

**jointpublicissuesteam** Baptist, Methodist & United Reformed Churches working together  
Telephone: 020 7467 3784 ; Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR

**Penrith Group opposes 'New Squares' Development  
Plans for a huge new Supermarket**

A campaign opposing Sainsbury's application to build a 78,000/90,000 sq ft supermarket in Penrith Town Centre is gathering pace. Opponents believe there is already sufficient supermarket provision in the town and local shops would suffer as a result. They want to '**Put the Heart Back into Penrith**', and public demonstrations are planned for September 12 and 19 in the town centre. They are encouraging residents to vote against the proposals in a consultation and questionnaire being circulated by Eden District Council, which is also available on line. What do you think about the proposals? Read

Eden District Council's Recommendation in favour of the scheme. [www.eden.gov.uk](http://www.eden.gov.uk)

More details from

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Items from the  
September 2009  
Joint Public Issues  
Newsletter

If you would like  
to receive the Joint Public  
Issues Team Newsletter, or  
would like to publicise an  
event or project, please contact  
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See overleaf  
for the latest from  
CTiC Social Responsibility  
Forum, July 2009

**There is to be a new or 'redeveloped' hospital  
in Whitehaven on the site of the current  
West Cumberland Hospital**

The NHS Trust is issuing a series of 'progress reports on the redevelopment, of which the first is now available, from Elizabeth Kay, North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust, 01228 814344.

The current newsletter has a questionnaire: '*If you could change three things about West Cumberland Hospital's patient environment, what would they be?*'

**Hope in God's Future**

The major report exploring theology and climate change will very shortly be available as an attractive, full-colour booklet, incorporating a study guide. £5.00 for single copies; £45.00 for packs of 10. Order from Methodist Publishing (01733 235962).

**UN International Day of Prayer for Peace, Sunday September 20**

As publicised in the previous Newsletter, resources from the Joint Public Issues Team are now available for churches to use on Sunday 20 September to mark the UN International Day of Prayer for Peace, September 21  
[www.jointpublicissues.org.uk](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk)

**'Hold Fast to Hope' - Prisons Week 2009: 15-21 November**

Prisons Week was established to pray for and raise awareness of all affected by the reality of prisons: victims, prisoners, families, prison staff, the wider community and the justice system. Download the prayer leaflet (and information on ordering in quantity), further resources for study and worship, and ideas for activities to highlight the issues,  
[www.prisonweek.org](http://www.prisonweek.org)

**A World in Waiting - Advent hope in a time of economic crisis**

Following the global financial crisis, hope is in short supply and needs to be rebuilt. And that is what Advent is all about - a season to take seriously the plight of 'those who dwell in darkness' but also to awaken a longing and commitment to a better and different kind of world. Churches Together in Britain and Ireland is producing web-based resources including reflections, liturgical ideas, prayers and pointers to action. Available shortly to download

[www.ctbi.org.uk](http://www.ctbi.org.uk)

## **News from Churches Together in Cumbria SRF - Meeting at Keswick Friends' Meeting House, 9 July 2009**

The Social Responsibility Forum of Churches Together in Cumbria seeks to encourage and facilitate the involvement of Christians and local churches throughout our county as widely as possible in all aspects of community life.

*From 'Church and Community in Cumbria'*

What follows is taken from the SRF Minutes written by Helen Boothroyd, The Social Responsibility Development Officer of Churches Together in Cumbria

### **Strategic Partnerships**

Following a request at the SRF for information about Strategic Partnerships, on which faith groups are represented, a presentation was given by Willie Slavin, Chair West Cumbria Partnership Forum (West Cumbria Local Strategic Partnership). The Government set up strategic partnerships to address the 'democratic deficit' caused by a lack of interest in local government and very low election turnout. Multi-agency partnership working draws a wide variety of people to work together.

LSP's bring together public, private and third sector (faith, voluntary, community) representatives to work together on policy direction for each local area. There are five LSPs in Cumbria: Carlisle, Eden, Furness, South Lakeland and West Cumbria. There is also a county-wide Cumbria Strategic Partnership.

Willie explained that The West Cumbria Partnership Forum are people representing faith, children and families, disability, old age and youth (Communities of Interest); 16 Parish Councils (Communities of Place). The private sector is represented by the Chamber of Commerce. The third sector is very wide and includes the approximately 1600 voluntary organisations in West Cumbria. The other two key public sector organisations are the police and the Primary Care Trust.

There are four Thematic Partnerships: Every Child Matters, Healthy Communities, Living Environment and Vibrant Economy. These include people with expertise on the issue. The nuclear industry has a significant role in Vibrant Economy. The Thematic Partnerships aim to ensure that the Strategic Partnership is working directly towards the outcomes in the community strategy, with some success.

### ***'Church and Community in Cumbria' leaflet***

The final version of this leaflet has been circulated widely. Its purpose is to highlight a few current opportunities and challenges that Christians and churches in Cumbria might want to consider with regard to involvement in our communities.

It contains sections on LSPs, see above, and on Tackling Climate Change.

### ***Human Embryology Issues Project***

Following the successful public meetings in Keswick and Kendal, the Study Resource Guide has been distributed to local churches. This Guide provides a summary of the key issues and a glossary of terms and signposts the reader to a variety of national church resources, which contain excellent material for Bible study and discussion, and to a couple of novels that some groups may like to use as an alternative way into the issues. It may be downloaded from the CTiC website [www.churchestogethercumbria.co.uk](http://www.churchestogethercumbria.co.uk).

Please contact Helen for further  
information on any SRF topic.  
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