



Reflection of the Month:

Yvonne Richmond Tulloch is founder of AtaLoss.org and writes:



Remembrance Day this year will be the centenary of the 11th hour of the 11th month when the guns fell silent, ending World War I. It conveniently falls on a Sunday, when there will be a series of events to mark the centenary. This will include commemorative services in most parts of England, many organised by Churches Together groups. Significantly, church and other bells everywhere will ring out as they did at the end of the First World War.

Although always looking back to the fallen of the War, Remembrance Day has changed over the years. Originally 'Armistice Day' - the moment when the World War I hostilities ceased and focused on commemorating its dead - it became 'Remembrance Day' after the Second World War to commemorate those who had died in both world wars, and has gone on to include all those in our armed forces who have died in service since.

Some have recently called for further change - to abolish the day - to move on from remembering the horrors of war and look to the future with more positive thinking. After all, no one living experienced the First World War, and even those who can recall the Second World War are elderly and declining in number. Another suggestion has been the 100 days of prayer from August 4th to November 11th, praying for peace and reconciliation in our own time.

Personally, I would welcome further change and ask if the churches in England might have a 'Season of Remembrance' of which Remembrance Day would be a part. It would be a season that would embrace all who have died at any time and give everyone living a chance to stop and remember anyone they have lost.

We need this because we have a general sense of 'death- denial' in our society, which has arisen since the two world wars, and which has left us ill-equipped to deal with grief. Open and expressive sorrow was strongly discouraged after the world wars. Add to that the removal of death and bereavement from homes to hospitals and funeral directors, plus advances in medicine, we now don't tend to expect death and we have little understanding of its impact. Consequently, the bereaved find themselves devoid of the support they need to facilitate healthy grieving.

To grieve is necessary for well-being; Psalms (126:5-6) talks about it, Jesus modelled it (John 11:35), the Beatitudes encourage it (Matthew 5:4) and James (1:27) even says that supporting the bereaved is authentic church.

Thankfully, many churches have All Souls services or 'Remembering' services at this time of year. They offer a place where grief is expected and accepted and where unresolved pain and issues can be expressed. But so much more could and should be done by churches to help the bereaved today to process their loss - not least of all because death brings out the questions of purpose and destiny for which the church has the answers.

Following my own experience of loss, I created a charity AtaLoss.org, to signpost the bereaved to the existing national support services and, in particular, to help churches provide local support. There are good resources, which have been and are being developed. By calling for a 'Season of Remembrance' I'm asking the churches to engage more with death and bereavement which would be a fitting progression from the legacy of the wars.

AtaLoss.org provides a one-stop-shop website for signposting the bereaved to appropriate and local support services and training for churches in bereavement support.

[Here](#) is a list of resources for remembering those who have died in war.

Young people, remembrance and peace



Quakers in Britain. News Release 30 October 2018

The centenary of the armistice that ended World War I is a poignant moment. As the world pauses, a national project, INSPIRE, will engage thousands of children in remembrance and in peace building.

From Finsbury Park Mosque to Coventry Cathedral, from Belfast to Bradford, 'Remembrance for Peace' events will take place simultaneously across the UK on Friday 9 November. There are events around the country in Church of England and Roman Catholic Cathedrals, Methodist Central Halls, Mosques, Peace Centres etc. In addition, hundreds of schools are holding Remembrance for Peace assemblies and exploring peace in the classroom. .

Quakers in Britain are one of the INSPIRE organising partners and will host a flagship event at Friends House in London. One thousand primary school children will hear stories of peace-making from around the world, share how they build peace in their playground and classrooms, and consider what it means to stand up for peace. What did it mean 100 years ago? What does it involve today?

"For Quakers, INSPIRE is not just about the day of remembrance – it is about a peaceful future. Although referred to as the War to End All Wars, WWI was anything but. Britain has been consistently involved in war and armed conflict since 1914. Today the British government is spending millions to promote a 'military ethos' in our schools. Quakers believe we need to teach peace. "During INSPIRE events, children will be asking what it would take to truly be able say, 'Never Again'. "We remember and grieve for the losses – soldier and civilian – from a century of war but hope for peace inspired by a new generation of peace builders," said Isabel Cartwright.

Steve Chalke, founder of Oasis Charitable Trust, said, "We are always diminished by our exclusion of those who are different to us. We are never enriched by it. To work to build bridges is the only way to overcome our prejudices and hidden fears; exclusion and violence are impotent in this task. For many years, Quakers have been at the forefront of exploring positive nonviolent approaches to conflict resolution and peace-making, whether at a personal, local, national or global level. Their insight and input has contributed so much to the development of INSPIRE."

The INSPIRE project is a partnership between Quakers in Britain, Oasis Foundation, Wales for Peace, Coventry Cathedral and Corrymeela aimed at building a movement for peace inspired by remembrance.

<https://www.oasisinspire.org/>

'A mile with Jesus' in Manchester

Rebekah Brettle of Neighbourhood Prayer Network (NPN) writes:



Rachael Fola-Taiwo, prayer co-ordinator for NPN, spent most of July, August and September visiting churches across Greater Manchester, to encourage them to prayer walk their local streets- to go a Mile with Jesus. A huge congratulations to Rachael for gathering seventeen churches together to take part on this day...Here is her report.

On the 29th September 2018, forty people, a proportion of those who had been prayer walking their local community in the morning, gathered in CWA auditorium on Oldham road to pray for the nation. Earlier in the morning people had been prayer walking Little Hulton, Walkden, Swinton, Salford Crescent, Salford Quays, Media City, Trafford Park, Sale, Altrincham, Manchester Airport, Didsbury, Hulme, Whalley Range, Manchester Piccadilly, Moston and other areas. More had prayed general prayers over Wigan, Bolton, Tamesside, Oldham, Little Hulton, Farnworth, Stockport, Longsight and Gorton.

Seventeen churches took part: RCCG Overcomer Parish, RCCG Alive, RCCG City of Praise, The New Baptist Church, Methodist Church Walkden, RC Church, Little Hulton, Bethany Family Worship Centre, Prayer Command Centre, Covenant of Peace Assembly, Jesus Touch Ministry, Living Hope Christian Church, Evangelism Missionary Outreach, Deeper Life Bible Ministry, CWA, Living Faith, New Harvest church, Audacious.

Bible texts for the day included Joshua 1:3; Luke 3:3-6; Isaiah 56:7 with the Word for the Day being, 'The Lord said he would use the vision to pass through the land', by Elder Neil (Church Together) and 'The church has left her first love, its time to rise up to do what I called you to do. Do your part. I would do my part. Enough is enough, the church is filled with so many activities, rise and go to meet the lost soul, do not wait for them to come to you. So many souls are staying and laughing and languishing in waiting for the manifestation of the Son of God'. (Pastor Mrs Gladys Olawuni.

Afterwards, we fellowshiped together with light refreshments and the service was

brought to a close with prayer and grace shared together. Next year, we intend to use this as a springboard for a larger event, to get as many streets as possible covered with people praying "A Mile with Jesus." This is an invitation for local groups to join us on 29th September 2019 and we are hoping that there will be a few events similar to this across the UK next year, would you like to follow Rachael's example, so we can get as many streets as possible, in the UK prayer walked?

<http://www.neighbourhoodprayer.net/>

Interchurch Families celebrate their Golden Jubilee

Fifty years after the Association of Interchurch Families (AIF) was founded, over 60 members and their guests met at the Hayes Centre in Swanwick on 13-14 October for a weekend to celebrate their Jubilee year.



Central to the celebrations was an ecumenical service of Evensong that paid tribute to the vision of the founders of AIF; the service was led by the Anglican Bishop Tim Thornton (Bishop at Lambeth) assisted by the Catholic Archbishop of Birmingham and co-chair of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC), Bernard Longley and the Moderator of the Free Churches, Revd. Dr. Hugh Osgood.

Back in 1968 Canon Martin Reardon, his wife, Dr. Ruth Reardon, and Fr John Coventry SJ recognized that couples from different church traditions who shared the sacraments of baptism and marriage often need a particular kind of pastoral understanding from their churches. They therefore brought together a number of such interchurch couples for mutual support. From this group grew an association that has also become a forum through which interchurch couples can share with their churches their experience of living together in love across the denominational divide.

Their experience of sharing Christ's love across that divide, despite the challenges it presents, is a precious example of unity and a gift to the churches, summed up by Saint John Paul II in York in 1982 when he addressed interchurch families, saying, "You live in your marriages the hopes and difficulties of the path to Christian Unity".

In a keynote speech Archbishop Longley spoke of the role that AIF has played in making the churches aware of the pastoral needs of interchurch families, and of what it had taught many church leaders about the joy and the pain of their situation. Speaking of their immense gratitude to the Association, one couple at the weekend gathering declared that without the support of the Association and its members they doubted that their marriage would have survived the difficulties they had faced.



Three of the original members of AIF - From left to right: Peter Bentall, Ruth Reardon (one of the three co-founders of the Association) and Ruth Bentall.

A Taste of Heaven

'A Taste of Heaven' is a picture by Leavon Bowman, and here is a video reflection by Phyllis Thompson referring to John 6: 22-58, posing questions prompted by the picture.

[Link to the video reflection](#)



Quotes about - A Taste of Heaven

"In my office you will find an inspiring portrait beautifully created by the skilful hands of Mr. Leavon Bowman. So, fitting is the caption; "A Taste of Heaven". Pictured are those gathered at a table in His presence. At this table you find all nationalities and walks of life. You find the senior as well as the young child. All are invited. No one is rejected. The rich, the poor, the successful, the outcast all are one in the same. It is only when humanity is all all-encompassing that we together make up the family of God. This portrait is a glimpse into what heaven will be like. A Taste of Heaven."
Dr Stephen P. Darnell, COG Field Director Europe, the Middle East, CIS, Russia.

A painting is a visual portrayal of an artist's concept that creates a response upon the individual who views it. This is especially true of those renderings of a spiritual nature. In God's Word are scriptures relating to heaven and the invitation to "come and dine." Psalm 23:5: Thou preparest a table before me shares a key element—it is the Lord Who prepares the table. Leavon Bowman has used his God-given abilities to paint a table prepared by the Lord, emphasizing what we bring to this table and what we take away to share with those we meet along life's pathway.
Dr. Timothy M. Hill General Overseer/International Church of God

Each of the characters around the table represents the uniqueness of God's image and likeness – celebrating diversity of colour, culture, old, young and middle aged – making a statement that we are all equal in God's sight. Looking closer, one can only imagine the various conversations and levels of both verbal and non-verbal communication taking place, yet every character distinctly positioned, in celebration of both individual and yet connectedness of true expression of freedom and liberty. The beautiful imagery of the embracing Hands of Christ Jesus, holding God's perfect Creation – our eternal hope of Glory. Amen!
Rev Virginia Thomas – LTC Facilitator

[Longer list of quotes PDF download](#)

[Link to the video reflection by Phyllis Thompson](#)

Phyllis Thompson is the Education Director for the [New Testament Church of God](#).

To buy a limited edition print of 'A Taste of Heaven' call 01604 824233.

Feedback and quotes can be [emailed to Phyllis via this link](#)

Engaging with the issues



A series of Round Table Discussions on topics that are engaging the hearts and minds of the Community, the churches, local and national government are being held at Free Church House, 27 Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9HH.

Spiritual Care in Community Health Care Settings – Community Chaplaincy

Tuesday 5th February 2019

For those who connected with a faith community there is both social and spiritual support. For those who aren't where is their spiritual support in times of health care crisis? This day will be based on the shared experience of individuals working in Community Health Care Chaplaincy and will enable participants to build their plan to make a difference in their community.

Dementia – caring for the carers as well as those who have dementia

Wednesday 14th November 2018 & Wednesday 3rd April 2019

The rate of increase in the incidence of dementia means that everyone knows someone who has dementia or who is caring for someone with dementia. This day will enable churches and individuals to learn from others in looking at opportunities to these needs in the local community.

Dying Matters

Thursday 29th November 2018

It's a certainty – we will all die. This day will enable participants to explore the contemporary aspects of death and dying and look at ways to provide safe spaces when matter of death and dying may be explored. Ways of meeting the spiritual needs of those who are dying and their families will also be discussed.

Each day will be registration 10.30 starting at 11am and finishing at approx. 3.30pm, lunch and refreshments will be provided. The cost is £10 for each day and you are advised to book early as places are limited. Contact: thandar.tun@freechurches.org.uk

[Link to the FCG mailing information](#)

[To book please complete and return the booking form.](#)

Service for Christians in the Middle East

Westminster Abbey is hosting an ecumenical service to Celebrate the Contribution of Christians in the Middle East at 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday 4th December 2018.

The service is an opportunity for Christians in the UK to



express solidarity with and offer encouragement to the Christian communities in the Middle East, to remember suffering, endurance and hope. The start of the Advent season is a poignant time to draw attention to the challenges faced by Christians in the Middle East and celebrate their contribution as a significant part of the region's diversity.

The Archbishop of Canterbury will preach at the service, which will be attended by church leaders representing the churches and countries of the region as well as representatives of their communities now living in the UK. Applications to attend the service, for which there is no charge, may be made via:

Westminster Abbey website (www.westminster-abbey.org/abbey-events/special-services/2018/december/christians-middle-east/)

or directly at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-service-to-celebrate-the-contribution-of-christians-in-the-middle-east-tickets-51647378700

Lead Chaplain, Bluewater

Salary range: £31,000 - £33,500



The Chaplaincy Service at Bluewater serves one of the largest retail complexes in the UK, providing support to the retail and facilities staff in the context of their daily life and work.

The chaplaincy team consists of a full-time Lead Chaplain and a large team of volunteer chaplains. We are now seeking to replace the present Lead Chaplain whom we congratulate on her new post with The Methodist Church.

As Lead Chaplain you must be a committed Christian, lay or ordained, with a sound understanding of the nature, purpose and vision of chaplaincy and with a proven ministry in pastoral care.

Bluewater is an all-age, multi-ethnic, multi-faith community where diversity is valued and all are welcomed. The ability to communicate the Christian message in this context calls for grace and sensitivity.

If you feel you could meet the challenge of this unique position, a full job and person specification, together with an application form can be obtained at www.kentworkplacemission.org

Closing date for applications: Monday 3rd December 2018 at 5.00pm.

Interview dates: Thursday 24th and Friday 25th January 2019

This post is subject to an Occupational Requirement that the post holder is a committed Christian under Part 1 of Schedule 9 to the Equality Act 2010.

Project Manager St Chad's Sanctuary, Birmingham



St. Chad's Sanctuary provides welcome, friendship and practical support for asylum seekers and refugees in need.

Established in 2010, the project has a large team of dedicated volunteers, and some sessional staff, and supports large numbers of asylum seekers and refugees daily from its base in Central Birmingham.

We require a dedicated and enthusiastic Project Manager to manage and develop this busy project. Successful candidates will therefore have experience of managing services, staff and volunteers in a community setting; sourcing, securing and reporting on funding; and an understanding of the issues that asylum seekers and refugees face. An excellent communicator and team player, you will also be able to work independently on your own initiative. You will be committed to our Christian ethos of welcoming the stranger.

If you feel you could meet the challenge, a full job description together with an application form can be obtained at www.fatherhudsons.org.uk

Closing date for applications: Wednesday 21st November 2018

Interviews: Tuesday 4th December 2018

An enhanced certificate from the Disclosure & Barring Service will be required for the successful applicant.

And finally ...

Inter-Faith Week

IFW runs from 11th-18th November with 200+ registered events, including some for

Remembrance Sunday. Inter Faith Week highlights the good work done by local faith, inter faith and faith-based groups and organisations, draws new people into cooperation, celebrates diversity and commonality, partnerships etc. The aim is to build good relationships and working partnerships between people of different faiths and beliefs is part of the year-round work of many people and organisations across the UK.

<https://www.interfaithweek.org/>



Represent your community in interfaith work!

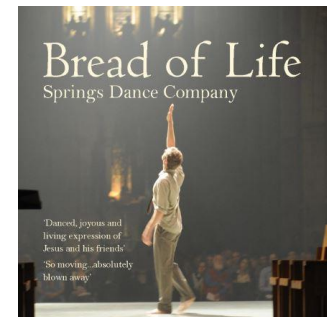
Denisa Sofronie writes about the Faith & Belief Forum (formerly 3FF) which builds understanding and lasting relationships between people of all faiths and beliefs, through education, engagement and action programmes.



F&BF offers interfaith and intercultural internships in a variety of roles ranging from media to education, giving you the opportunity to gain hands-on skills and experience through a range of tasks, projects and training opportunities. Whether you're a recent graduate, thinking about a career change, or simply looking for experience in an interfaith organisation, our internships give you plenty of opportunities. The closing date for applications is 26 November 2018 at 9am and all information is on: <https://faithbeliefforum.org/programme/fbf-internship-programme/>.

Bread of Life

Rebecca Bertram from the Springs Dance Company writes about the opportunity to work ecumenically with other churches for Lent and Easter 2019.



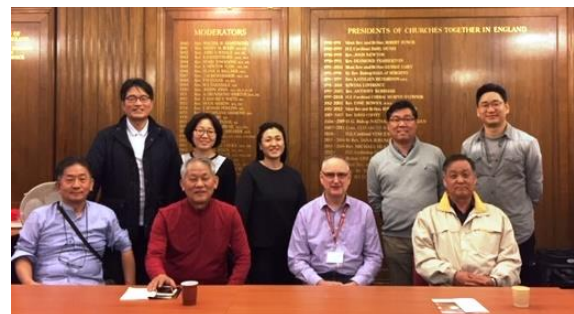
Springs Dance Company is delighted to be returning with its much sought after and highly praised production Bread of Life for churches. A reflection on the last supper, Bread of Life celebrates the meal of bread and wine with Jesus, the ever-present King. This Lent and Easter rediscover the living, breathing Bread of Life, through this stirring depiction of how God is building a community of love with Jesus himself at the centre.

This is an excellent opportunity to work ecumenically with other churches in your area and to build Jesus' love into your local community. Springs would love to hear from any Churches Together groups interested in hosting a performance of Bread of Life.

Further information can be found on the Springs Dance Company [website](#) by emailing touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk

Visit of South Korean church leaders

A group of national South Korean church leaders/representatives and students of ecumenism visited the UK recently to look at English ecumenism. They visited Free Churches House and heard about Churches Together in England from Jim Currin. The topics were wide ranging, with many about mission and context.



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This mailing is from Churches Together in England and is sent once a month
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