

# The College of Evangelists



## Winter Newsletter

### College Meetings

The College met twice this year – in May at Wilson Carlile Centre, when Robin Gamble led our morning session on ‘Jesus the Evangelist’ and Mark Bailey preached at the Commissioning Service in the afternoon. We welcomed two new Members – Johannes Arens and David Culhane.

We had our College Retreat at Holland House in November – George Fisher’s reflections are given below.

*The setting for the retreat was the peace and tranquillity of Holland House, Worcester. As I journeyed there I was wondering why I had booked in as I don’t normally do retreats and like many evangelists I am a talkative activist so the idea of silence did not enthral me. On arrival it was great to be welcomed by Jenny and Andrew, and to meet up with friends and colleagues. In the initial sharing I expressed that I was ‘exhausted’ and so needed this time, even though I was inwardly apprehensive.*

*We entered into silence after Sue Hope’s first address ‘Using the silence’ on Wednesday evening and the silence lasted until Evening Prayer on Thursday. This timing was just right, giving us long enough to enter into the silence but also giving us chance for fellowship before and afterwards. I soon entered into the rhythm of the retreat with input, silence, prayers, walks, and great food (a rich variety of fare which the cook delighted in and we enjoyed). This was all done in great surroundings where we were blessed with beautiful Autumn weather, and accompanied by fellow-evangelists. To my great surprise I found the silence incredibly releasing with space to think, reflect, and listen for the Lord, which ministry so rarely allows. The input was just right, based on ‘The Lord’s servant’. Sue took us on a journey from the call of Jesus, reminding us that we are loved by God, to the place of testing in the wilderness, then the challenge of being branded by the Word. This was followed by the Lord’s servant being trained to fish before the final session on being an imparter of grace. Each session gave us plenty of insights to think about and be challenged by, but enough space to develop what the Lord is saying personally. Thank you Sue!*

*I came away refreshed and renewed, with clearer focus and sharpened for all the Lord has for me in a new phase of ministry. Another College of Evangelists retreat next year? Yes please!*

**Stop Press: Stop Press: Stop Press: Stop Press:**

**Dates for your Diary**

**15<sup>th</sup> May 2014 – Lambeth Palace : Study and Commissioning Day**

**3<sup>rd</sup> November 2014 – Wilson Carlile College – Autumn Study Day**

## Membership

Thank you to all of you who have paid your subscriptions for the current year. This has enabled us to provide you with:

- ❖ twice-yearly meetings, giving valuable time to meet your fellow College members and receive helpful input
- ❖ subsidised Retreat
- ❖ one email newsletter and a full colour printed 4 page newsletter, which is also distributed to every diocesan bishop
- ❖ website updates (still ongoing – please be patient for a little longer!)

## Members' News

### Three of our Members are involved in Through Faith Missions; here are their reflections from their WALK CORNWALL 2.

Through Faith Missions led a Walk-style mission through the county of Cornwall in 1993. The legacy of that mission was described by the then-bishop as 'profound' and 20 years on they were invited back to take a similar mission to the whole county in the autumn of 2013. This involved several College of Evangelist members and here are brief stories from three of them. It was wonderful also to meet two church leaders converted during the 1993 Walk.

**David Culhane:** 'In the first week of the Walk I was in Redruth with a team of 6 working with the Baptists, Pentecostals, Anglicans and a Free Church. It was a very well prepared week with a shop open every day, a prayer tent in the main street, a sketch boarder and the use of 20 young people engaged on a Discipleship Training Course with YWAM. We focused our door to door work in a large estate in North Redruth where the Pentecostal Church was situated and left 37 people to be followed up. One of the real benefits of the mission was to see the strong church unity developing between the large Baptist church and the smaller Pentecostal church.'

**Roger Murphy** was used as an itinerant speaker in many different places but spent a significant amount of time in Wadebridge. Here is some feedback from one of the church leaders there: 'You showed a real ability to speak with clarity in every different type of meeting. We have been encouraged by the development of a team to do outreach in Wadebridge and want to build on the momentum the mission gave us. We have about 11 people on the Alpha Course and some of them have made really excellent progress. Stay in touch, as we must programme another visit for you in the future.'

**John Hibberd** was involved in apologetics events across the county (as was College of Evangelists member Peter Adams) either 'Any Questions' events or 'Hot Potato' subjects such as science and faith, life after death, the uniqueness of Jesus, etc. Audiences for these events often had a very high percentage of Christians but even then were helpful in addressing areas where believers struggle to give a reason for their faith. Bodmin held an open air event where people could have a free pizza if they asked John a question. As people were coming and going, the only effective way to do this was to engage personally at each table over a period of about an hour and a half; this turned into a remarkable experience as people shared some very deep questions that had touched their lives. John's biggest audience was in Callington Community College where he gave a multimedia presentation to 160 Sixth Formers and tutors about a positive relationship between science and faith and then took questions along with some local church leaders.

*The Council of the College of Evangelists wishes all our Members joy and peace in this Christmas Season, and God's richest blessings as you serve him in the year to come.*