



BISHOP'S NOTICES

To Congregations from the Bishop of Edinburgh

30 January 2009

Edinburgh  **Direct Aid**

Appeal for Gaza

To reach out a hand of friendship from Scotland to Gaza, Edinburgh Direct Aid in collaboration with the Scottish Parliament's Cross-Party Group on Palestine and Glasgow the Caring City is providing significant help to its people in their present terrible plight, please consider taking an exceptional retiring collection for medical aid for Gaza. Substantial donations of medical and surgical equipment have already been collected in Glasgow and Edinburgh, but money is urgently needed to purchase drugs and surgical supplies. An EDA truck will leave Edinburgh Feb 2nd, proceed via London and other cities, collecting more aid en route then ship across the Mediterranean by container. EDA volunteers will of course travel with the load to deliver the aid in person, to ensure that it gets to those for whom it is meant.

Donations can be sent to Edinburgh Direct Aid (Registered Charity SC021007) at 29 Starbank Road, Edinburgh EH5 3BY. Tel: 0131 552 1545 or online at www.edinburghdirectaid.org

IASH Symposia: 'Dialogues with Darwin: Darwin and Edinburgh' **4pm on 3rd February, 17th February, 3rd March and 17th March 2008**



Darwin's bicentenary

2009 marks the bicentenary of Charles Darwin's birth on 12 February 1809, and the 150th anniversary of the publication of *Origin of Species*, on 24 November 1859. Darwin's student years in Edinburgh were an important period in his intellectual formation: here he encountered the fruits of the Scottish Enlightenment, from the revolutionary geological theories of James Hutton, to important advances in medical theory and practice and adventurous developments in theological and philosophical thought fostered in the University and the City. In conjunction with the University of Edinburgh and other Scottish and UK-wide academic and scholarly institutions the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH) joins the Edinburgh celebrations for Darwin's bicentenary.

A seminar series 'Dialogues with Darwin: Darwin and Edinburgh' will explore aspects of his work in Scottish contexts including circumnavigation, anatomy, theology, and evolution itself. Together, these talks and discussions led by a series of international and local experts will offer new angles for understanding Darwin as both a catalyst in the broader Enlightenment project and a model for its subsequent impact. From Patrick Geddes to Charles Bell to James Crichton-Browne, the Edinburgh connection offers a rich kaleidoscope of historical and intellectual links.

All are welcome; we hope that the series will also offer an opportunity for dialogue between the University and the City.

Further information on these seminars can be found at www.iash.ed.ac.uk, by telephone: 0131 650 4671 or by email – iash@ed.ac.uk

NURTURING OUR CHILDREN IN FAITH

5th March 2009

The nurturing of our children in faith is a concern of many parents and teachers of religious conviction. But it can also be a contentious subject with political and social repercussions. What is the difference between education and nurture? Who should be responsible – home, school, or religious community? Can it be a cause of division among people of different faiths?

To explore this subject through conversation and dialogue Scottish Churches House has invited four people to guide participants through the questions and challenges of this issue.

Rabbi Nancy Morris, Dr Salah Beltangi, Nancy Adams with a representative from the Sikh community will share their perspectives and invite participants to engage with this important issue.

The day will be chaired by **Andrew Sarle** the Education Officer of CAIRS (Churches Agency for Inter- Faith Relations in Scotland) with whom Scottish Churches House is co-sponsoring this

Programme Outline

10.30 am	Arrival and Coffee
11.00 am	Session 1 : Nurture or Education?
12.45 pm	Time of silent reflection
1.00 pm	Lunch (please indicate on the booking form of any special dietary requirements)
2.00 pm	Session 2 : Home, School, or Religious Community?
3.30 pm	Afternoon Tea
4.00 pm	Close

Cost £20

MEETING POINTS- SERIES

This is the second of a series of monthly day events at Scottish Churches House entitled **Meeting Points**. A further two events will take place in the spring 2009 series:

The Bible transcending Divisions : Thursday 2 April 10.30am - 4.00pm

Exploring ways of approaching the Bible which transcend differences of interpretation and historical church divisions. A participatory day with contextual bible study and praying through scripture. Led by folk from different church traditions

A Church for All : Thursday 7 May 10.30am - 4.00pm

Considering attitudes to and practical ways of inclusion of disabled people within our churches. In partnership with SCDAG (Scottish Churches Disability Agenda Group)

Cost £20 (to include coffee, lunch and afternoon tea) But if you attend this **Meeting Point** and register for the rest of the Spring series the total cost will be £55

And you might also be interested in the **Grasping Nettles** series on **WEDNESDAY EVENINGS from 5.30pm - 9.00pm**

- 4 February : Peace in Israel Palestine
- 4 March : Challenge of Food today – revisiting Joseph’s strategy
- 1 April : The Bible – literal truth or metaphor ?
- 6 May : Easeful Death?

Cost £15 (includes supper and coffee break)
£50 to register for all

**For further information or to register for one of events, please contact Scottish Churches House at
1 Kirk Street, Dunblane, Perthshire. FK15 0AJ or telephone 01786 823588**