



In the summer when I was on holiday with my family in the Burgundy region of France, we passed a road sign to the village of Taizé. Little did I know that Taizé would soon be in the national and international news because of the tragic death of Roger Schutz, the founder of the Taizé community.

Many of us are familiar with the music of Taizé but from the beginning Taizé was intended as a “parable of community”, a living sign of the gospel call to reconciliation. Today, the community is made up of over one hundred brothers, Catholics and from various Protestant backgrounds coming from more than twenty-five nations. Taizé is thus a concrete sign of reconciliation between divided Christians and separated peoples, fulfilling in microcosm Brother Roger’s dream of the Church as a leaven of peace and community in the entire human family.

Today, the divisions in the world are very different from those which confronted Brother Roger and his early companions in post-war Europe. The Church has also changed in that time. Divisions exist but in this country are less about denomination or tradition than about theology, ethics and worship style. Still, however, the gospel call to reconciliation resonates and although none of us can solve by ourselves all the theological and other problems which have separated Christians throughout the centuries, like the Taizé brothers we can work for Christian unity at local level so that our divisions no longer veil the face of God for so many people who are thirsting for his love in their lives.

On Friday, 14 October at 7 p.m. there is to be a **Thanksgiving Service for the life of Brother Roger** at Westminster Cathedral, Victoria Street, London. For details, contact Churches Together in England, 27 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HH 020 7529 8131 mark.fisher@cte.org.uk

Alison Evans – County Ecumenical Officer

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NEWS.....

WELCOME to the ministers and clergy newly working in LEPs in the county

Revd. Stuart Drummond (URC) - Cirencester Ashcroft Church and South Cerney United Church

Revd. Kevin Hennessey (Roman Catholic) – Churchdown & Innsworth

Revd. John James (Methodist) - Trinity Ecumenical Partnership, Stroud

Revd. John Leach (Methodist) – Churchdown & Innsworth

Revd. Elaine Rawlings (Methodist) - Bishop’s Cleeve Ecumenical Parish

Revd. Jonathan Perkin (Anglican)- Churchdown & Innsworth

Pastor Richard Pidgeley (Assemblies of God) - Coleford

Revd. Simon Richards (Anglican) – Oakridge

Revd. John Wren (Methodist) - St. Michael’s, Cheltenham

FUTURE DATES.....

Tuesday, 27 September 7.30 p.m. Gloucester Salvation Army Songsters **Concert in aid of the Bible Society**: Brunswick Baptist Church, Southgate, Gloucester

Sunday, 2 October 6 p.m. Gloucester Cathedral; **Service of Celebration of Local Ecumenism in Gloucestershire**. Preacher; Revd. A. Ward Jones. For more information, contact Revd. Robert Simpson 01452 422349

Saturday, 8 October 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. **Vision into Reality; Developing Churches, Communities and Projects** “an inspirational conference for ideas and practical help to develop your vision and activity” Salvation Army Church and Community Centre, Coventry. For details, contact DDT, 1 Hill Top, Coventry CV1 5AB 024 7652 1306 e-mail janet.sewell@colvec.org

Sunday, 9 October 6.30 p.m. the Salvation Army will be hosting a **Charity Concert in aid of the Gloucestershire Multiple Sclerosis Information and Therapy Centre** at Gloucester Salvation Army, Eastgate Street, Gloucester. Free Entry. Donations to the work of the Centre welcome.

Friday, 14 October 7.30 p.m. ***The Pope and the Iceberg: An illustrated lecture by Mary Colwell, Producer BBC Natural History Unit*** Clifton Cathedral, Bristol. For more details go to www.cliftondiocese.com

Thursday, 20 October ***Stronger Together, Weaker Apart***. National Summit for Black & Minority Ethnic Church Leaders, London. For details Tel. 020 7529 8132 e-mail edith.steele@cte.org.uk

Saturday, 29 October 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. **Gloucestershire Churches Sustainability Forum *Earth Care Day*** at Gloucester Cathedral: Keynote speaker, Bishop John Oliver. Adults and children welcome. Tickets £12 family; £6 single. Details from 01242 253162 or 01452 523906

Saturday, 29 October the Salvation Army, Gloucester will be holding an **Autumn Fayre and Ploughman’s Lunch**. For more information, please contact Major Paul Doust on 01452 311332 or e-mail office@gloucestersalvationarmy.org.uk

Thursday, 3 November 7.45 p.m. **Severn Forum: The inaugural Roy Niblett Lecture; Mrs. Jane Williams “Fleshing Out the Incarnation”** Main Lecture Theatre, The Park Campus, University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham

Saturday, 5 November 9.30 – 4 p.m. **Sarum College in collaboration with the Living Spirituality Network: *The Spirituality Revolution?*** A Day Conference led by Eley McAinsh at Sarum College, Salisbury Cost £35, including lunch. To book, please contact the Hospitality Team, Sarum College, 19 The Close, Salisbury SP1 2EE 01722 424800 hospitality@sarum.ac.uk

Tuesday, 8 November 11.45 a.m. – 3.30 p.m. **“Great Minds Think Alike?” *What Way Forward for the Ecumenical Movement in the 21st Century?*** Friends of Bossey UK

Network Seminar to be held at the offices of CTE, 27 Tavistock Square, London WC1. Speakers: Revd. Dr. Alan Falconer, Revd. Dr. Ioan Sauca, Revd. Bill Snelson. Cost £12 (including lunch). To book, contact Canon Roger Spiller, I Hill Top, Coventry CV1 5AB 024 7652 1200 RogerSpiller@btinternet.com

Saturday, 12 November 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. **Spirituality Network for Gloucestershire Day A *Longing for Peace; A Vision for Peace*** Speakers: Fr. Patrick McLoughlan (Corrymeela Community) & Revd. Jenny Barbour at St. Mary de Lode, Gloucester. Cost £5. Tickets from Alison Evans (address overleaf)

November 11-13 **Friends of Sabeel (UK) Conference** at High Leigh, Hertfordshire; ***What is Truth? The Church, Israel and Palestine.*** Cost £165. Information etc. from Bridget Rees, 5 Lingcrag Gardens, Cowling, Keighley BD22 0AN 01535 636108 BridgetRees@compuserve.com

Wednesday, 23 November 7.15 p.m. – 9.15 p.m. University of Gloucestershire, Francis Close Hall, Cheltenham; **Preaching the Gospel: An Evening Forum on Preaching the Apostle Paul.** Speaker: Professor Andrew Lincoln. Tickets £5. For booking and details contact Patricia Downes 01242 532747

RESOURCES.....

The **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** theme for 2006 is “*Where two or three are gathered in my name*”. Chosen by the Churches of Ireland, they wish to share the themes of unity in Christ and reconciliation, which in their experience happen crucially in small groups. Resource material is available from CTBI Publications, 4 John Wesley Road, Werrington, Peterborough PE4 6ZP 01733 325002 sales@mph.org.uk or at www.ctbi.org.uk

Easter People in a Good Friday World – the ecumenical Lent Course for 2006 takes as its theme the issues surrounding violence in the Passion narrative. It consists of five sessions; looking at anger, violence, non-violence, restorative justice, forgiveness and reconciliation accompanied by contemporary stories of overcoming violence, in parallel with the biblical account of the passion of Christ. Price £3.99, available from CTBI publications. *Details as above.*

ON THE WEB.....

Look out for the new **Gloucestershire Churches Together website** www.gloucestershirechurchestogether.co.uk

Gloucestershire Fairtrade Network is at www.fairtradenetwork.com and any news or information on fairtrade locally is welcome. Contact Nigel Graham, 19 Dormer Road, Cheltenham GL51 0AX 01242 242617 Ng@fish.co.uk

A new site passing on news and information of interest to Christians of all denominations is www.thegoodnews.co.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN 2006.....

- January 18-25 **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** www.ctbi.org.uk
26 **Holocaust Memorial Day** www.holocaustmemorialday.gov.uk
27 - 29 **Weekend of Services for World Peace and Disarmament**
www.world-disarm.org.uk
29 **World Leprosy Sunday** www.leprosymission.org.uk
29 **Homelessness Sunday** www.homelessness-sunday.org.uk
February 7 - 14 **National Marriage Week** www.nmw.org.uk
12 **Education Sunday** education@cte.org.uk
www.christian-teachers.org.uk www.natsoc.org.uk
26 **Poverty Action Sunday** www.church-poverty.org.uk
March 3 **Women's World Day of Prayer** www.wwdp-natcomm.org
6 - 19 **Fairtrade Fortnight** www.fairtrade.org.uk
19 **Corrymeela Sunday** www.corrymeela.org