

CWO e-news June 2008 issue 6

Petition for married and woman priests

Thousands of leading Roman Catholics including Lord Patten and Baroness Williams are calling on the Church to allow women and married men into the priesthood.

Senior clergy are also among the 2,000 who have signed so far. (from Daily Telegraph 12 June 2008

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/2116607/Lord-Patten-Let-women-and-married-men-become-Roman-Catholic-priests.html>

Please visit our sister site from time to time as there is much of interest to us there.

www.womenpriests.org

Womenwordspirit annual gather (Includes short AGM)

Where is feminist theology today?

Speaker - Rosemary Radford Ruether

Saturday 26th July, 2008

St Andrew's Church, Short Street, Waterloo
(short walk from Waterloo Station)* see below

- all women welcome
- 11.00am - 5.30 pm
- £15 waged £10 low/unwaged
- Bring food to share
(NO heating/cooking facilities available)
optional supper at local restaurant at 6.30pm

Further information: Veronica Seddon

veronica@seddons.eclipse.co.uk

020 8979 5902

Mairín Valdez mairinv@phonecoop.coop

0118 986 9346

* Take the escalator opposite platform 4 in the main Waterloo station

Greenbelt 22 - 25 August 2008 - Cheltenham Racecourse

Greenbelt gives space to a range of issues, especially those that are given little or no debate at other Christian events.

We have booked a stall at this years festival so come and see us if you're visiting the festival.

See <http://www.greenbelt.org.uk> for more details.

From Jesus' plan for a new world - Richard Rohr

"Thy kingdom come" means very clearly that the Kingdom is something that enters into this world, or, as Jesus puts it, "is close at hand." Don't project it into another world. It's a reality that breaks into this world now and then, when people are like God.

When that can happen in terms of structures or groups, when you have a free group of people who love the truth more than themselves, then you have a taste of the Kingdom descending to earth.

CWO Annual Gathering

Saturday 11 October 2008 St Lukes, 76 Church Road Bebington The Wirral CH63 3EB

WATCH (Women and the Church) AGM, Newport, Isle of Wight 17 May 2008

The guest speaker was Christina Rees, Chair of UK WATCH.

She is a vibrant person who spoke for 45 minutes without notes about the injustices women suffer even in the C of E, because of male prejudice. All women are seeking is 'institutional parity' with men. The C of E (as well as the RC Church) claim exemption from the Equal Opportunities Act which is in force in most other spheres of British life.

Once parishes actually experience women priests and deacons, opposition melts away and they are appreciated as the excellent people they are. Their gender was the sole objection.

Christina asked the rhetorical question of where this prejudice started and explained that in former times, St Augustine among others, regarded every female baby an aberration from the 'norm'. In more recent times, a priest told Christina in 1996 that, 'You can no more ordain a woman than you can a pork pie'.... It has also been said by men that '...women have destroyed the heart of the Church'. This is exhibiting their destructive fear of the female because they regard only our minds as in the image of God..

At the time of the first women priests in the 1990s, the people most against it were clergy-wives. Fear of the unknown again and a dilution of their status and power?

Christina wondered what would have been the history of the Church if Peter's dream of all manner of fowl and meat in the sheet let down from Heaven had been the other way round and only Jews could have been admitted to its membership? Food for thought...

Of course, women in the C of E are light years ahead of us in the Catholic Church but Christina's message was to carry on working and praying .

Thinking Scripture

A holiday and study week at Boarbank Hall

30th August - 6th September 2008

God's word comes to us in human form: in Jesus Christ and in human language, understood through human reason. Therefore we need to read the Scriptures both prayerfully and systematically, asking 'How were they written?' and 'How should we interpret them?'

This, the third of our 'Thinking Scripture' week, will concentrate on the Gospel of St Matthew. During the week, through lectures, discussion and reflection, we shall explore the different ways that we, as an informed believing community, might read and understand this text.

The week will be taught by Catholics, but open to Christians of any denomination, and to anyone else who is seriously interested in learning more about the Scriptures.

For further information, please contact

Sr Margaret Atkins

Boarbank Hall

Grange-over-Sands

Cumbria

LA11 7NH

margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk