the World Cup later this year, has secured a central London location.

From the start of the year Engage has been based at the Free Churches Group in Tavistock Square. The new headquarters 'will ensure the campaign can remain in the hub of activity during the build-up to and throughout the global showpiece event,' said a statement on its website.

Backed by the denominations and many of the organisations involved with More Than Gold, the response by UK churches to the London 2012 Olympic Games, Engage aims to provide churches with "inspiration, information and resources", as well as build relationships between the church and the rugby community. 'With a rapidly growing team, Engage knew it was essential to secure central London office space for the campaign’s success, and are delighted a deal could be struck with the Free Churches Group,' continued the statement.

‘Discussions opened in early November before an agreement was reached to secure the London HQ, which will facilitate team members and volunteers throughout the campaign.’

Staff moved in on 5 January and will remain there until the end of the tournament, which takes place over six weeks in the autumn. There will be 48 games across 13 venues, with an estimated half a million fans from more than 100 nations.

Baptist chaplain David Chawner (who is based in Northampton) co-ordinates Engage. He said, 'Here is another golden opportunity for the church to engage with a national event and with its local community as it did around the Olympics. Engage 2015 is here to help, providing a menu of ideas and resources many of which can be built into existing activities. ‘Irrespective of limitations on resources there will be ways in which your church can link into your community during RWC 2015.’

He explained that Engage has a good working relationship with the tournament delivery body, England Rugby 2015, and is looking to provide hosting for participants’ families, chaplaincy to the squads, games pastors and volunteers.

At the local level there will be opportunity to develop partnerships to screen matches, host community festivals, experiment with touch rugby, stage quizzes and speaker events, minister to locally based squads and their supporters, and much more.

Visit www.engage2015.co.uk

Prayer & Praise for Northampton 2015

Each Church that hosts Prayer and Praise for Northampton looks forward to welcoming the wider church. In 2015 it would be good to see people from our host churches continuing to grow in love for their neighbouring churches by supporting Prayer & Praise in different venues. Since last November, we have had a great example of this from the Jesus Army, many of whom came to the New Testament Church of God in December and also to Abington Avenue URC in January. In February we will be at All Nations church, an ideal venue to bring together people from every culture, nation and church, to pray for greater cooperation between Christians in Northampton.

If your church would like to host Prayer & Praise later this year, contact Teresa Brown, Co-ordinator of Prayer & Praise. Tel. 01604 400329
Fighting food poverty in 2015
What can we do about it?
Last year we achieved an incredible amount. Thousands of us fasted, grabbing the media spotlight and made a positive contribution forcing politicians to recognise the problem - changing some minds in the process.
But we still have not seen concrete action from politicians. We need to know now how they would solve the hunger crisis if elected as our government in this year’s General Election.
The APPG on Hunger and Food Poverty made it clear earlier this year a series of actions including a living wage and changes to protect welfare recipients from unfair sanctions were part of the solution.
For more details see what Rev Keith Hebden is doing.
Visit endhungerfast.co.uk

Counter Terrorism Protective Security Advice for Places of Worship.
Surrey Police have produced an online booklet which they are making available for churches and other places of worship.

Lord Chief Justice disciplines Christian Magistrate for belief about Family
Lord chancellor and Lord Chief Justice say Christian belief about family is incompatible with JP duties.
A Cabinet minister and England's highest judge have together disciplined a Christian Magistrate for saying that a child's best interests lie in being raised by both a mother and a father, telling him that his Christian beliefs about the family must not influence his work whilst sitting on the Bench.
For more details visit www.ChristianConcern.com

Christianity in the Middle East conference
Exploring present challenges and future possibilities
A conference has been jointly convened by the British Trust for Tantur and the Centre for Eastern Christianity, Heythrop College, University of London on Saturday 28th February 2015 at University of Notre Dame London Centre
If you wish to attend, you will need to complete and return with £5 cheque made out to 'The British Trust for Tantur' to the address on the booking form.
Further information is available from John Went Tel: 01494 765586

Lord Mandate Ministries are thrilled to be able to host Introduction to Counselling At Mandate House, Clopton

Introduction to Counselling helps to determine your interest in and/or suitability as a counselor. The introductory course is also geared up to help those who are involved in the diversity of ministries within the church.

The course increases understanding of how people function and improves interpersonal skills. It is helpful for those who wish to explore the area of counselling and is ideal training for house group leaders, pastoral care teams, youth leaders etc.

covering subjects such as:- Biblical Basis & Theory, Counselling Skills, Relationships, Specific Applications and Principles & Procedures.

The course usually takes place over four weekends, normally one weekend a month in consecutive months.

A typical weekend would be Friday 7.00 pm - 10.00 pm and Saturday 9.30 am - 4.30 pm.

The dates that Introduction to Counselling will be running are:-
February 20th - 21st
March 20th - 21st
May 15th - 16th
June 19th - 20th
Mandate House, Clopton, Kettering, NN14 3DZ

For further information and application form please contact:-
Mandate House 01832 720177 or
Manna House 01604 633304

World Mandate Ministries are thrilled to be able to host Introduction to Counselling At Mandate House, Clopton

The dates that Introduction to Counselling will be running are:-
February 20th - 21st
March 20th - 21st
May 15th - 16th
June 19th - 20th
Mandate House, Clopton, Kettering, NN14 3DZ

For further information and application form please contact:-
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Further information is available from John Went Tel: 01494 765586
Christians in Politics: Saints or Sinners?

7pm on Sunday 18 April 2015

St Giles Church, St Giles Terrace, Northampton NN1 2BN

Less than three weeks before the General Election, Christian musician and activist Andy Flanagan will be speaking during the evening service at St Giles about why Christians need to get more involved in the political process.

A regular performer at Christian festivals around the country, Andy Flanagan is also director of Christians on the Left and one of the three directors of Christians in Politics, an all-party, non-denominational platform for Christians involved, or seeking to get involved, in politics and public life.

Part of the Bible Society, Christians in Politics vision is to see Christians respond to God's call to positive engagement in party politics and government.

Andy’s most recent album, The Collection, made up from live recordings at festivals, is available on iTunes.

For more details visit the St Giles website – www.stgilesnorthampton.org.uk or call the church office on 01604 628623.

For more information about Christians in Politics, visit http://www.christiansinpolitics.org.uk

For more information about Andy Flanagan visit http://www.andyflan.com/

Fancy a holiday with a difference this year?

Then join the Best of Both Worlds trip to Kenya. You will have the opportunity to spend a week in the village of Utange volunteering at Casuarina House Orphanage, teaching at the local School or helping serve food to 500 orphaned children. (Mission is available for those interested too!) A 3 Day Safari follows, a chance to see the “Big 5” culminating in last 5 nights at the beautiful Severin Sea Lodge 4* hotel, blissfully situated on the edge of the Indian Ocean. Two trips are running this year, the first in the school holidays so ideal for families with older children, departing 22nd July and the second trip departs 21st October for 14 nights. Cost is between £1,350 - £1,550 (dependent on flights at time of booking) inclusive per person. To sign up or find out more information on this trip of a lifetime contact Debbie Scott:

dscott4lakeview@aol.com www.thesurefoundation.org.uk
Doing the Stuff - Northampton
Friday 6th - Saturday 7th March 2015
Hosted by Central Vineyard, Northampton
We are hugely excited to welcome Robby Dawkins back to Northampton in March 2015. Robby is one of the most sought after Vineyard speakers of our time, known for speaking at summer conferences like Soul Survivor and New Wine as well featuring in two of Darren Wilson's films; Father of Lights and Furious Love.
Robby and his wife, Angie, married in 1992, then went on to pastor the Vineyard Church of Aurora, IL from 1996-2013. They feel God called them to plant in a poor urban community, and continually use "power evangelism" to gather for the church. They estimate that over 50% of current attenders have come to Christ at the Vineyard Aurora, and that almost 3/4 of those have come through "power" encounters.
Since 2013 Robby has been speaking and writing full time and is currently based out of the Vineyard Church of Central Illinois. Having been in over 30 countries around the world, God has used him to help build the church internationally as well. He has ministered in many Muslim countries and in 2 of the top 10 most dangerous countries according to Voice of the Martyrs magazine.
Robby believes God has called him to "help equip and release the church in the ministry of the Holy Spirit". This weekend will be a blend of worship, equipping and ministry.
Booking for tickets are here: [http://www.centralvineyard.co.uk/doing-the-stuff.html](http://www.centralvineyard.co.uk/doing-the-stuff.html)

Politics of Hope Conference
Exploring the role and impact of faith-based leadership in local communities
This conference is a unique opportunity for faith and community leaders, faith-based organisations and public policy makers to explore:

- The impact of faith-based organisations
- How they relate to 'secular' authorities

Emerging models of political leadership and engagement

Tuesday 24th February 2015, 10am - 6.30pm including public lecture from Steve Chalke MBE. 5pm - 6.30pm at St Bride Foundation. Tickets cost £15 per person.
For further information, please contact info@williamtemplefoundation.org.uk

The focus of Lighthouse Trust is to support children and young people, primarily in education, providing support for schools in their invaluable work in creating an environment through which children and young people can grow in knowledge, self-esteem and confidence.

The trust regularly organises assemblies in over thirty schools, mostly on a monthly basis and uses PowerPoint presentations to present themes to fit in with a schools programme. The term before Christmas involved preparing four different themes and delivering 114 assemblies, that's just over eight a week on average. In the New Year there are 163 assemblies in the diary up to July 2015 and as you can imagine, this takes a lot of resources. For example, we have Dzana a wife and mother who holds down a full time job, locked away in a cupboard in her 'spare' time writing up these assemblies—well not locked up exactly, but you get my point. Then there is John, Stuart and myself who help to present them in schools from as far away as Wellingborough in the East to Silverstone in the West, and West Haddon in the North to Stoke Bruerne in the South.

We have also just started to take bookings for R.E. lessons from January to March 2015 and planning has also begun for the Transition support for Year 6 pupils next June to primary schools, then there is classroom PSHE support of various kinds as required….so much to do! Lighthouse has been supporting schools since 1997, liaising with staff and pupils in supporting the day to day life of the school. The trust continues to strengthen the church in being an active supporter in education by offering resources to play an active role in local schools. The trust is very thankful for all those who support the trust in various ways and who might not very visible. For example, Carla who keeps the accounts up to date, for Alan who audited the accounts, for the Trustees who keep me in order, then of course all those who support the trust financially - individuals, churches, trusts, schools etc. Without these people Lighthouse could not function.

If you would like to receive any of the support already mentioned, or if there is anything Lighthouse can do for your church, your school, or at a school near you, then please get in contact with us and look at our website for more details.

Richard Kinning
Director - Lighthouse Trust (Northampton)
PRAYER ALERTS for 
THE MANNA HOUSE 
2nd February 2015 & 4th March 2015

Having had two encouraging times of prayer at the latter part of last year and due to the ongoing challenges we are facing here at the Manna House, we would like to invite you to join with us in prayer on the above dates. The issues before us include: the sale of the Manna House Shop building, which no doubt you will have heard about, footfall/turnover in the Shop, competition via the internet and funding for the MHCS. We are praying that the right buyer for the Shop will be found, at the right time and at the right price, also we need God to show us the right building in the right area for us to move to as we firmly believe that He wants us to maintain a strong presence on the 'high street'.

Please join us if you are able. We would value a time praying with those who have a heart for our mission so that we can clearly hear God together and move forward into all he has for us. We would appreciate your fellowship and look forward to seeing you, if possible, on Monday 2nd February 2015 at 7.30pm til 9.00pm at the Manna House Bookshop.

We have scheduled a second prayer daytime event for Wednesday 4th March at 12.30pm til 2.30pm and this will be held in the Training Room of No 73 St Giles St, our counselling centre. We anticipate that other times will be arranged over the next few months as well.

Val Nightingale, Manna House Staff. For details email john@mannahouse.org.uk

Christian House Sitters (Part of the UK Registered Charity TLC Children's Trust Charity number 1156786).
This is the time of year when members of your congregation are no doubt starting to plan their holidays. If any of your congregation are interested in having a Christian look after their home and animals while they are on holiday I am sure we can help find the right person.

Our service will not cost them anything. It is FREE to house owners.
Home Owners who want to take a holiday and need someone to look after their home and/or pets can register as House Owners and then enjoy their time away knowing that their home and animals are well cared for by another Christian without having to pay house or pet carer fees.

Christians who need a break can also register as House Sitters and enjoy a rent-free holiday while house sitting in different countries around the world with no accommodation costs. With the present world financial problems this can provide a much needed rent-free holiday.
(This is NOT a business but a Ministry. 100% of all income goes to support a Christian Children's Home in Kenya (TLC)
Full details can be found on http://www.Christian-Housesitters.com
LOCAL OFFER

Kathy Forsdyke who is the Information and Business Support Team Manager of the Local Offer scheme run by the Education and Health Care Team, Children, Families & Education of Northamptonshire County Council has sent the following links which should be of interest to Churches who provide experience or activities for children and young people age 0 – 25 with disabilities or special educational needs.

The Local Offer can be found at www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/localoffer

There is also a form to complete if you wish your organisations details to be included. There is no charge.

Contact Kathy email is KForsdyke@northamptonshire.gov.uk

WHY PEOPLE USE FOOD BANKS

Gaps in the social security safety net are a key reason why people are turning to food banks, according to the first in-depth study into the personal experiences of recipients of emergency food aid in the UK.

Emergency Use Only report, jointly commissioned by Oxfam, Child Poverty Action Group, the Church of England and the Trussell Trust. The report interviewed 40 users at seven Trussell Trust food banks across the country to try to shed light on the factors that are driving food bank use in the UK.

These interviews were backed up by additional data collected from more than 900 recipients at three Trussell Trust food banks and an analysis of the cases of 178 clients accessing an advice service at one food bank.

The Government, which says there is no link between its welfare reforms and increased food bank use, said the report was inconclusive. It pointed out it spends £94bn a year in working age benefits.

Emergency Use Only Understanding and reducing the use of food banks in the UK

Free Bible Images

FreeBibleImages is a website where you can download free sets of Bible story images for teaching use in PowerPoint, PDF, Keynote or JPEG formats. In addition to the Bible story photos and illustrations, they now have two great sets of Old Testament maps and New Testament maps of Israel to download - contributed by Biblos.com (also known as Bible Hub).

WHAT ARE THE RULES ABOUT SERVING FOOD AT EVENTS?

Lots of folks who run community events worry about whether or not they’re allowed to serve food at community events. Do you need a license? Are there health and safety issues you need to be aware of?

 Turns out, the rules are not as complicated as you might think. This guide has advice for providing food in a village hall or other community setting for volunteers and charity groups and should separate the fact from the fiction.

Visit the Food Standards Agency website and look up Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2015 Update

In 2015 a new SORP will be issued, which will be effective for accounting periods on or after 1 January 2015. Charities with income of £250K or more will need to prepare their accounts using the new SORP. We recommend that you visit the SORP website where a full copy of the SORPs, together with help sheets and examples, can be found. The Charity Commission website also outlines more comprehensive information and answers most of the frequently asked questions.

The Essential Trustee

The Charity Commission has launched a consultation on an updated draft of its guide to trustees’ duties, ‘The essential trustee’. Details and further information on the consultation can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-essential-trustee-cc3-new-verion
**Sustainable Funding**
This course will guide participants through the range of funding opportunities that are open to them, encourage them to diversify their income streams, think ahead and reduce reliance on a single source of funding or grants.

**Northampton:**
12th February 15, 9.30-12pm
At the Doddridge Centre, Northampton
to book contact
Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire
15 St Giles Street, Northampton, NN1 1JA
contact@voluntaryimpact.org.uk or phone 01604 637522

**MONITORING AND EVALUATION**
This course will encourage participants to think about monitoring and evaluation as part of their project rather than as an add on at the end. We will look at different methods of collecting data and help participants put together a simple plan to evaluate their project.

**Northampton:**
25th February 15, 9.30-12pm
At the Doddridge Centre, Northampton
to book contact
Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire
15 St Giles Street, Northampton, NN1 1JA
contact@voluntaryimpact.org.uk or phone 01604 637522

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**WRITING FUNDING APPLICATIONS**
This training course will guide participants through the basics of applying for small grants. It will highlight some of the things that funders are looking for in a good application and also look at some of the common mistakes that people make.

**Northampton:**
3rd February 15, 9.30-12.00pm
At the Doddridge Centre, Northampton

To book contact:
Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire
15 St Giles Street, Northampton, NN1 1JA

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**JOBS AND VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES**

**COMMUNITY Engagement Officer - livability**

**Salary** £30k per annum  
**Location** City of London, London, Greater London  
**Job Type** Permanent  
**Category** Christian  
**Sectors:** Disability  
**Job Reference:**

**Job Description**
‘You’ll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community livable again’  
(Isaiah 58:12, The Message Translation)

Are you a self-motivated, organized and passionate person looking to bring your skills into a dynamic Christian charity context?

Are you able to bring focus and consistency to a creative and busy team?

At Livability, previously the Shaftesbury Society and John Grooms, we have a big vision for a transformed society where disabled and disadvantaged people can live life to the full. Since 1844, driven by our Christian ethos we’ve been campaigning, training and pioneering projects & services to help improve the wellbeing and social inclusion of individuals and communities. We now have an exciting new opportunity for a Community Engagement Coordinator who will resource and support our Community Engagement team to create deeper and lasting social impact through working in partnership with the church across the UK.

Committed to living out your Christian faith you’re an exceptional organizer with proven project management and communication skills.

It is an occupational requirement within the meaning of paragraph 3 of Schedule 9 to the Equality Act 2010 that the post holder be a practicing Christian.

For an application pack please visit our website.

Closing date for completed applications: Friday 6th February 2015  
Interviews in Central London: Friday 13th February 2015
Volunteer Administrator required
The Northampton Independent Advisory Group is looking to recruit a volunteer Administrator. If you would be interested in taking minutes and have a spare couple of hours every other month, please read further details here http://www.northantspcc.org.uk/#!/Volunteer/24184
You will be reimbursed £15 per meeting.

INTER-FAITH

First Aid Training

Nayc, Acuk, King’s Park

THE KING’S PARK CONFERENCE CENTRE IN MOULTON PARK, NORTHAMPTON HAVE THE FOLLOWING JOB VACANCIES AVAILABLE:

VACANCY FOR A QUALIFIED CHEF
The hours of work will be 37.5 hours per week

VACANCY FOR A CATERING MANAGER
The hours of work will be 37.5 hours per week

VACANCY FOR A SALES & ENQUIRIES ADMINISTRATOR
The hours of work will be 30 hours per week

To obtain further information on any of these positions and for an application pack, please contact Shaheen Sheikh, HR Manager: 01604 797911/ shaheen@actioncentres.co.uk
Closing Date for all vacancies: Friday 6th February 2015

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