

# GMCT ANNUAL ASSEMBLY 2013

## TACKLING POVERTY/LIVING WAGE CAMPAIGN



Back row L-R Rev Paul Martin (Methodist Bolton & Rochdale District), Colin McKenzie (Society of Friends), Mayor of Wigan Councillor Billy Rotherham, Bishop Chris Edmundson (Bishop of Bolton), Archbishop Doye Agama (Archbishop of Apostolic Pastoral Congress/Chair of GMCT Strategic Development Group) Revd Richard Church (Moderator United Reformed Church/Chair of GMCT Presidents) Bishop Terence Brain (Bishop of Salford Diocese), Front Row L-R Mayor of Salford Councillor Ian Stewart, Mayor of Bury Councillor Sharon Briggs JP, Mayoress of Bury Mrs Shirley Rabbitt, Niall Cooper (Church Action on Poverty)

### Churches launch Living Wage Campaign

A campaign to persuade employers across Greater Manchester to use the living wage - now £7.65 - as their minimum pay was launched at GMCT's annual assembly at the Salford Cathedral Centre.

In his keynote address, Niall Cooper, from Church Action on Poverty (CAP), highlighted the decision by Salford City Council to implement the living wage. He was supported by Ian Stewart, Salford's first elected Mayor, who stressed his own commitment to the church.

Church leaders at the assembly signed a giant pledge in support of the campaign, which encourages churches to give a lead by paying all their employees no less than the living wage.

In a briefing paper for those who attended the assembly, the Living Wage Foundation - which sets the figure - and CAP pointed out that the Bible "abounds in passages that address issues of money, wealth and economic justice".—

*Revd Laurie Bullas*

## GMCT Newsletter TOGETHER

### BREAKOUT GROUPS



After the launch the Assembly moved into the various rooms which were manned by the different organisations attending the meeting. The NE Credit Union, Christian Aid, Wythenshawe Dandelion Food Bank. The joint publication from the Methodists, Baptist Union, Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church on 'The Truth and Lies' was read out. The Living Wage Campaign also expanded on their campaign. Maranatha had on sale tickets for the 'Peter Fahy lecture'.

### GMCT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Revd Alan Kennedy



Revd Laurie Bullas



Monsignor Paul Smith



Archdeacon Mark Ashcroft



Bishop Chris Edmundson



Bishop Doye & Revd Richard Church

Bishop Doye Agama presided over the Annual General Meeting during the Assembly. There were some 70 people in attendance. Bishop Doye reviewed the year, commenting that GMCT was 'still in transition but nearer to where we wanted to be'. Revd Alan Kennedy and Revd Laurie Bullas reported to the meeting on the Visioning Day held in July. Monsignor Paul Smith presented the report of the Denominational Ecumenical Officers. Archdeacon Mark Ashcroft announced the forthcoming Conference for Churches Together Groups in Manchester and which will be held at Salford Cathedral Centre on 19th March 2014. Bishop Chris Edmondson reminded the meeting about Hope 2014 and invited all to a gathering at Manchester Cathedral on 4th December at 7.30pm.

The meeting concluded with Bishop Doye and Revd Richard Church cutting the cake which celebrated 40 years of GMCT.—Revd Donald Firth

### ACT OF WORSHIP



The evening ended with an Act of Worship in the Taize style of service in the Cathedral. This was kindly organised by Canon Anthony McBride of the Salford Cathedral, the Choir and organist of the Cathedral who provided the music.



We would like to thank the Mayor of Trafford, Cllr Dylan Butt who also joined us during this Act of Worship

To all who attended and participated throughout the evening  
 Thank you  
 for supporting the Greater Manchester Churches Together's  
 Tackling Poverty/Living Wage Campaign

## GMCT Newsletter TOGETHER



Reception: Tracy

**GMCT WISHES TO THANK BISHOP TERENCE BRAIN ,  
THE CATHEDRAL CENTRE STAFF FOR HOSTING  
AND SUPPORTING THIS YEAR'S  
EXCELLENT GMCT ANNUAL ASSEMBLY**



Bookshop: Cecilia and colleague

# DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

**19TH MARCH 2014**

## GMCT CHURCHES TOGETHER GROUPS CONFERENCE

WHERE: Salford Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, Salford

TIME: 11.00—3.00 PM

Churches Together Groups and Contacts will be invited to this event.

A hot lunch will be provided

The event will be in a 'Café' style, where people can sit , discuss and exchange ideas with one another.

**PLEASE PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY.**

Further information will be published in the New Year.



Archbishop Doyé Agama

## GMCT Trustees Chair Becomes Archbishop

The Chair of the Trustees of GMCT Doyé Agama was made Pentecostal Archbishop of the Apostolic Pastoral Congress and the Christian Way of Life Churches at a colourful, well attended service at Southwark Cathedral London, on Saturday 19th October 2013. Archbishop Doyé said,

***"This brings our church structures more closely in line with those of some ecumenical partners, as we have previously had a Presiding Bishop, but the position is now that of Archbishop. The appointment is a joy that also carries a deep sense of additional responsibility and humility. I ask for your prayers."***

The Christian Way of Life Churches are mainly in the Manchester area and the Midlands. The APC has over 40 churches in Greater Manchester and is a full member of GMCT. The APC are also members of Churches Together in England and have churches and projects in over 20 towns and cities in England as well as growing international presence.

Friends, we would welcome your news, stories or thoughts to put into the Newsletter.

Please send them to:

Elaine Rowlinson—Administrator, GMCT Office, St Peter's House, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9GH

Or Email to: [sph.gmct@man.ac.uk](mailto:sph.gmct@man.ac.uk).

Please visit our website : [www.gmct.org.uk](http://www.gmct.org.uk) and Facebook



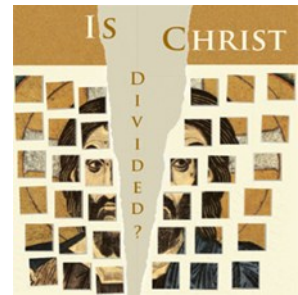
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Tel: 0161 273 5508 : Email [sph.gmct@man.ac.uk](mailto:sph.gmct@man.ac.uk) : Website: [www.gmct.org.uk](http://www.gmct.org.uk)**

# GMCT Newsletter TOGETHER

Dear Friends in Christ

## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY JANUARY 18 – 25 2014

We write to draw your attention to the prayer material which has been prepared by the Churches of French Canada under the title 'Is Christ Divided?'



The division of the Church remains a stumbling block to mission. Many years ago Bishop Leslie Newbiggin was preaching on the exclusive claims of Christ in Calcutta. As he preached to the crowd, a Sikh at the edge of the crowd called out 'but which Christ, the Methodist Christ, the Baptist Christ, or the Christ proclaimed by Evangelicals?' Bishop Leslie told the story to illustrate the difficulty of evangelising in a non-Christian culture from a denominational perspective which few understood. So the question posed by the materials which have been prepared for the week of prayer are both related to our unity in Christ and our mission to the world.

We warmly commend their use to you,

May we all be united by prayer for unity in the mission of proclaiming Christ

Yours in the fellowship of the Gospel,  
 Revd Richard Church      Archbishop Doye Agama  
 Chair of GMCT              Chair of GMCT  
 Presidents                  Strategic Development Group

**On behalf of Greater Manchester Churches Together**

**For information and resources for Week of Prayer 2014 please follow the link:**  
**<http://www.ctbi.uk/657>**



**All at GMCT wish you  
 A Happy, Peaceful and Joyous Christmas  
 and every blessing for the coming year**

Members of Strategic Development Group : L-R Monsignor Paul Smith, Archdeacon Mark Ashcroft, Revd Keith Davies, Revd Chris Shelley, Bishop Terence Brain, Bishop Mark Davies, Revd Carolyn White, Archbishop Doye Agama



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