



### Conference to explore the future of the countryside

A major conference to bring together leading thinkers on rural economies, planning, policy and mission, to explore the sustainability of rural communities and their churches.

The keynote addresses will be backed up by 20 seminars on the four themes of rural communities, economy, environment and rural church and a range of poster sessions.

Faith and the Future of the Countryside – 2010, organised by the Church of England's Mission and Public Affairs Division, will be held from 3 – 5 November 2010 at The Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire. Details and a booking form are available at [www.rural20.org](http://www.rural20.org) [katrin@rase.org.uk](mailto:katrin@rase.org.uk) or tel: 024 7685 3075.

**Religious tourism**, or 'Faith-Based Travel', seems to be surviving the recession remarkably well. You can go on Christian-themed cruises, activity holidays, conference-cum-vacations, interfaith encounters, working for projects in the developing world and many others – the variations are endless. Peter Robbins is a Lay Minister at St Stephen's, Soundwell, and is organising two Italian tours planned for 2010 – both flying from Bristol and costing around £1100.

For full information: Tel 0117 967 9576, or email: [peter\\_robbins0@talk21.com](mailto:peter_robbins0@talk21.com)



/ get in touch

Diocesan New Media Officer:  
T/ 0117 906 0100  
E/ [samc@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:samc@bristoldiocese.org)

Pictured: Archbishop Rowan Williams lends his support to the campaign, starting in London.

## A call for churches: buy a bus stop for Christmas!

**Churches across the UK are being invited to buy the advertising space on their local bus stops in the run-up to Christmas.**

The church-sponsored bus shelter would then carry a special poster of the nativity with the message 'Christmas Starts with Christ' and would be displayed over the last three weeks of December 2009.

It is hoped that a total of 2000 bus shelter ad spaces will be bought. By visiting [www.ChurchAds.net](http://www.ChurchAds.net) and entering the church postcode, churches can buy bus shelters for just £105. To accompany the bus shelter posters special radio ads have been produced and these can also be sponsored. Recent research by Theos reveals that 85% of people agree that 'Christmas should be called Christmas because we are still a Christian country'. But, research also shows that only 12% of adults know the facts of the Christmas story in any detail – the figure dropping to just 7% amongst 18-24 year olds. So, to keep Christmas focused on Christ, churches need to constantly tell the story of his birth in ways that engage

positively with the public.

Church leaders have welcomed the campaign, urging churches to participate. 'This year's atheist bus adverts backfired (for the atheists) by putting God on the public agenda and provoking people to ask if God is there. Well, Christians now have a chance to say a firm and confident 'yes – and he looks like Jesus! Christmas is his festival.'

Mike Elms, from ChurchAds.Net, said: "If churches all over the country buy 2000 bus shelters and fund 2500 airplays of the radio commercials, then the campaign would be seen or heard by around 60% of the UK population. Imagine the impact that will be created by this powerful gospel proclamation."

The website [www.ChurchAds.net](http://www.ChurchAds.net) has numerous materials to download – all free of charge – including the poster artwork and radio commercials.





## Celebrate Christingle and help children in Bristol

**Go along to your local Christingle service this year and you can help The Children's Society fund vital projects for children and young people, including the Right Track Project in Bristol.**

Last year, thousands of people came to 139 Christingle services across the area raising more than £23,000. Christ Church in Downend raised the highest amount in the diocese in 2008 with a grand total of £833. By attending your local candlelit Christingle service this year, you can light up the lives of children and young people in your community and make childhood better.

Christingle services are a fun and engaging way to bring together

families, friends and communities to celebrate the Christian story in an inspiring way. Whether you are new to Christingle or one of our regular supporters, these festive events have something for everyone. To find your nearest Christingle service, visit; [www.christingle.org](http://www.christingle.org) or call 0845 300 1128.

Local Christingle services raise money for projects like The Right Track Project (based in Easton), which helps turn around the lives of black and ethnic minority young people by helping them avoid crime, giving them positive role models and supporting parents and carers. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/ykleyxb> for more on this local project.

## Housekeeping

### Monthly Mailing:

**Cycle of Prayer: Q4 now available:**

[www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=1168](http://www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=1168)

**Bishop's letter: Leading People**

[www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=1137](http://www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=1137)

**Ecumenical Kirchentag Visit – May 2010:**

[www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=996](http://www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=996)

**Latest trip to Uganda: Daphne's Diary**

<http://tinyurl.com/bagb75>

**World AIDS Day:**

[www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=1173](http://www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=1173)

**Mustard Seed grants: <£5k for faith groups:**

[www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=1175](http://www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=1175)

**CMS Advent resources now available:**

[www.cms-uk.org/advent](http://www.cms-uk.org/advent)

**Latest Swine Flu update:**

[www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=1170](http://www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=1170)

**Blue Wave: Bristol and Swindon to London:**

[www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=1164](http://www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=1164)

**Glimpses of Heaven: Come and sing at St.**

**Michael's (incl. Video coverage):**

[www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=1160](http://www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=1160)

**Advent Talks at St Mary's, Olveston:**

[www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=1187](http://www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=1187)

### Pick of the events:

**Christian Presence and Engagement with Muslim Communities in Britain.** Wondering how to engage with your Muslim neighbours? Trinity College is offering a two-week programme with Dr Phil Lewis and other experts, from 11th January 2010, Cost: £300  
[www.trinity-bris.ac.uk](http://www.trinity-bris.ac.uk)

### From Apes or Angels?

To observe the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Charles Darwin publishing "The Origin of Species" we are holding a celebration in church, followed by refreshments and open discussion led by Dr. Julian Hector, 29th November, 4.00pm, St. Mary Walton, Clevedon.

**Sons of Korah** at Christ Church Clifton, Saturday October 31st 8.00pm, Tickets £5.00 (Students £3.00) Reserve your place: [sonsofkorah@christchurchclifton.org.uk](mailto:sonsofkorah@christchurchclifton.org.uk)

### 'Made in the image of God'

- Reflections on Human Dignity from a Children's Hospice. Speaker: Fr Mark Birch. Thurs 19th Nov, St Alban's Church, Westbury Park, Bristol BS6. 7.30pm Mass – Requiem, 8.00pm talk. Further details from: Liz Badman – [liz.badman@btinternet.com](mailto:liz.badman@btinternet.com)

### Book: Prayer and Prophecy: The Essential

**Kenneth Leech** looks at the highly topical issue of the role of faith in developing just and successful urban communities. ISBN: 13: 978 0 232 52765 0  
[www.dltbooks.com](http://www.dltbooks.com)

### Feedback!

Please take a few seconds to tell us what you think of this newsletter, please visit; <http://tinyurl.com/qrtg49>

**To get in touch with the Diocesan News, simply email [samc@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:samc@bristoldiocese.org)**