



In Rotherham

Linking our Lord with the Locality

Contact: Ted Ring (Secretary, Churches Together in Rotherham)

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YES, WE HAVE ANOTHER MONTH WITH TWO NEWS BULLETINS FROM CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ROTHERHAM!

It seems there is so much happening in the Rotherham area for Christians that we are again having to put together a second issue of CTR News in a month. I know I invited people to submit items in such time that we could manage with one issue per month, but that looks as if this is not always going to happen. I will do my best to accommodate people’s requests, but if your item is overlooked, rest assured it will not be a deliberate decision by me. Part 2 this month contains more pages than Part 1 --- but please don’t expect that to happen every month!

Best wishes

Ted Ring (Secretary)

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A Message from Erica Dunmow of CTSY, who writes as follows:

Dear Friends,

This feels like an exciting time for many of the Together and Gather Groups across the county and England in general, with a wider range of church traditions getting together in different ways for mission than ever before.

At various points I've had conversations with you all (from Christians Together in Barnsley, City Vision Rotherham and Churches Together in Rotherham, Mission Doncaster and emPower Sheffield) about how to best involve as wide a spread of Christian pastors as possible in the various groups that are focussed on mission in the four towns of South Yorkshire.

In those conversations, you all were finding similar issues about creating a welcome for Christians of different traditions - things like relational /friendship networks vs formal structures, the difficulty of keeping momentum going over time and the balance of prayer vs conversation vs business etc. These are all issues that face me in my work too, and I found the conversations really helpful and learnt from you all in what you're doing.

So I'm offering to set up a **roundtable meeting** over afternoon tea (2.30-4.00pm) at **The Ibis Rotherham East**, MOORHEAD WAY, BRAMLEY, ROTHERHAM, S66 1YY (It's just off A630 Bawtry Rd out of Rotherham, very near to J1 of M18, so reasonably easy for us all to reach).

The **purpose** would be to meet each other if we've not already done so, and to share a little about how our groups work and how we've tried to keep an open forum in our different groups, and see where that takes us.

Also, Musa and Nike are looking to get a broad-based prayer/relational network going again in Sheffield and provide a mission focus that's been lacking in the last few years in the city, (I've been supporting that) and it would be great to learn from those who've been doing it longer!

Emma, who does some meeting support administration for CTSY, will be contacting you with a Doodle poll when she's back from her holiday after 15th May to set up a date for late May, early June.

I look forward to meeting with you all soon.

All good wishes and prayers in the meanwhile,

Erica

*Erica Dunmow
Ecumenical Mission and Development Officer
Churches Together in South Yorkshire
c/o The Montgomery, Surrey Street, Sheffield, S1 2LG*

Here is the reply sent to Erica by Adrian Dexter, the inspiration behind City Vision. Adrian is the pastor of Liberty Church in Rotherham.

Hi Erica!

This initiative sounds great and I am fully behind it.

I believe there is an increasing sense that The Lord is looking with favour upon South Yorkshire with signs of growth everywhere across the denominational spectrum.

Three things are on my heart for South Yorkshire:

- * **Unity**
- * **United prayer**
- * **United mission**

Genuine friendships among ministers is vital if we are going to see the spiritual climate continue to change for the better. Let me know the dates you are proposing and I will try and get as many Rotherham ministers to the event as possible.

Just for your information we are having a **United Mission** in *Clifton Park* in *Rotherham*, with a large marquee, **from July 22 to July 26**. We already have ten churches signed up to support this event.

We are continuing our united monthly half-nights of prayer on *Friday 16 May* from 8.00 pm until midnight, as well as a monthly ministers' prayer lunch.

One thing on my heart is that I would like to see the churches of South Yorkshire work together in a special football stadium mission with Daniel Kolenda from CFAN in 2017.

With every blessing from Adrian ---- "Together we are stronger"

Coming to Sheffield - A Special Night out for all Mums

An evening of encouragement, insight and inspiration for all mums. Give yourself the night off – join **Diane Louise Jordan** and **Cathy Madavan** at *Care for the Family's Mum's the Word* event for a fun and insightful evening designed especially for mums.

Mothers are so often unsung heroes, and this special evening is about recognising and affirming their role in society.

But that's not all! We also hope to bring encouragement, support and fresh inspiration to mums with children of all ages.

Where and When? **Sheffield – 4th June 2014**

All events are from 7.30-10pm

Come early for a cuppa from 6.45 to 7.15pm

For more information log on to: www.careforthefamily.org.uk/events

To book call 02920 810 800

OPEN CHURCH AT TALBOT LANE METHODIST CHURCH

opposite Rotherham Town Hall

Monday 16th June 10am – 12 noon

The church will be open for you to come in and look around
and discover the beauty of the building.

While there, you can enjoy a bacon butty, cakes, scones, tea or coffee.



Did you know that every time there is a Bank Holiday Monday there is an *open invitation* to a Coffee Morning at Talbot Lane Methodist Church from 10.00 am to Noon? Sometimes there is also an organ recital on the church's original 1904 Harrison and Harrison Organ; or there may be other musical entertainment arranged, prior to an optional soup and roll lunch.

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CaSS Conference on Saturday June 7th

In support of my successor, *Fiona Walton*, I want to send you information about the forthcoming CaSS Conference on Saturday June 7th.

It looks to be an excellent day and suitable for children’s and youth workers, church leaders, parents, church members involved in schools or interested in becoming involved, or indeed anyone else!

Linda Chambers
(Retired CaSS Worker)

TAKING LIGHT INTO SCHOOLS

Nick Harding

Diocesan Children’s Advisor, parent, magistrate, Spring Harvest speaker and writer. Former teacher and schools worker. A passionate, amusing and encouraging speaker with a wealth of experience.

Saturday 7 June 2014

9.15am (coffee) 9.45am (start) - 3pm

- + choose 3 workshops - wide variety of subjects
 - + hear some Sheffield short stories/testimonies
 - + browse a marketplace of resources
 - + experience a prayer space
 - + connect with others over lunch (provided)
 - + take the opportunity to ask questions
- “Excellent” “Full of encouragement” “Inspirational” (2013 delegates)

Booking essential, information & programme of workshops at www.cass-su.org.uk

Wilson Carlile Centre, 50 Cavendish St, Sheffield S3 7RZ

To reserve your place at the conference:

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Book online (Eventbrite) £21.85. Go to www.cass-su.org.uk for link;

•
Or complete the booking form (additional forms available at www.cass-su.org.uk) below in block capitals. Enclose a **cheque for £22** payable to Christians and Sheffield Schools. Return to CaSS, 291 Abbeydale Road, Sheffield, S7 1FJ. Confirmation of place will be sent by email.

The £22 fee includes:

•
‘**SHINE** – taking light into schools’ - keynote speech by **Nick Harding**;

•
A choice of 3 workshops from the conference programme;

•
An opportunity to experience a Prayer Space;

•
A chance to hear some ‘Sheffield Short Stories’ from people working with schoolchildren;

•
Packed lunch and refreshments;

•
Browse the marketplace of resources;

•
Delegate pack;

•
Networking opportunities.

Closing date for receipt of bookings is 24 May 2014 (subject to availability)

Full name

Address

Email

Phone

Any special dietary requirements:

Have you enclosed a cheque for £22 to 'Christians & Sheffield Schools ?

Type fiona.walton@cass-su.org.uk; or www.cass-su.org.uk

Text 07812 855 332;

Talk 0114 249 5343

Registered charity 1007305

Please note: Christians & Sheffield Schools Conference is run in order to connect, encourage and resource those serving schools. It is *not* to raise funds – we just hope to cover our costs!

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We are living in great and incredible days!

The sense of expectation and excitement across many of the churches in Rotherham is truly amazing.

"I am constantly hearing stories of growth, a renewed vibrancy and many churches reaching their capacity on Sundays, with standing room only. Some churches are going to double servicing, or are finding bigger buildings.

"What amazes me is that this is not just one church in Rotherham doing well, but it is THE CHURCH in Rotherham doing well," writes Pastor Adrian Dexter.

He adds, "Many leaders and intercessors have been meeting together to pray for all our Churches for a few years now, and whilst I accept that ***"United Prayer"*** is not the only reason why we are seeing such consistent *across the board* growth, I do believe it is a significant part of what God is doing to change the spiritual climate so that there may be a great openness to the Gospel.

"A few years ago God gave me a commission and a mandate: ***'gather those who have heard the call, to pray for a revival in the Church and an awakening in the Nation'***.

"We are praying that a ***"rising tide will lift all boats"*** and we are going to continue to push through in United Prayer until we see the fullness of what God is wanting to do in *darkest Rotherham*.

"We are continuing our monthly united prayer events on the ***'-teenth Friday of every month'*** starting at LIBERTY Church, S60 1JH from 8.00pm until late. The next event is on the ***sixteenth*** of May (On the ***seventeenth*** of October we are running a 24-hour prayer event in **Sheffield --- see the FOOTNOTE below for more information about this event. *****).

“The evening will be called **IGNITE** and will be focussed on Prayer, Worship, Intercession and Prophecy, and we will be picking up on some of the “**Harp and Bowl**” strategies from **IHOP (International House of Prayer)**

“If you would like to host an **IGNITE** evening, please let me know.

“If you cannot make it,” concludes Adrian, “please be aware that we will be battling and praying for your church to see increase and blessing in every area. Remember, there is a session on the Friday of each month when the date is anywhere between the 13th and the 19th. “

For latest details, please contact Adrian Dexter via the following:

Adrian@libertyrotherham.org

07790030899

01709 562076

***** FOOTNOTE**

We will be planning a **24-hour Prayer Initiative** in **Sheffield** from **Friday 17th October 2014 at 7.30pm through to Saturday 18th October finishing at 7.30pm**

I believe it is important that we get a good response from **Ministers and Church leaders** from **Doncaster, Barnsley, Rotherham and Sheffield**. We are therefore looking for up to **six Churches and Church leaders** from **each** South Yorkshire Town/City to carry part of the event.

We are having a planning meeting over breakfast on **Wednesday 4th June between 7.00am and 8.30am, at Liberty Church, Station Road, Rotherham, S60 1JH**

Please could you make sure that **at least one or two leaders from each town/city** can come along on that particular Wednesday to help organise and shape the event.

- **Please let me if you can or cannot make it** as we need to arrange for the caterers to provide the right amount of **bacon!**

This, again, is Adrian speaking.

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A MESSAGE FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN INTERFAITH MATTERS

The Rotherham Interfaith Group could do with a few more regular members of all faiths, and we at Churches Together in Rotherham need to intensify our commitment by turning up in larger numbers at monthly meetings. It is certainly an educational experience to be in attendance, simply because there is always much for everyone to learn about the faith of others who live in Rotherham. The atmosphere is always welcoming and cordial.

If you feel you would like to go along to sample the monthly meetings, they are usually on the third Monday at 5.00 pm. For firmer details, feel free to contact Gill Haggie via gill.haggie@gmail.com or Emma Sharp via Emma@rema-online.org.uk

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AN APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS IN THE ROTHERHAM AREA

"I work for **Independent Age**, the national support community for older people living in the UK and Ireland. We support a number of older people living in Rotherham to whom we offer a home visiting befriending service and we are currently looking for local residents who might be interested in becoming volunteers to help deliver this service. If this is something you feel you could help with I would warmly welcome hearing from you as this is a hugely important volunteer role for the charity." This is a message from ---

Andrew Nisbet
Community Engagement Manager of Independent Age

T 020 7605 4286
F 020 7605 4201

E andrew.nisbet@independentage.org

Independent Age, the national support community for older people in the UK and Ireland, is in need of new volunteer befrienders in Rotherham.

This is a role which entails making regular visits to one of the older people we support in the area, for a cup of tea and a chat and is hugely important for the people we support. Our volunteers allow people who may otherwise be lonely or isolated the chance to see a friendly, familiar face on a regular basis and we are appealing to local residents who would like to find out more to get in touch with us.

All of our volunteers receive a full induction and ongoing training. In addition, all expenses incurred are reimbursed.

To find out more about this role contact Jacoba Oldham, Area Manager for Yorkshire, on 01977 551405 or Jacoba.oldham@independentage.org

FOOTNOTE:

Readers of CTR News may well recall an article of a few weeks ago written by *Ted Ring*, Secretary of Churches Together in Rotherham and also a Rotherham Ambassador with the remit of assisting *Voluntary Action Rotherham* to persuade people of the values for *everyone* -- those who need help and those who provide it out of the kindness of their heart --- of **volunteering**. Clearly, **Independent Age** is typical of the many organisations in the country that would benefit from and fully appreciate the help of suitable volunteers. Please don't hold back on volunteering if you can possibly help this organisation or any other one. There is an excellent and easy-to-use website that can help you to find a role as a volunteer in your local community. Log on to www.do-it.org or contact Voluntary Action Rotherham's **Volunteer Centre** on 01709834464.



PARTY IN THE PARK

At **Liberty Church** in Station Road, Rotherham, we are very keen to serve and facilitate others churches who would like to participate in a united high-profile community outreach event called **Party in the Park**.

- We have been granted permission to place a large marquee in **Clifton Park** from **Monday 21st July to Saturday 26th July 2014**.

Our heart would be to provide **excellent community activities** that raise the **profile of the church in the borough**, encourage **community cohesion** and lay a foundation for a **clear presentation of the message of Christianity**.

We would like to facilitate other churches to help us run various activities including:

- Workshops : dance, drama, drum, football skills and so forth
- Children’s activities: crafts, games, sport
- Youth activities, music, drama, sports such as volleyball
- Entertainment: juggling, face-painting, stilt-walking, music, performance, X-factor drama, street dance.
- Bouncy castle, community BBQ, “Its a knockout” team games and other types of fun competition
- Testimonies and gospel messages, and worship, choirs and solo artists and prayer
- Information stalls and presentations

Please contact me to express your willingness to be involved.

With every blessing from **Adrian Dexter**: 07790030899

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NEWS FROM ANOTHER DEXTER AT LIBERTY CHURCH, but he’s not related by blood to Adrian! He’s from the United States, thus adding to the cosmopolitan and international nature of our town

“My name is **Emmanuel Dexter** and I am the **Youth Pastor** at **Liberty Church** here in Rotherham (formerly RPC). I am contacting you all because I am organizing a Youth event called **“The Pulse”** for **Friday June 6th at 8pm**.

“I know that in the past **Unite** provided a large meeting where our youth groups could come and relate to each other, but now we don't really have that. **My goal is to establish a youth event that takes place every other month where young people and youth leaders from the community can come together and grow together through encountering Jesus**.

“The event will be inspirational for the Christian youth who are already a part of a youth group or Church, and evangelistic for their unsaved friends. It is my hope and prayer that we see young people saved and ALL of our youth groups growing. That is the aim of this event. It would be so good to have you come along and bring some young people with you, if that is possible.”

NEW COURSES FOR LEADERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Jonathan Buckley of the White Rose YMCA and *Mike North*, the Youth and Children's Development Officer for the Sheffield Anglican Diocese, are starting to advertise the second intake of the '*Aurora Youth Ministry*' and '*Aurora Children's Ministry*' courses which will run from September.

Aimed at volunteer youth and children's workers in the local church, these courses are designed to meet the needs of volunteer youth and children's leaders and workers who have busy lives and no formal qualifications. It is a ten-month course run by the YMCA, Sheffield Diocese and Cliff College. It costs £200 (bursaries are available) and students can gain a Level 3 or 4 Cliff College Certificate in Youth or Children's Ministry, and a Bishops Certificate in Youth or Children's Ministry at levels 2, 3 or 4.

Anyone interested in the course can find out more information at www.auroratraining.org.uk, or by contacting jonathan.buckley@ymcawhiterose.org.uk or via his mobile on 07450 778678.

+*+*+ Before we close, let us join together in praying that the recent marriage of *Teresa and Jonathan Buckley* will be blessed with happiness and joy in the Lord. At the time these notes are being prepared Mr and Mrs Buckley are far away from these parts on honeymoon.

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*****The **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ROTHERHAM** Action Group would be pleased if you could ensure that other people in your church know about our Newsletter. Sending it on by e-mail is easy enough, and if you could arrange for just one printed copy to be pinned to your church notice-board that would be helpful.

This is especially useful in churches where the main contact person does not have access to a computer, for we send out several more items of news nowadays than was the case a few years ago. Please make sure that your church gains the best benefit from its links with **Churches Together in Rotherham**.

Thank you!

