

ENABLING Church Everybody in! Day Conference

**Tuesday 3 June 2014, Bethel Convention Centre, Kelvin
Way, West Bromwich, B70 7JW**

“inviting, including, involving, in Christ”

To be opened by the Bishop of Wolverhampton

**With dedicated streams on *Disability – Dementia –
Deafness* and a stream for *Families and Carers with Care
for the Family***

From only £13.50

**A conference from Churches for All, a partnership of
Christian disability-focussed organisations and associates**

For latest information and booking

www.churchesforall.org.uk/EnablingChurch

Facebook: churches-for-all

Twitter: @churchesforall

Event sponsors: *Premier Christian Radio* and the *Lichfield Diocese*.

A major national conference

There are over eleven million people with a limiting long term illness, impairment or disability in Great Britain. That's one in six of the population – and growing.

How can my church . . .

- Face the challenge of dementia?
- Enable disabled people?
- Include Deaf people?
- Support carers?

ENABLING Church: *Everybody in!* brings a distinctively Christian perspective to these issues.

Every local church needs to become an “enabling church” that welcomes, includes and involves people with dementia, disability, deafness, their families and those that care for them.

The programme involves a majority of speakers with direct experience of a range of disabilities, either for themselves or with close family members.

All welcome

The purpose of the conference is unashamedly transformational. It's a day packed with insights, practical ideas, theological perspectives and dialogue.

ENABLING Church is for clergy and church leaders of all denominations, for lay people, family workers and carers. The wide-ranging topics include issues of identity, the case for interdependency and the demands of an ageing population.

“The church is the new community which takes its calling from the life of Christ and is a celebration of diversity . . . What God wants is a “church for all”. It is not a church for disabled people, nor a church which includes disabled people. It is a church for all.”

Roy McCloughry – National Disability Adviser to the
Church of England

The programme

The doors will open at 9.15am for registration and coffee, with a prompt 10am start.

The conference will be opened by the *Bishop of Wolverhampton, Rt Revd Clive Gregory* (Diocese of Lichfield), followed by a video address from *Joni Eareckson Tada*.

The morning programme will include opening worship and keynote addresses by Roy McCloughry: *A church for all:*

abled, disabled, enabled, and by Revd Prof John Swinton: *Knowing God Without Words*.

After the coffee break a number of parallel *streams* can be followed, each with a team of speakers bringing short, incisive, insightful and informed talks, with opportunities for engagement:

- **Disability: Beyond inclusion**
- **Dementia, ageing and onset of disability**
- **Families and carers: in partnership with Care for the Family**
- **Deaf stream: in British Sign Language**

These *streams* continue after the lunch break.

After a tea break, the day will conclude with a plenary session including a closing keynote address by Revd Jonathan Edwards: *Making a difference*, a panel session and worship.

The conference will finish at 4.30pm.

Exhibition and Advice Centre

Throughout the day there will be an exhibition and advice centre run by participating organisations who will be offering specific follow-up opportunities for your church.

Get involved!

Email your questions for the afternoon panel session to: enablingchurch@churchesforall.org.uk

Comment directly on the content of sessions via live Twitter feed and texting on the day.

Please bring with you – on paper or on memory stick – a story of how your church is taking action to involve disabled people and support families and carers. After the conference a compilation will be made available via the Churches for All website.

Accessibility

The programme will be accompanied by BSL interpreting, loop system, and there will be handouts available in large print and braille. The venue is disability-friendly, with level access, a quiet room, accessible toilets and convenient parking.

Speakers

Plenary speakers:

Roy McCloughry: Roy McCloughry is the National Disability Adviser to the Church of England and Vice President of Livability. He is the author of over a dozen books, most recently, *The Enabled Life* (SPCK). Roy lectures in Ethics at St John's College, Nottingham, and is

chair of publishers Lion Hudson. He has lived with epilepsy all his life.

Gill Behenna: The Revd Canon Gill Behenna was appointed last year as National Adviser for Deaf Ministry to the Church of England. Currently she is Chaplain with the Deaf Community in the Diocese of Bristol. She is a trustee of Go! Sign and also works voluntarily for Signs of God, a Christian training organisation.

John Swinton: Revd Prof John Swinton lectures at Aberdeen University. He is an ordained minister of the Church of Scotland who has worked as a registered nurse specialising in psychiatry and learning disabilities and has been a hospital chaplain. He has published extensively on practical theology, pastoral care, mental health studies, disability theology, dementia and nursing.

Jonathan Edwards: Baptist minister and previously General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, Revd Jonathan Edwards was last year appointed Executive Ambassador for Prospects, a Christian organisation working with people with learning disabilities. Jonathan's son Tom has an autistic spectrum condition.

With a special video message to the conference from US Christian writer/speaker and quadriplegic *Joni Eareckson Tada*

Stream speakers include . . .

Mark Arnold: Mark Arnold is Chief Operating Officer for Urban Saints and has a vision to see children and young

people with additional needs fully included in what the Church offers and what God wants to release through it.

Laurence Banks: Laurence Banks is the Ministry Director of Go! Sign and is well known in the Deaf community internationally as a preacher and teacher. He says: “My aim is for the gospel to be more accessible and clear for Deaf people”.

Jennifer Bute: Dr K Jennifer Bute worked as a GP for 30 years, after working in a mission hospital in Zululand. She was diagnosed with dementia in 2009, which she describes as “an unexpected gift from God, a privilege and glorious opportunity”.

Cristina Gangemi: Cristina Gangemi holds a Master’s in Theology and Disability. With Prof John Swinton, she is Co-Director of The Kairos Forum, fostering communities of belonging for people with intellectual disability. She is a National Disability Advisor to the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales.

Beth Mellor: Beth Mellor jointly coordinates Care for the Family’s Additional Needs Parent Support network. This initiative provides support for families who care for children with additional needs. Beth has three grown-up children, including one with additional needs.

Ann Memmott: Ann Memmott is an autistic person and adviser to the All Party Parliamentary Group for Autism. Her work informs the House of Parliament disability team, the Church of England, Churches for All and many other national groups and organisations.

Louise Morse: Louise Morse is a psychotherapist who takes a “biblically attuned approach” to issues of elderly

care and wellbeing. She is Communications Manager for Pilgrim Friends Society (Pilgrim Homes) and author of books on dementia.

Sophia Nicholls : Sophia Nicholls is co-founder of ASNA, a Christian charity providing support for people living with disabilities, and awareness training. She is responsible for developing policy in disability ministry in the Seventh Day Adventist Church. One of her sons has severe learning disabilities.

Haydon Spenceley: Haydon Spenceley is an ordinand in the Church of England and has cerebral palsy. He has an MA in Disability Studies from Leeds University, speaks on disability issues and has a keen interest in the importance of identity in the life of believers, impaired or not.

Mike Townsend : A local church leader and technology consultant, Dr Mike Townsend, who lost his sight at the age of eight, is a trustee of the Royal National Institute of Blind People, the Torch Trust, and Through the Roof.

For latest speaker info:

www.churchesforall.org.uk/EnablingChurch

How can I book?

Tickets cost £15 including tea, coffee and bottled water through the day. *There is an “early bird” price of just £13.50, which closes after 3 May.* Carers and enablers needed to support the participation of disabled delegates can attend free of charge.

A lunch bag can be pre-ordered for £5.50 or you may bring your own packed lunch. Remember to book a lunch for carers or enablers. There are no nearby food outlets.

To book online go to:

www.churchesforall.org.uk/EnablingChurch

If you cannot book online, or need advice regarding accessibility, email: booking@churchesforall.org.uk or call Through the Roof: 01372 749955.

Bookings are administered on behalf of Churches for All by Through the Roof. Registered Charity No. 1087788.

How can I get there?

Bethel Convention Centre is on Kelvin Way, West Bromwich, B70 7JW. There are good road and rail connections, and plenty of free on-site parking, including Blue Badge spaces near the entrance.

From the north: From Junction 1 off the M5, take the 2nd left onto the A4252; at the first roundabout turn right onto the A4182; at the second roundabout, go straight over onto Kelvin Way; Bethel is on the right, half a mile along.

From the south: Take Junction 1 off the M5; then the 5th left onto the A4252; at the first roundabout turn right onto the A4182; then as *From the north*.

From the nearest train station (Sandwell & Dudley): on the main road, turn right, walk to the top of the road, turn right at the roundabout. Bethel is 250 yards along, the second driveway on the left hand side. Sandwell & Dudley

Station is served by Virgin and London Midland, and is one stop north of Birmingham New Street.

ENABLING Church is organised by Churches for All

a partnership of UK Christian disability-focussed organisations: www.churchesforall.org.uk

Churches for All partners

Go! Sign – Christ in the Deaf community

Kairos Forum – for people with Intellectual or Cognitive Disabilities

Livability – choices for disabled people

Open Ears – fellowship for hard of hearing and deaf Christians

Premier Mind & Soul – exploring Christianity and mental health

Prospects – access to life

Through the Roof – transforming lives through disabled people

Torch Trust – vision for people with sight loss

Churches for All associates

ASNA – Adventist Special Needs Association

Children Worldwide

Guild of Church Braillists

Kingdom Trust – Christian perspectives on today’s issues

New Wine – local churches changing nations

Outlook Trust – seniors for Christ

Signs of God – British Sign Language in Christian settings