



**Efreeko.co.uk** is a new national website which enables people to GIVE anything they want to anyone, anywhere in the UK. It's free to register, free to use and everything on the site is FREE. A partnership with Kwik Express Couriers enables easy collection and delivery of large or heavy items if necessary.

**Freecycle** [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org) is a similar organisation which exists across the world. It currently has 6 local groups in Gloucestershire.

**Lionhearts** is a fresh UK initiative designed to encourage, inspire and unite Christian men. Lionhearts, which is an independent Christian charity, does this by providing opportunities for men of all ages to attend residential weekends together for teaching small group discussion, reflection and outdoor activities. For more information, go to [www.lionhearts.org.uk](http://www.lionhearts.org.uk) or contact Nick Gainsford [info@lionhearts.org.uk](mailto:info@lionhearts.org.uk) 07802 487968

**Sabeel** is an ecumenical grassroots liberation theology movement which explores the meaning of the gospel in the Palestinian situation. **Friends of Sabeel UK** has recently moved to 8 Silver Street, Dursley GL11 4ND Contact the coordinator, Jennifer Oldershaw on 01453 544655 [fosuk@fish.co.uk](mailto:fosuk@fish.co.uk) [www.sabeel.org.uk](http://www.sabeel.org.uk)

**HOPE 2008** is an initiative which encourages churches in the UK to work together, uniting in prayer, outreach and community action to help transform their neighbourhoods. **Do more, do it together, do it in word and action.** For more information, go to [www.hope08.com](http://www.hope08.com) or write to Hope 2008, Unit 4, Fairway Business Park, Westergate Road, Brighton BN2 4JZ 01273 571939

**The Fellowship of Reconciliation** began as a response to the challenge of the First World War. While opposing war and militarism, it strives to promote those things which make for peace and justice, and to build a world order based on love. FoR produces a biannual magazine, *Peace by Peace* and a monthly email news. For more details, contact the Fellowship of Reconciliation, St. James' Church Centre, Beauchamp Lane, Oxford OX4 3LF 01865 748796 [www.for.org.uk](http://www.for.org.uk)

The '**Joint Public Issues Team**' is a new instrument of the Baptist Union, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church. Working together to promote Christian engagement with political issues, it provides resources and support for local people, to campaign and respond to Government consultations. [www.jointpublicissues.org.uk](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk)

January 2008 marks the centenary of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It may come as a surprise to some that there is a local link in Gloucestershire to the beginnings of the Week of Prayer through Revd. Spencer Jones who was the Rector of Batsford with Moreton-in-Marsh from 1887-1932. There was little talk of Christian Unity in England at the time Spencer Jones was ordained, and the relationship between the Christian denominations was often one of rivalry and hostility. Quite against the spirit of those days, Spencer Jones came to the conclusion that even if Christianity was divided into several denominations, this was not how it should be because the Church Jesus founded is meant to be one body. Spencer Jones developed his ideas into a book which was read by Paul Wattson a priest of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the USA and the two men corresponded for some years. Spencer Jones began to advocate a world-wide period of prayer for Unity and Paul Wattson suggested the dates. These were from 18 January (at that time a Roman Catholic feast in honour of St. Peter) to 25 January (kept in both the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches as a feast commemorating the Conversion of St. Paul). The first week of prayer was kept by Spencer Jones in Moreton-in-March and Paul Wattson in Graymoor, New York State, USA in 2008. The idea of holding this annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was slow to catch on but towards the end of Spencer Jones' life a French priest, Paul Couturier read the French edition of his book. After the Second World War, when unity in the world seemed much more important, Fr. Paul Couturier spread the idea all over the world. He is often credited with being the founder of the Week of Prayer but it began with Spencer Jones in Gloucestershire.

Our concept of Christian unity has moved away from the original vision of the originators of the Week of Prayer who propounded the idea that if the Church was to become One again, each Church must return to its parent body. Thus members of the Salvation Army would return to the Methodist Church, Methodists would return to the Church of England and the Church of England would return to the Roman Catholic Church. Today, we are much more appreciative of the contribution which each Christian tradition brings to our shared understanding of God.. However, like Jones and Wattson we continue to pray with Jesus that His followers may be one, that the world might believe. (John 17: 20-21)

There is to be a national celebration of the Centenary of the Week of Prayer at Westminster Abbey on Friday, 18 January next year using the theme "Pray without ceasing". On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 6.00 p.m. there will be a service at Gloucester Cathedral marking the anniversary. The preacher for this occasion will be Revd. Flora Winfield, International Secretary at Churches Together in Britain and Ireland who was the first County Ecumenical Officer for Gloucestershire. All are welcome. More details will be available in the autumn.

Alison Evans (County Ecumenical Officer)

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## FUTURE EVENTS.....

9 September **Racial Justice Sunday** *A World on the Move* Resource packs available from CTBI Publications, 4 John Wesley Road, Peterborough PE4 6ZP 01733 325002 [sales@mph.org.uk](mailto:sales@mph.org.uk) Cost £3.50 See also [www.ctbi.org.uk](http://www.ctbi.org.uk)

Tuesday, 11 September 7.45 p.m. **Severn Forum Lecture** *“Ethics and apocalyptic: the impact of global warming”* Revd. Prof. Tim Gorringe, Department of Theology, University of Exeter. Main Lecture Theatre, Park Campus, University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham

Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 September **“Cut the Carbon”** Christian Aid’s first ever mass march for climate justice passes through Gloucestershire. 10 core marchers will walk the whole route starting in Northern Ireland on 14 July and finishing in central London on 2 October. Come and support the marchers at events in the local area. For more information, contact Nigel Quarrell at the Christian Aid South West Area Office 01454 415923 [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

Saturday, 15 September 10 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Spirituality Network Cathedral *Day Christian Saints and Heroes of Gloucestershire. A Day of Discovery and Reflection* led by Bishop Michael Perham. Gloucester Cathedral. Cost £8.00 To register, contact Mrs. Nicola Osborne, St. Catherine’s Vicarage, 29 Denmark Road, Gloucester GL1 3JQ 01452 524497. Bring a packed lunch.

Thursday, 27 September 7.30 p.m. at Bath Abbey. **The Third Severn Forum-Sarum Lecture** Professor Christopher Rowland: *William Blake Prophet of Public Theology: 250 years on*. Tickets (£5.00) available at the door or from Bath Abbey Book Shop (01225 303327) or from Sarum College, 19 The Close, Salisbury SP1 2EE 01722 424800 [www.sarum.ac.uk](http://www.sarum.ac.uk)

**Annual Baby Loss Services 2007 – “So Dearly Loved, So Briefly Known”** An opportunity for space and reflection to remember those babies who have died at any time from conception to the early stages of life. Open to anyone who has been affected by the loss of a baby. 7 p.m. Friday, 28 September, The Chapel, Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, Great Western Road, Gloucester GL1 3NN; 7 p.m. Friday, 5 October, St. Luke’s Church, College Road, Cheltenham GL53 7HX For further details, contact the chaplains 08454 22 6200/4286, the bereavement support midwife at GRH 08454 22 5526 or Sr. Sue Williams at CGH 08454 22 2312

**A Course in Youth Ministry**. 6 October, 3 & 17 November, 8 December 9.45 a.m. – 3.45 p.m. Four interactive Saturdays in partnership with the Church of England Diocese of Gloucester, Cheltenham Youth For Christ and Gloucester Youth For

Christ to be held at Redcliffe College, Gloucester. Led by experienced youth leaders, the course aims to provide a broad introduction to working with young people, including the practice of youth work and how to understand young people and the local community for effective mission. The course can be used to receive an accredited qualification in youth work. Cost: £20 per day or £65 for all four days if booked in advance. Cost of lunch: £3.00. For more information, contact Steve Bullock, Gloucester Diocesan Youth Officer, 4 College Green, Gloucester GL1 2LR 01452 410022x245 [sbullock@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:sbullock@glosdioc.org.uk) or go to [www.4-sight.info](http://www.4-sight.info) To book, contact Jo Butler, Redcliffe College, Wotton House, Horton Road, Gloucester GL1 3PT 01452 308097 [admin@redcliffe.org](mailto:admin@redcliffe.org)

Thursday, 11 October 10 a.m. for 10.30 finishing with Mass at 3.30 p.m. **An Ignatian Day** with members of the Christian Life Community from Gloucester and Fr. Tony Nye S.J. at the Monastery of Our Lady and St. Bernard, Brownhill, nr. Stroud. Bring food to share, drinks provided. All welcome. Suggested offering for the day £10. For more information, contact Jayne Harris, 20 The Oaks, Abbeymead, Gloucester GL4 5WP 01452 616331

Saturday, 13 October 10 a.m. – 3.00 p.m. Wesley College, Bristol **“The Grace given You in Christ”** A Day studying the Report of the International Dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and the World Methodist Church – a practical document with which to explore our ecumenical journey together. Speakers: Bishop Declan Lang, Revd. Ward Jones, David Carter (CEO Bristol), Revd. Michael Robertson (Ecumenical Officer, Diocese of Clifton). Cost £10 including lunch and drinks. Details from Anne Doyle 01225 707486 [anne.doyle@btinternet.com](mailto:anne.doyle@btinternet.com)

Tuesday, 16 October 7.30 p.m. Christchurch, Abbeydale, Gloucester **Gloucestershire Churches Together Forum Meeting** *Caring for the Environment: A Christian Perspective* Speakers: Mary Colwell (producer BBC Natural History Department), Revd. Rob Crofton and panel. For more information, contact Alison Evans (details above).

Thursday, 18 October 7.45 p.m. Severn Forum: The Roy Niblett Lecture **“Western diplomacy and the Arab world: a personal view”** Lord Patrick Wright *Formerly Permanent Under-Secretary, Foreign Office and Head of the Diplomatic Service* Main Lecture Theatre, Park Campus, University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham.

Saturday, 24 November 10 a.m. – 3.00 p.m. **Spirituality Network for Gloucestershire day** *Spirituality and Social Justice* led by Revd. Canon Adrian Slade at Sacred Hearts Church Hall, Moorend Road, Charlton Kings. Tickets £6.00 from Revd. Pauline Green, The Old House, Parks Farm, Old Sodbury, BS37 6PX 01454 311936 (Booking opens 1 September). Bring a packed lunch and a Bible.