



Limehouse Link

THE CONTEXTUAL THEOLOGY CENTRE
AT THE ROYAL FOUNDATION OF ST KATHARINE
DECEMBER 2009

Biblical call for economic justice at 2000-strong citizens assembly

Crunch Time: Churches say 'no' to business as usual

2000 Londoners, many from Christian congregations, packed the Barbican Hall to call for a new relationship between people and wealth. The London Citizens assembly was the formal launch of the alliance's five-point response to the credit crunch (see box below).

Methodist, Roman Catholic and Salvation Army ministers joined a Jewish and Muslim leaders to read the call of Nehemiah Chapter 5 - demanding a new relationship between wealth and citizens. The assembly then heard testimony about the daily hardship faced by families trapped in low pay and high-interest debt.

London Citizens' call:

- **The Living Wage**
- **Cap on interest rates**
- **Statutory lending code**
 - **Re-endow local, mutual banking**
 - **Financial literacy training in schools**

Tory, Labour and LibDem treasury spokesmen promised to work with London Citizens to develop a more responsible and just economic order, with Conservative spokesman Greg Hands backing a cap on store-card interest rates.

London Mayor Boris Johnson and figures from the banking world renewed their support for



the London Living Wage—although the Corporation of London has as yet refused to sign up to its £7.60 hourly rate for all contract staff as well as all employees

Staff and interns from the Contextual Theology Centre took part in the event, its planning, and the mobilisation of turnout from its partner churches.

• On December 12th, the Centre co-sponsored a study day on the credit crunch, with John Milbank, Philip Blond and Andrew Dilnot. There were contributions from CTC Director Angus Ritchie and two of the Centre's Fellows—Dr Luke Bretherton (King's College London), who chaired the Assembly, and Dr Maurice Glasman (London Metropolitan University), who formally proposed the interest rate cap. *Report & podcast will be posted at www.theology-centre.org*



CitySafe Campaign

Mayor makes City Hall the 200th haven

CTC's summer internship programme has borne fruit in dozens of new CitySafe havens—shops and other public buildings that have signed up to London Citizen's campaign for safe spaces for young people in danger.

Students from Oxford and East London Universities worked in CTC's partner churches as part of the wider campaign—which celebrated a significant milestone last month as Mayor Johnson signed up City Hall as London's 200th haven.

Assembly photos from www.chrisjepson.com

Coming up...

Events are free of charge unless otherwise stated—but please book on 020 7780 1600 or at admin@theology-centre.org.

Thu 21 Jan, 7.30 to 9pm

Christian Unity— for a change at St Paul's, Shadwell The Highway, E1

Hear the Revd **Ric Thorpe** (St Paul's Anglican Church, Shadwell), Capt **Nick Coke** (Stepney Salvation Army), Sister **Una McCreesh** (Urusline Sister) and Pastor **Wayne Brown** (NT Church of God) speak about the impact of community organising on their congregations and communities.

Tue 2 Mar, 9.30am to 1pm

Lent Quiet Day at the Centre

A morning of prayer and reflection by Sr **Josephine Canny** OA, Chaplain to the Jellicoe Community. *This event, and the lunch which follows at 1pm, are free of charge for Christian leaders in London Citizens.*

Regular events...

Third Tuesday of each month, 11am to 1pm Gospel Reflection at the Centre

Reading the coming month's Gospel readings in the East London context. The group produces a regular *Gospel for Today* leaflet for congregational use. Contact admin@theology-centre.org to join the e-mailing list.

Alternate Mondays in full term, times vary

Jellicoe Seminars on Community Organising at Magdalen College, Oxford

These seminars, convened by CTC Director the Revd **Angus Ritchie** and Senior Fellow Prof **Vincent Rougeau**, enable students to link Jellicoe Internships with their studies in Theology, History, Law, Politics and Philosophy. *Details will be posted at www.theology-centre.org*

News Roundup

Archbishop calls for 'Real Politics'

Addressing CTC's June study day, the Archbishop of Canterbury issued a call for a 'campaign for real politics'. The day included presentations by CTC Fellows on Christian witness in multi-faith contexts and responses from congregational leaders.



Reflecting on their testimony, and a political climate shaken by the credit crunch and expenses scandals, Dr **Rowan Williams** called for a return to a view of government that was both 'robust' and yet 'quite modest'.

He said it would be robust in that "it would grant that ... a society had to make some moral options about how it treated the disadvantaged, the outsider or refugee" but modest because "we would be saying, 'The point of government is not to make us either happy or good; the point of government is to balance where there is imbalance, to broker interests so that nobody grabs too much, to listen intelligently and patiently to different concerns and interests in a society, and weave those together in the most constructive way possible.'"

New grants, new faces

CTC has received two substantial new grants—one for its local work in East London from the **Henry Smith**

Charity and another for the wider dissemination of its learning from the **Jerusalem Trust**. The grants have enabled the Centre to appoint Ian Vijay Bhullar as its Manager, and to expand its programme of student internships. The Centre has also appointed Sr **Josephine Canny** OA as Chaplain to its student community and the Revd **Adam Atkinson** as its Senior Tutor. Adam is Curate at St Paul's, Shadwell, and his past experience includes running the internship programme at Holy Trinity Church, Brompton.

Oxford mission

Fourth week (7-13 February) is traditionally the week of the triennial Chaplains' Mission to Oxford University. This year, CTC is playing a key role, with a series of events under the banner of **Crunch Time: Faith, Money and Politics**. The Bishop of Oxford will begin the week of activities, launching a new video on CTC's internship programme (the 'Jellicoe Community'). Full details of the programme, venues and timings will be on the community blog—see below.

Two new CTC blogs...

jellicoecommunity.blogspot.com has news from CTC's community of interns, who are drawn from the Universities of Oxford, East London and Notre Dame.

londonpen.blogspot.com provides news from the Greater London Presence and Engagement Network (PEN) - a project of the Centre which was launched by Archbishop Rowan in June, and equips Anglican congregations for ministry and mission in multi-faith contexts.