

JDC Events coming up

Green Party Fringe meeting Friday 10 September

5pm, Birmingham

A fringe meeting within the Green Party Conference. Jean Lambert MEP will outline a Green approach to the unjust and unpayable debts of poor countries, which have been made worse by the pressures of climate change. She will explore the UK's moral responsibility and indicate a possible way forward. Nick Dearden, Director of JDC, will respond, followed by a discussion.

Some places open to members of the public. Please contact John Nightingale on 0121 458 6182 or 07811 128831.

Stand Up Against Poverty Saturday 18 September

2.40pm, outside St Martin's in the Bullring,
Birmingham

We will meet outside St Martin's to take part in the Stand Up pledge which last year involved over 173 million people across the world who were standing up against the poverty of more than a billion people.

This year there will be Stand Up events happening around the world from 17–19 September to coincide with the gathering of world leaders at the UN for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Review summit.

Come and join us outside St Martin's at 2.40pm as we 'stand up' and commit ourselves to tackling global poverty!

Just before the stand-up (at 2pm) all are welcome to join the worship at St Martin's, on the theme of the Stand Up, with JDC members responsible for the talk and prayers.

In the week leading up to the Stand Up event (Tues / Thurs / Fri) we will be holding an awareness-raising stall in the Birmingham Rag Market. If you can offer a few hours during that week, then please get in touch with Elizabeth Leicester on 0121 449 8995.

Meal with a Focus on Bangladesh Monday 18 October

7 for 7.30pm, Masalla Merchant, Pershore Road,
B30 2YT

Our monthly meeting in October comes with a difference! Come to taste tempting Bangladeshi food at a local restaurant with table top discussion about JDC issues facing Bangladesh. Pamela Jabber will contribute having just returned from a visit there. The evening costs £10, including gratuities, for poppadums and sauces followed by either a vegetarian or chicken main dish.

The Masalla Merchant restaurant is on the Pershore Rd opposite the Stirchley Leisure and Bowling Alley. For further information, directions and booking (essential) please contact Rachel Stephens on 0121 472 1379 by 11 October. Any profits to JDC.

JDC Planning Meeting Thurs 18 November

Venue to be confirmed

Our next planning meeting will begin with a shared meal at 6.30pm, with business starting at 7pm. All welcome—come and help plan the upcoming JDC programme.

Also in November.....

JDC will be involved in **Islamic Awareness Week** from 1–7 November and **Interfaith Week** from 21–27 November. This is part of the new national Multifaith project based in Birmingham, which will be arranging two conferences in the New Year, one for women and one youth and students. Contact the project's Coordinator Chris Bloore on 07501 493425 or chris@jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk

JDC Annual General Meeting Tues 18 January 2011

7pm, Birmingham Progressive Synagogue,
junction between Bishopsgate and Rosalind Way,
B15 1HD

Our Annual General Meeting—please put the date in your diary. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided.

Other events

Lobby of Parliament Wednesday 20 October

11am—4pm, Methodist Central Hall and
Parliament, London

Join with Christian Aid campaigners for a mass lobby of parliament. The rally will be addressed by the US civil rights leader, the Revd Jesse Jackson and by Christian Aid's new Director. The afternoon will see the first development lobby of this new government at the Houses of Parliament.

There will be a coach leaving from Carrs Lane in Birmingham at 7.15am, and seats cost £12 per person. For more information and to book a seat please contact the regional office on 0121 200 2283. Register for the lobby online www.christianaid.org.uk/campaigns.

Conservative Party Conference 3—6 October

Various days and locations, Birmingham

There are some events open to the public, organised by the Conservative Christian Fellowship in cooperation with world development agencies. They include a Party Conference Church Service in Birmingham Town Hall at 6pm on Monday 4 October and prayer breakfasts at BCC on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Further details from John Nightingale.

Thank you

Audrey and Duncan send their thanks to all who supported the JDC Multifaith garden party in July. Through the donations, sales on the day and use of Gift Aid we raised nearly £300 for the project. A good time was had by all and we are grateful to Audrey and Duncan for the hospitality!

Thanks also to Alison Geary and Gill Fletcher for organising the Coffee morning in August. Over £150 was raised for the JDC Multifaith project.

Help needed! Can you sew?

When the JDC scarves are worn, the wording is upside down! This could be altered by someone with sewing skills. Please contact Audrey on 0121 4714175 if you can help.

Debt Resources

There are two new JDC resources which may be of interest to you:

Getting into Debt—a resource aimed at GCSE / A-level students, exploring Third World Debt. John has some copies, but is also available on the JDC website or by calling 020 7324 4722. Produced by JDC with Jubilee Scotland and MRDF.

Fuelling Injustice: the cost of Third World Debt to Muslim Countries—A4 booklet featuring Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Lebanon. Analysis of debt issues and short statement of Islamic principles. Again, John has copies if you wish to see one. Published by JDC and Islamic Relief UK.

Online: jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/fuellinginjustice

Campaign update: Dodgy Deals

A cross-party group of MPs have signed Early Day Motion 622 calling for a rethink of the Export Credits Guarantee Department. They are concerned that “some cases are now exempt from environmental, human rights and social impact assessment and that, in practice, the absolute ban on child and forced labour has been removed”. They also express regret that “many developing countries are still paying off large debts for projects that were of no benefit to recipients or which fostered corruption”. Please write to your MPs to ask them to sign up to it.

We've also just heard that the new Business Committee has announced an inquiry into 'Government Assistance to Industry', a key element of which will be investigating the ECGD. JDC will be submitting evidence to the inquiry over the summer. Members of the Committee include: Jack Dromey of Erdington, Adrian Bailey of West Bromwich West and Margot James of Stourbridge. If they're your MPs, why not write to encourage them!

Dates for 2010 / 2011

Fri 10 September: Green Party Fringe meeting

Sat 18 Sept: City Centre Stand Up event

17-19 Sept: Stand up Against Poverty

Mon 18 October: Meal with a Bangladesh focus

Thurs 18 November: JDC Planning meeting

Tues 18 January 2011: JDC AGM

Chairman: John Nightingale 0121 458 6182

Secretaries: Ruth Tetlow 0121 449 4892

Rosie Venner 07855 012734

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