



APRIL 2016



## 3 reasons why Hillsong Church is succeeding

Theologian Dr Robert Beckford explains.....

Hillsong London is the only church I've ever been into where I felt old! It was an amazing spectacle to see 3,000 people worshipping God. 70% of them are under 25. I was participating in a worship service in a theatre with smoke and multimedia screens. It was very dynamic and very modern. There are 3 powerful ingredients to its success:

### 1) Practical preaching

The preaching is not traditional biblical homiletics with 3 points that rhyme or have the same letter at the beginning. It's much more about practical talk to young people about how to live their lives with integrity and dignity. All of the churches we went to that were doing well had charismatic preachers who are able to make the message clear, plain, accessible and practical.

### 2) Dynamic worship

It's a rave! What we're seeing now is an appropriation of rave culture by the Church. So churches become a celebration and use music. Lots of people jumping up and down, getting into the groove, shouting out things. That pan-human capacity for expression is a powerful draw for people. Lots of young people attract lots of young people.

### 3) Cosmopolitan congregation

It's a church for all nations. If you look across the congregation it's a wide spectrum of young people across London who go there and lots of people of mixed heritage. There's a cosmopolitan sensibility. People are urban, the cultures are dynamic and flow into each other. It provides one safe space for everyone - no matter what part of London they're from.

Chairman - Bishop Tim Thornton  
 Vice Chairman - Reverend Steve Wild  
 CTC Missioner - David H Smith  
 Treasurer - Paul Durkin  
 Charity No 1053899  
[www.churchestogetherincornwall](http://www.churchestogetherincornwall)



## How do you pray when the world becomes a war zone?

Gerard Kelly of the Bless Network in Europe gives guidance on how to pray in light of the Brussels attacks and a world where terror is on all of our doorsteps.

The recent attacks in Brussels have sent shock waves once again through Europe. We stand with our brothers and sisters, the people of Belgium, as they come to terms with loss, injury and fear. What do you do when such a blow is struck against you? Reach for a gun? Ban immigration? Take out your anger and frustrations on the refugees flooding into Europe? None of these responses help, because none of them get to the root of the real problem. Anger sometimes makes us feel better, but if we direct it at the wrong people, it is more likely to make their situation and ours worse than ever. So what can we do?

### 1. We can pray for peace.

When Jesus came into Jerusalem he rode on a donkey, fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9. This is not a symbol of poverty, but of peace. Kings did ride donkeys in the ancient world, but they did so to indicate that they came in peace. If you want war, come on a horse. Jesus speaks peace to our cities. Peace to Paris. Peace to Brussels. Peace to London. Wherever Jesus arrives, he arrives to bring peace. Can we join him in praying for the peace of our cities?

### 2. Muslims are not the enemy.

We can know that terrorists are as much the enemy of our muslim neighbours as they are of us. Terrorism is a choice by non-military personnel to adopt a military approach to their problems. It is the victory of violence over reason and of cruelty over community. It does not and cannot be a representative action of a community, because by its very nature it destroys community. Community by definition agree the rules by which they will live together. Terrorists by definition trash them.

### 3. We can pray for those who are stalked by fear.

The Psalmist was right in telling us that it is not death itself but the shadow of death that most oppresses us. Fear causes people to retreat from trust and its corollary, faith. We need to pray urgently that the peoples of Europe will not be ruled by fear; that courage and wisdom will prevail, even against such attacks. Perfect love, John tells us, sends fear packing. Can we pray for a revolution of love across our cities?

Every act of love is an act of the dismissal of fear. Every decision to trust weakens the forces of destruction. Every prayer for peace denies violence a place at the table. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who knew a thing or two about politically sanctioned violence, said that "The Christian must treat his enemy as a brother, and requite his hostility with love. His behaviour must be determined not by the way others treat him, but by the treatment he himself receives from Jesus; it has only one source, and that is the will of Jesus." We pray that the people of Belgium will know the peace and consolation of a God of love, and know that violence will not - cannot - ever win

## EVENTS - OPPORTUNITIES - RESOURCES

**(Reminder) Churches Together in Britain and Ireland** have announced that Racial Justice Sunday is to move from the 2nd Sunday in September to the 2nd Sunday of February. This is because Education Sunday (in England and Wales) is moving to the 2nd Sunday in September (which makes logical sense) and CTBI want to ensure that every opportunity is offered to churches to mark Racial Justice Sunday and to make use of the resources that they provide. This means that the next Racial Justice Sunday will be marked on the 12th February 2017.

**Thy Kingdom Come** – a week of prayer from 8-15 May 2016. Churches across the country have been invited by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to spend the week before Pentecost praying together. The Archbishops, in partnership with 24-7 Prayer, HOPE, the World Prayer Centre, the Neighbourhood Prayer Network, the National Day of Prayer & Worship and others, are inviting the churches of England to spend focused and dedicated time in prayer in the week running up to Pentecost Sunday, May 15th 2016, [Find out more here](#)

**Resurrection mystery movie.** 'Risen' is the epic story of the resurrection, as told through the eyes of a non-believer. Clavius (Joseph Fiennes), a powerful Roman Military Tribune, and his aide Lucius (Tom Felton), are tasked with solving the mystery of what happened to Jesus after the crucifixion, to disprove the rumours of a risen Messiah and prevent an uprising in Jerusalem. Also starring Peter Firth and Cliff Curtis, it launched in cinemas in the UK on 18th March. [Here's a short review](#) and three ideas churches and Christians can use to make the most of the opportunities this great movie will provide. Find out more about the film and watch the trailer at [www.sonypictures.com/movies/risen](http://www.sonypictures.com/movies/risen)

**The European Referendum:** the Churches Joint Public Issues Team are working at producing resources sometime in early April. Meanwhile the following link is to a paper produced by the Quaker Council for Europe <http://www.qcea.org/> Recently Baptist News have made available two articles by Baptist clergy offering their thoughts: <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/1535d4d2e03383a9>

Guidelines for those considering 2017 and the **impact of the Reformation** are published by Churches Together in England (<http://www.cte.org.uk/Publisher/Article.aspx?ID=462002>). There is also a new report on the work of CT England - 2016.

**Her Majesty the Queen** has written the foreword to a very special book being published to celebrate her 90th birthday. *The Servant Queen - and the King She Serves* is a illustrated short book, which uses the Queen's own words to draw out the central role of her trust in Jesus Christ. Published by HOPE, Bible Society and the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity. The resources will be available from February from [www.hopetogether.org.uk](http://www.hopetogether.org.uk).

**Celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday** Churches and individuals are planning lots of creative ways to mark this special occasion.. If you are organising a Street Party, Fusion Youth & Community are offering you a free guide to planning your event. You can [download it here](#). CPO have prepared all the invitations, banners and bunting you could need. [Click here](#) to find out what's available.



## PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS AND YAZIDIS: WHERE ARE WE NOW?

**Truro Central Methodist Church (TR1 1EP)**  
**Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup>: 1000 - 1600**

**Baroness Caroline Cox** - Sudan and Nigeria.  
**Wilson Chowdhry** - Pakistan and SE Asia.  
**Dr Maher Nawaf** - the Yazidi Genocide.  
**Julia Bicknell** – Cuba, Central and South America.  
**Christopher Miles** – SAT-7: Middle East & North Africa.

For catering and printing purposes *please register your interest* - giving contact details - via [bullfrog@btinternet.com](mailto:bullfrog@btinternet.com) - or tel. 01736 799 665.

The event is free of charge but donations to cover speakers' expenses will be welcome. Tea/Coffee is provided but please bring your own lunch. Some disabled parking is available at the rear of the church - please phone 07854 360067 for further details .



Plans are in hand for a CTC Educational Chaplaincy Conference to be held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016 from 9.30am start till 3.15pm at Falmouth University with guest speaker Ben Ryan, (author of A Very Modern Ministry) who will be speaking on chaplaincy in the Education Sector.

The conference is free although donations will be accepted. It is hoped many in the School Chaplaincy field will make every effort to attend.

**CHRISTIANS PRAISING GOD  
TOGETHER ON THIS SPECIAL BIRTHDAY**

**You are warmly invited to come  
and join us at this**

**SPECIAL PENTECOST SERVICE  
HELD AT GWENNAP PIT, BUSVEAL,  
REDRUTH**

**SUNDAY 15th MAY 2015**

**starting at 3pm**

**(community hymn singing with Tony Jasper  
from 2.30pm)**

**Our preacher this year will be:-**

**REVEREND PAUL SMITH**

**(from Plymouth Methodist Central Hall)**

**With Bishop Tim Thornton.**

**Our music will be played by**

**The Salvation Army Band (Cornwall Corps)**

**Car and small coach parking is available at  
Gwennap Pit (TR16 5HH)**

**Large coaches may drop off and collect after  
the service**

**Please approach the Pit via Carharrack  
If it rains it rains - the event will  
continue,  
therefore please dress accordingly**

**Will you make the effort to attend? We  
hope you do.**

**CTC Charity Number 1053899**

The British Pakistani Christian Association (BPCA) is organizing a London protest to demand that governments around the world start protecting religious minorities.

"The horrors of the Easter massacre, deliberately targeting children enjoying the high-point of the Easter celebrations, have shocked the globe," wrote Wilson Chowdhry, BPCA chairman. "Jesus' resurrection from the tomb will be a focus of this event and will be prayerfully reflected upon. We will also have speakers from various religious backgrounds calling for the unity of mankind against oppressors," he added.

The protest is set for Saturday at Pakistan's High Commission in London. The protest comes after an Easter Sunday bomb attack in Lahore where 73 people—mostly women and children— were killed.

The Radical Islamic group Jamaat-ul-Ahrar has claimed responsibility for the attack, saying that they targeted Christians. This week, Pakistan's army detained some 216 people in connection with the bombing.

The BPCA has set up a donation page to help the victims and families of the attack.

"Our donations will help secure medical supplies and pay for hospital treatments, pay for funeral costs and help with the long term rehabilitation and trauma counseling of victims," the BPCA said.

**Walk St Michael's Way for Christian Aid Week  
20 May 8:00am-5:00pm**



**Event details**

Join us on this 12 mile sponsored walk across Cornwall, coast to coast, on one of the most ancient pilgrimage routes in Europe, helping to raise funds for those most in need these Christian Aid Week.

The walk will also include reflections and prayers from around the world with Bishop Chris.

**Fight poverty step by step – register to take part NOW.**

**Phone:** 023 8070 6969

**Email:** [southampton@christian-aid.org](mailto:southampton@christian-aid.org)

[www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/events/walking/index.aspx](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/events/walking/index.aspx)

**EAST AND WEST  
CTC DAY CONFERENCES**

Plans are underway for the two 2016 Day Conferences which will be held on the following days :-

**East: Monday, 20 June – Saltash area**

**West: Saturday, 26 November – Camborne area**

The CTC Executive agreed to create a small but active Conference Planning Group to move the content of the conference forward.

More information to follow once Easter is complete and the Planning Group have met.

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**PLEASE NOTE - HELP REQUIRED**

The CTC Tent Committee would still like to make contact with anybody in or near the Wadebridge area who can help with storage of equipment. They need storage close at hand where equipment can be safely stored between shows.

The need is about the size of a normal domestic garage (or bigger).

**CAN YOU HELP?**

Anybody who can help. ....please contact Rev Roger Greene on:

H: 01726 885029

M: 07815 685538

E: [Revrogergreene@aol.com](mailto:Revrogergreene@aol.com)



Dear Friends

Some years ago Sue and I hosted several times of prayer (mainly held at The Elms in Redruth), under the banner of "Streams Together Prayer". Everyone was invited/encouraged from the various "streams" that are across Cornwall to come together and pray for the county and its life and to see Revival come to the people.

A few weeks ago we were both challenged to re-visit Streams Together and at a similar time we received a circular (which was forwarded to CLIC, a portion of which is included below) from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York encouraging people to pray for evangelism. We have also received an invitation from Epiphany House in Truro to use their facilities to pray together.

With this in mind we are inviting you and your fellowship to come and enjoy an evening of prayer to be held at:

**Epiphany House, Truro, TR1 3DR on Thursday 12th May at 7.30pm**

There is ample parking available on site and light refreshments will be available from 7.00pm.

We are hoping to have several people share (**briefly**) to enable us to pray for various forms of evangelism, including Festivals, Feast days, Beach missions, Summer clubs, Schools' work, etc., that will be taking place in the coming weeks and months.

**If you are planning any outreach over the coming months and would like to drop me a line outlining what you are planning we will endeavour to give you a small slot to share during the evening. Please email me as soon as possible.**

We will be sending out more information a little nearer the time, but please mark this date in your diary **and let others know about it also**. It would be great to fill Epiphany House with prayer and praise as people lift up the name of Jesus over this county.

May we together see the Lord bring about a great harvest in this part of the nation as we seek Him together.

Looking forward to seeing you

**Peter and Sue Willows**

***EXTRACT FROM AN EARLIER EMAIL THAT HAD BEEN SENT OUT BY THE BISHOP OF LAMBETH:***

***The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York are issuing the attached letter to the clergy of the Church of England which as you will see is a call to prayer for the evangelization of the nation in the week of 8<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May. This is not meant to be an added burden, but an encouragement to pray at some point that more may come to know the Good News of Jesus Christ.***

**Telephone: 01637 878652  
& 07974 960851**

## **Most hospitals fail in their care of elderly people, a review has found.**

The report is the first since the controversial Liverpool Care Pathway was scrapped. Co-funded by the charity Marie Curie, it found only 11 per cent of hospital trusts in England provide specialist palliative care around the clock.

This means those who die overnight or at the weekend may not have the right care.

Dr Adrian Tookman, a clinical director at Marie Curie said a "real effort" had been made to improve care for the dying.

"It is an area that is too often neglected either because people don't want to talk about it or because it is seen as a 'Cinderella service'," he said.

Thompson went on to say the debate over palliative care was crucial to the question of assisted suicide.

He continued: "One of the main drivers for those people who argue for a change in law on euthanasia is the misinformed belief that people die horribly in hospitals, hospices or at home when in actual fact with good palliative care, and we have the best hospice movement in the world, that is not the case.



### **ISIS Releases Assyrian Christian Girl**

ISIS has released an Assyrian Christian girl who was taken hostage in February 2015 with more than 200 other captives.

Christian Today reports that Miriam David Talya was released on Easter Sunday, although she was initially scheduled to be released on February 22. After being released, she was greeted by the Bishop of Syria, Mar Afram Athneil.

Talya is thought to be the last captive taken in ISIS' raid on the villages along the Khabur River on February 23, 2015. Her health and condition has not been reported.

The Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organisation (ACERO) confirmed that no ISIS hostages remain. However, the Assyrian International News Agency reports that the militants are yet holding one girl captive, and have married her off to a high-ranking ISIS official.

Christian Today notes that the Assyrian Christian Church of the East has ancient roots in the region, dating back to the first century A.D. However, church leaders have spoken out in recent months, saying that Christianity could soon be wiped out in the region because of Islamic State violence.