

## 9/11 – Awareness Sunday

Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> is being observed nationally as Awareness Sunday because it marks the tenth anniversary of the terrorist atrocities of September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001. Information for it is on [www.awarenesssunday.com](http://www.awarenesssunday.com) or [www.awareness.foundation.com](http://www.awareness.foundation.com). Information packs can be requested by telephoning 020 7730 8830 or e-mailing [info@awarenesssunday.com](mailto:info@awarenesssunday.com). The information is headed – ‘Violence in the name of religion must come to a full stop, and the by line for the day is ‘A path to peace’. It is particularly appropriate that September 11<sup>th</sup> is Racial Justice Sunday. It would be good if all parishes could think through how they will best mark the day.

## Banks and Society

You will see below a short article designed for church newsletters about the Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility’s report on the banks and society. This is an important contribution to the current debate.

*John Packer*

### **What can we do about the banks?**

The 2007-10 banking crisis and recession badly eroded trust in the banks. As well as the obvious impact of their activity on the stability of the global financial system, banks have been criticised for secrecy, excessive corporate pay and bonuses, and their role in a variety of environmental, social and human rights problems.

***The Banks and Society: Rebuilding Trust***, a report by **ECCR, the Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility**, (March 2011) examines the social, ethical and environmental concerns arising from:

- Banks’ direct impact on customers, employees, and local and national communities – for example through branch closures and the availability of basic bank accounts.
- Indirect consequences resulting from banks’ facilitation of client business - for example the financing of environmentally and socially damaging extractive industry, such as the Canadian tar (oil) sands.
- Banks’ corporate governance – issues such as pay and transparency.

ECCR believes that an adequate response to all these issues is needed if the banks are to regain public trust.

The report provides a brief profile of the main banks, makes recommendations to improve their corporate responsibility performance, and includes questions to help you engage with your bank on these issues. It can be downloaded from ECCR’s website: [www.eccr.org.uk](http://www.eccr.org.uk) or a printed copy of the full report (£16) or executive summary (free) obtained from: ECCR, PO Box 500, Oxford, OX1 1ZL; 01865 245349.

ECCR is a church-based organisation working for economic justice, human rights and environmental sustainability. ECCR undertakes research, advocacy and dialogue to encourage companies to meet higher standards of corporate responsibility and helps faith communities and their members consider how to use their money, through banking, investments, pension funds etc, to influence company behaviour.

ECCR can provide speakers for regional or local church meetings and events, colleges, schools and other groups, as well as articles for church newsletters. Please contact Helen Boothroyd: [helen.boothroyd@eccr.org.uk](mailto:helen.boothroyd@eccr.org.uk); 07503 931172.

## **Common Licences and the Marriage of Persons from Outside the European Economic Area – Training Sessions**

We have arranged two opportunities to study the new Guidance on Marriage of Persons from Outside the European Economic Area and to introduce the new paperwork. We also plan to look at the UKBA Guidance and do some case studies.

A Registrar, Archdeacon and I will be present for each session, which are open to all clergy, and I hope that those who feel this information would be useful to them will attend.

The details are:

### **19 September 2011**

Upper Room, St Mark's, Harrogate from 2.00 to 4.00 pm  
*(please avoid the Narthex when leaving due to a maths class)*

### **26 September 2011**

Hollin House, Leeds from 2.00 to 4.00 pm

Please let my office know if you will be attending

Tel: 01677 423525 or bishop.knaresb@btinternet.com)

***James Bell***