

CHASTE will be at the CRC convention to highlight how churches can work to stop sex trafficking (see page 3).

Slavery in our Midst_

As we move into a busy programme of events and activities to commemorate the bi-centenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act, Hilary Willmer, former CRC vice-chair and Director of CROP highlights a sinister form of trafficking – just one form of slavery that continues in our midst.

There is now considerable press coverage of the horrors of international trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation. It takes little imagination to recognise that women and children tricked into coming to this country with the offer of a better life, only to find themselves violently sexually assaulted to be 'broken in', then locked up in a hidden destination and forced to have sex with many men who pay their captor, is indeed terrible abuse. It is good that this will be highlighted at events in 2007 marking the 200 anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade – including the CRC conference (see page 3).

But there is another even more hidden form of slavery that goes on unnoticed. This is the work of indigenous criminal gangs who use exactly the same methods of targeting and grooming girls (occasionally boys) often from the age of 11 or 12. Younger men, often teenagers themselves, befriend girls in places where teenagers normally meet – parks, shopping malls, fast food outlets, outside schools. They become their 'boyfriend' and then introduce them gradually to older men who flatter them and shower them with presents, including mobile phones, and start to introduce them to drugs and alcohol. Later, once control is established, they are told it is payback time. They are taken to a room full of men, told that if they love their new 'boyfriend', they will give sexual favours to all the men. They are then gang raped. Frightened, guilty, confused and alone they become aggressive and anti-social. These children can come from any background.

CROP supports parents in distraught families where children have been targeted and groomed and then coerced into commercial sexual exploitation. Over the last four years we have been contacted by over 200 such families – loving caring families, who feel angry, isolated and all too often judged by agencies there to 'support' them.

*"They are passing these children from gang to gang just like they are doing with girls brought from abroad. Girls are not seeing money changing hands. That's what is happening".
Parent speaking to CROP worker*



The Hull Freedom Trail campaign which aims to send vehicles as humanitarian aid to Sierra Leone will join the CRC convention (see page 3 and visit www.hullfreedomtrail.com to find out more).

Inside_

- **Welcoming Migrant Workers**
Goole Helping Hands respond to their changing community's needs.
- **Contemporary Slavery**
The CRC 2007 convention addresses modern forms of slavery
- **More Treasures Revealed**
Developments in sport and church heritage feature in CRC's culture programme
- **A Voice for Young People**
The region's first interfaith event to bring young people to the table



Action Point_

Find out more from CROP at crop1@freeuk.com online at www.crop1.org.uk or at CRC's convention (see page 3).



Helping Hands for the Region's Migrant Workers_

CRC launched a programme of work to respond to the challenges of migrant workers in 2005. Goole Helping Hands is just one project that grew out of this work.

A discussion group assembled in Goole in response to concerns over the exploding migrant worker population arriving in the town. Peter Moran went along to the Selby CRC seminar early in 2006 to be inspired by others and find out more about what could be done.

Peter comments, "The CRC migrant workers initiative has set us off well. I was particularly impressed at the migrant workers seminar to hear about those existing projects that had recognised their compassion for others and had responded to it with practical action."

From this was born Goole Helping Hands, an initiative that recognised the lack of infrastructure in place in the local rural area, the lack of a single, cohesive mouthpiece to air concerns with policy makers and the need to meet with potential partners to discuss issues and instigate effective action that would bring about change. Contact with Government Office and other strategic partners was facilitated by CRC's Robert Beard and funding followed.

Robert Beard also contributed to the steering group for a regional conference on Migrant Workers organised by the Government Office which gathered over 150 people who work in related sectors and government office representatives to tackle a range of challenges. The conference report will be available from equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk tel. 0113 247 4190 later in the Spring.



(l-r) Robert Beard of CRC, Dave Norman of Government Office and Peter Moran of Goole Helping Hands at December's regional migrant workers conference

Conference Seminars_

- **1. Migrant Workers**
David de Verny, New Arrivals Chaplain, Diocese of Lincoln with Pat Doyle, Diocese of Middlesbrough
- **2. Sex Trafficking**
Revd Dr Carrie Pemberton, CHASTE with Anne Dannerolle, Lighthouse Project, Hull
- **3. Asylum Seekers and Refugees**
Gill Gibbons, Leeds Asylum Seekers Network with Princes Avenue Open Doors Project, Hull
- **4. Campaigning for Change**
Tim Green, co founder of Jubilee 2000 with SPEAK
- **5. Fair Trade**
Fr Shay Cullen, Preda with Peter Church of Hull as a Fair Trade City
- **6. Voices from the Margins_empowering local action**
Andy Dorton Chair of Unlock and SRO Diocese of York with Cpt Peter Greive of Longhill Linkup, Hull
- **7. Bonded Labour and other Contemporary Slavery**
Sarah Williams, Anti-Slavery Society plus short film
- **8. Black History and Contemporary Issues**
Richard Reddie, set all free with the Churches and Neighbourhood Action Heritage Project



Action Point_

Sign up to receive the Migrant Workers briefing paper and other relevant information and updates by signing up to the free Migrant Workers Email Group.
Email info@crc-online.org.uk

Let My People Go_

CRC's 2007 convention reviews contemporary forms of slavery and how we can make an effective response.



Keynote speakers, Fr Shay Cullen, Archbishop Sentamu, Revd Dr Carrie Pemberton of CHASTE and Richard Reddie of set all free will provide an inspirational overview for delegates at the 23rd February convention organised in conjunction with SEARCH in Hull. Delegates can also attend seminars (see the options left) and exhibitions to help formulate practical action and build on existing responses to issues of slavery and justice.

Liz Carnelley comments, "2007 is an opportunity for us all to reflect on our past in keeping people 'enslaved' and how we can share in God's work setting people free."

It is also a time of reflection, and celebration of the identity and contribution that black communities made from pre-slavery history through the abolitionist movement into the modern day. The Leeds Bi-Centenary Transformation Project is one such initiative that will highlight African achievement, liberation and aspirations. A year-long programme of informative and entertaining activities to include schools, museums, churches and communities is launched 25th January at Leeds Civic Hall (find out more on 0113 243 8421 0793142227).

Mo Elliott, CRC's Black Majority Churches development officer comments, "It is important to remember the role of the church during and after slavery. The Transformation will give BMCs and others an opportunity to examine this involvement and celebrate African achievements."

Issues of contemporary slavery have a global and local dimension as the lead article on trafficking demonstrates. Our region has seen a number of children trafficked to tend hydroponic cannabis factories in houses in Sheffield and other towns and cities. Conference speaker Fr Shay founded PREDA to tackle the problems that cause the abuse, oppression and death of so many children in the Philippines. "In the end, our highest aspiration is to realise a more peaceful society based on compassion, dialogue, understanding and social justice." His words in 2006 echo those of Wilberforce's aspirations for "a reform of manners" over 200 years ago.

Afternoon seminars provide an opportunity to focus on key issues of contemporary slavery and injustice and relate this to local expression and action with the help of case studies and resources. Select your first and second choice on the application form (right).



Action Point_

Sign up for the CRC 2007 convention using the application form (right) by JANUARY 31st, go online or contact CRC for the full event flier / application form.

Convention Application Form 2007

Name _____

Role _____

Organisation / Church _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Tel _____

Fax _____

Email _____

Workshop Choice_ (please insert your first and second choice of workshops)

First choice Second choice

Payment_ (please indicate your tariff)

£60 public and private bodies

£30 church and voluntary organisations £10 unwaged

I enclose cheque (made payable to: CRC)

Please invoice _____

Invoice address / reference _____

Special Requirements_ (please indicate your requirements and give details)

Dietary Access Disabled Parking Other

Details _____

I do not wish to appear on delegate list (please tick this box)

Office Use Only_

Received Allocated Confirmed Payment

CRC Publications order form_

I would like to order:

- copies of *Angels & Advocates_* at £3.50 plus £1.00 p+p (*Yorkshire & Humber Church*) £5.00 plus £1.00 p+p (*Standard price*).
- copies of *Angels & Advocates Summary_* at £1.00 for 10 copies plus £2.00 p+p.
- copies of *Angels & Advocates Bible Study Packs_* at £1.00 plus 75p p+p.
- copies of *More Than Happy_ The role of faith in wellbeing* at £4.00 plus 50p p+p.
- copies of *Sticking Together_ Community cohesion: a response to the debate* at £4.00 plus 50p p+p.
- copies of *Enterprising Faith_ Faith and the social economy* at £4.00 plus 50p p+p.

Your Name

Address

Post Code

Tel No

Email

Please post or fax to:

Churches Regional Commission for Yorkshire and the Humber 20 New Market Street, Leeds, LS1 6DG.

t_0113 244 3413 f_0113 243 2038

Sport and the role of Faith_



Sport England will be supporting a conference on sport and the role of faith as part of CRC's Treasures Revealed programme.

'Body and Soul' will be held on 20th March at the Megacentre, Sheffield and will feature keynote speakers Hanif Malik of the Hamara Centre, Beeston and Geoff Thompson from Youth Charter. Projects including the St Michael's Youth Project, Hull and St Wilfrid's Day Centre, Sheffield (pictured above) will demonstrate the range of activities offered by worship centres across the region.

Culture Officer Zoe Kemp comments, "There is huge potential amongst faith communities to offer sporting activities and active recreation for all members of their local communities. This conference will provide practical help, links to funders and inspiration will be given from existing projects."



Action Point_

Sign up for Body and Soul conference using the conference booking form available from CRC and online at www.crc-online.org.uk.

York's Hidden History Unveiled

Holy Trinity, Micklegate York will chart the history and lives of its resident monks in a major new exhibition.

CRC's Zoe Kemp helped to secure funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund which will enable visitors to gain insight into the lives of the Benedictine community which shared daily life, work and worship in the ancient Priory building that is now the church. Zoe also supports the City Centre Management Group that promotes church tourism in York. A permanent exhibition in the church, using graphics, interactives, artifacts, games, study materials and translations, will tell the fascinating story of monasticism and its vital contributions to religion, education, scholarship, the arts, medicine and hospitality.



The exhibition will also provide a link to present day monastic houses, of many denominations, especially those established in the Yorkshire area, for visitors with an interest in the spiritual life. Due to open Easter 2007, volunteers are being offered free training to help staff this exciting exhibition. Contact Zoe Kemp at CRC for more details.

Historic Churches Trust

Grants are available to help with the preservation, repair and maintenance of churches in Yorkshire from the Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust. General grants of up to £5,000 will be allocated in March depending on the proceeds of the Sponsored Ride held annually in September. Landfill Grants are awarded quarterly beginning in March for those applicants within 10 miles of a Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN) landfill site. Recent awards have ranged from £36,000 for St George's Doncaster to £300 for St Cuthbert's Burton Fleming.

For more information, refer to the Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust leaflet or contact the secretary, Margaret Barlow on 01909 478873 email Barlow@yhct.freeseve.co.uk

Other News_



New Commissioners

CRC are delighted to welcome three new commissioners: Stephen Burgess, Chair of York and Hull District Methodists (pictured), Mike Roberts (Baptist) and Jane Perkins (Anglican)



Faithful In Mission event

Contributors (pictured here) from November's interfaith seminar event at the Central Methodist Mission, Leeds shared experiences of interfaith work in the region and facilitated theological reflection with experienced practitioners including St Philip's Centre for the Study and Engagement in a Multi-faith Society in Leicester.



Launch provides links with government

Links between faith communities and governmental decision making has been forged with the launch in November of the Faith Links Group. Members are pictured here from CRC, the Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum, Leeds Faiths Forum, and Active Faith Communities Programme with Dave Norman of Government Office (centre) and Elise Clarke (second left) from the Department of Communities and Local Government.



Effective Church

CRC's effective Christian presence three year active learning project brought Faithworks' (l-r) Joy Maderios, Malcolm Duncan and Virginia Lockett to the Priory Centre, York for one of six open forum events organised across the region. More events are planned across the region for 2007. See Events on page 8, visit www.crc-online.org.uk or email info@faithworks.info



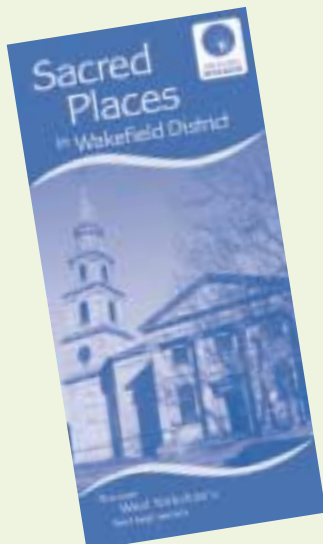
Understanding Faiths seminars launched

The latest programme of Faith Matters, the faith diversity and awareness training offered by CRC and the Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum was launched at October's Northern Christian Resources Exhibition. Pictured '(l-r) Inderjit Bhogal, Patricia Farrell, Liz Carnelley and Robert Beard'. Find out more from www.faithmatters.org.uk



WYACCC

Revd Joel Edwards and Dr Roswith Geldorf at the WYACCC annual service held during Black History Month



Young People Given Voice

Young Christians from across the region including students from Hull, Bridlington and the East Riding (pictured here) gathered with other young people of faith for the region's first interfaith event organised by the Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum. Find out more from www.yorkshireandhumberfaiths.org.uk.

The latest Treasures Revealed tourism leaflet featuring churches in the Wakefield area was launched in November at St Peters and St Leonard's, Horbury, a good example of a church that welcomes visitors.

Around the region_

News and updates from CRC's partners in your local area

TfR's South Yorkshire Team Expands

Together for Regeneration (TfR) is funded to provide support to South Yorkshire's church based groups and projects to develop specific responses to identified community needs. It has recently recruited two new church project advisers:

Peter Hurley is a part-time Project Adviser, the other half of his time being spent as Manager of Dawn, an organisation that supports people after Separation & Divorce. Prior to joining TfR Peter was a Training & Development Coordinator for the Academy for Community Leadership.

Shahida Siddique is a full time Project Adviser, and prior to joining TfR Shahida worked for the Sheffield Wildlife Trust as training and HR Manager.

If you would like support developing your church project please contact us on 01709 309135 or 01709 309163

TfR has also been funded by Capacity Builders to provide an organisational and project development support worker to the voluntary, community and faith sector groups in Rotherham and Sheffield. This post will be filled early in the New Year by **Lorna Dowrick**, who will join us from her current post as Community Development Worker with Voluntary Action Sheffield.

If you would like support for a voluntary, community or faith sector group in Rotherham or Sheffield please contact us on 01709 309137 or 0114 256 2049.

Wilberforce Commemorations Provide Focus for Hull's Communities



CRC's Liz Carnelley met with Gloria Hanley of the West Yorkshire African Caribbean Council of Churches and John Ogada of the International Christian Fellowship, Hull outside the Wilberforce Institute in Hull ahead of the 23rd February convention (see page 3 or contact SEARCH on 01482 851008 to find out about support for local projects).

North Lincs Respects Peace Festival

Members of the North Lincolnshire Multi-Faith Partnership marked International Peace Day in September. Around 50 members gathered with guests and local people to dedicate a new Peace Garden and to plant an olive tree in the heart of Scunthorpe as a symbol of peace. Seven of the world's major faiths joined together - Sikh, Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Baha' i , Jewish and Buddhist, to offer prayers or readings on the subject of peace.

Pamela Knight of the North Lincolnshire Multi-Faith Partnership, who is supported by funding from CRC, helped to organise the event. "It was truly a heartening sight to witness. Children from three local primary schools of different faiths and cultures joined in the proceedings by reading out their own thoughts and prayers for peace. They then went on to hang 'leaves' and banners on a special 'peace tree' provided for the purpose on which their thoughts and prayers were written. After the ceremony everyone enjoyed a shared table multi-cultural buffet. Members of the Multi-Faith Partnership then went on to formally sign the Multi-Faith Charter which states the terms of reference by which the group is run."

The main speaker for the event was Sajda Shah of the Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum.

Support for North Yorkshire's Rural Communities

Whilst the recent report on Faith in Rural Communities goes a long way to highlight the critical role played by churches in vibrant rural communities, there is still much to be done to support families and rural business in crisis. CRC's Rural Farming and Business Project based at new offices in the recently opened Thirsk Rural Business Centre works alongside farmers and other rural business to ensure access to the support they need. Pressure comes from a variety of sources with the economics of farming now requiring many farms to be run single-handedly and supplementary work taken on to subsidise the farm business. With ongoing pressure on market prices, unreliability of farm payments and opportunities for diversification limited (only 10% of farm shops are reporting a profit after family wages are accounted for) stress and loneliness is inevitable.

Recognition for the success of the project in reaching those people that other agencies often overlook has recently come again with Bob Baker's runner up award in the Yorkshire Post's Farming Personality of the Year. One nominator comments, "Bob has tackled some very difficult problems, on behalf of others in need, with wisdom, commonsense, practical knowledge and skill. He has won the trust not only of the farming community but a number of statutory organisations who have discovered Bob can get things moving when others get stuck."

Whilst the project has lost Sally Conner to a full time post with RABI, the commitment of the project remains particularly through the winter when crisis often comes to a head. A new part-time officer is being sought to build on Sally's work in Ryedale and the North York Moors, particularly working with partners in the health sector. This initiative is also reliant on the support of rural agencies and willing volunteers – particularly from local churches.



Rural Development Officer, Bob Baker, meets with many of his farming contacts at the local auction marts



Action Point

Find out more about becoming a volunteer by contacting Farm Crisis Network insert details. Download the Faith in Rural Communities report from www.defra.gov.uk.

Active Faith Communities Rolls Out Across West Yorkshire

People of faith gathered with regional policy makers and government representatives at Leeds Civic Hall to launch the Active Faith Communities Programme (AFC). Already active in Leeds and Bradford, AFC now aims to increase the contribution of faith communities to community life and cohesion across West Yorkshire to support their success in organising projects for the benefit of everyone in their neighbourhoods.

Leeds's Lord Mayor, Councillor Mohammed Iqbal hosted the event. "The value of encouraging and assisting the diverse faith communities in making their full contribution to community cohesion cannot be over emphasised."

Ian Owers, Chief Executive of AFC also spoke at the event "Faith communities are at the heart of all our neighbourhoods with shared values of working for the common good for all. They are well placed to respond to the needs of their communities, regardless of faith or cultural backgrounds, and can offer remarkable resources in terms of buildings, volunteers and pastoral expertise where many other agencies fail to deliver. Whilst the contribution of faith communities to this sort of social action is increasingly recognised, there is much work to be done in supporting their capacity to provide services to their local communities."

The launch also showcased a variety of projects such as the Acorn Centre in Todmorden and Scargill House in the Dales to demonstrate the contributions already being made by faith communities to community life, civil renewal and community cohesion. It is hoped that many more faith communities across West Yorkshire will get in touch with AFC and benefit from the advice and support on offer. To find out more, contact AFC on 0845 658 0388 info@activefaiths.org.uk or visit the new website www.activefaiths.org.uk.

Events

Faith Communities and Social Enterprise FbRN

Thursday 18th January, 9.30 – 5,
Leeds Church Institute (FREE - £40)

What is social enterprise and how can faith communities get started, engage with the commercial sector and work in partnership to reach the most marginalised and excluded groups.

Contact Faith Based Regeneration Network UK 020 7471 6792 malcolmd@fbrn.org.uk www.fbrn.org.uk

Let My People Go

Contemporary issues on slavery and justice

Friday 23rd February, Hull

CRC's annual convention organised with SEARCH. Find out more and apply on page 3.

Faith Matters

CRC's faith awareness training programme with a multi-faith training team.

Tuesday 9th January, The Courtyard, Goole

Tuesday 30th January, The Priory Centre, York

Thursday 15th February, Wakefield Cathedral

Tuesday 13th March, Huddersfield Methodist Mission

Tuesday 17th April, Leeds Church Institute

Also, Living Islam Tuesday 20th March, Leeds.

Visit www.faithmatters.co.uk for programme and cost information or contact CRC for application forms.

Effective Christian Presence and Enterprise

CRC's ground breaking programme to inform and challenge thinking on mission, pastoral care, enterprise and sustainability and our understanding of church.

Free open forums:

Wednesday 7th February **Effective Leadership** St Mary's Church, Sheffield with Canon Malcolm Grundy Foundation for Church Leadership, Rev Canon Frankie Ward Bradford Cathedral and Malcolm Duncan Faithworks

Wednesday 2nd May **Staying Focussed**

Hull Community Church with Jon Kuhrt Shaftesbury Society and Malcolm Duncan Faithworks

Other events and dates coming up for Northallerton and Huddersfield. Visit www.crc-online.org.uk or contact Faithworks to apply tel. 020 7450 9058 info@faithworks.info

Body and Soul? Sport and Faith in Health and Wellbeing Tuesday 20th March

The Megacentre, Sheffield

Sport England and CRC are partnering for this landmark conference to promote the role of sport amongst faith communities. See page 4 for more information and contact CRC for booking and full details.

Treasures Revealed in Leeds

5th – 13th May

A week of events to celebrate the city's rich spiritual heritage. For more information visit www.treasuresrevealed.com or contact Zoe Kemp at CRC.

Treasures Revealed Conference

Friday 20th July, Doncaster Minster

Keynote speaker is Rt Rev Graeme Knowles, Bishop of Sodor and Man. Full programme available Spring 2007 or visit www.crc-online.org.uk.

Book Reviews

The bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in 2007 is an opportunity for us all to remember, reflect and respond to slavery past and present. The vast majority of the 12 million slaves today are women and children. Thousands work in slave-like conditions in Britain.

Many resources are available to help us to learn and also to tackle racism and fight for freedom today. Among these are two courses I commend.

"Can we build a better world?" is the latest in the well established York Courses. It comes in five parts and promises learning from William Wilberforce, who was born in Hull and went to school in Pocklington from where he wrote his first letter of protest against the Slave Trade. The course explores Wilberforce's values and motivation asking what the implications are for churches today. Prominent Christian leaders from different denominations and backgrounds, including Archbishop John Sentamu and TV star Wendy Craig, provide distinctive insights.

It's a disappointment they don't refer to black abolitionists like Equiano Olauda and Harriet Tubman, but their thoughts on the Bible and important themes like redemption and restitution are helpful.

A five week Bible Study is provided by "Set All Free". The Study explores insights from black and white abolitionists and contemporary campaigns for freedom and justice. Questions are offered for discussion throughout the study, and challenges participants to look at how we ought to read and use the Bible which challenges but also condones slavery and the idea of racial superiority.

Set All Free was established by Churches Together in England and is a coalition of those happy to work with a Christian ethos on the relevance of the 2007 bicentenary.

Set All Free will be the theme of worship on BBC Radio 4 during Lent 2007.

Reviewed by Inderjit Bhogal, Director of the Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum and national Chair of Set All Free.

Find out more about these publications from www.yorkcourses.co.uk and www.setallfree.net.

