

CTBI UPDATE



Working for unity, peace, and social justice



RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF FAITH EXPRESSION AND ASSEMBLY

CTBI has signed an open letter supported by 20 UK faith organisations, asking Keir Starmer to review the law in light of the recent police raid on a peaceful gathering at Westminster Quaker Meeting House.

Peaceful expressions of moral conviction are central to our faith. We're asking the Prime Minister to affirm his commitment to freedom of expression, and to review the law to ensure people's right to gather peacefully.

For more information and to add your signature to the interfaith statement about the police raid on Westminster Meeting House:

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Solidarity

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IN FOCUS



SANCTUARY SUNDAY AND REFUGEE WEEK 2025

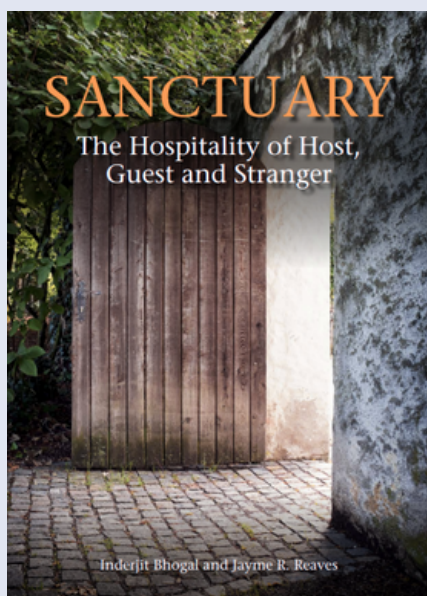
SANCTUARY SUNDAY

Sanctuary Sunday is marked at the end of Refugee Week and aims to promote the Church of Sanctuary programme, building cultures of welcome, hospitality and safety in our churches.

REFUGEE WEEK

This year Refugee Week runs from 16-22 June 2025 and has the theme 'Community as a Superpower'.

[READ MORE](#)



RESOURCES

Sanctuary: The Hospitality of Host, Guest and Stranger is an ideal resource to use, both for Sanctuary Sunday and Refugee Week.

Produced by Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal and Dr Jayme R Reaves, it is designed to support individual Christians, Church communities and ecumenical groups in reflecting on the significance of sanctuary for our times.

Please also see the **Church of Sanctuary** website for a range of extra resources that are available.

[READ MORE](#)



SENIOR FAITH LEADERS ENCOURAGE PM TO TONE DOWN MIGRATION RHETORIC

As part of the work with the Churches' Refugee Network (CRN), CTBI has supported the open letter to the prime minister after he delivered the 'island of strangers' speech.

Read the exclusive story in [The Guardian](#).

[READ MORE](#)

EVENTS FROM CTBI AND MEMBER NETWORKS



David Goodbourn Lecture 2025 Just knowing: How do we create knowledge that does justice to marginalised voices?

20th May 2025, 7:30pm – 9:00pm
ONLINE

This lecture will explore Project Violet, a three-year project to explore women's experience of ministry in the Baptist tradition. Using Theological Action Research, the project has involved Baptist women to understand more fully the theological, missional, and structural obstacles they face resulting in 57 requests for change.

[BOOK](#)

BIA



Ecumenical service marking 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea

20th May 2025, 12pm.
LONDON & ONLINE

This special ecumenical service will bring together Christian leaders and communities for a profound moment of unity and prayer for peace, during this time of brokenness and conflict.

Join in prayer online.

[BOOK](#)



Direct cremation and new funerary movements

21st May 2025, 2.30pm - 4.00pm
ONLINE

Join the Mission Theology & Apologetics Group (MTAG) to explore how changing societal practices around death and funerals are affecting grief, mourning, and pastoral care. Together, we'll reflect on the significance of the body in Christian theology and consider how the Church can respond with compassion and insight to evolving attitudes towards death and bereavement.

[BOOK](#)

BIA



BOOK

The gift of my neighbour: learning from diaspora communities

24th May 2025,

10.30am -4.30pm, LONDON

A day conference exploring some of the riches offered by Churches whose roots come from beyond the UK.

Britain today is blessed by communities from all over the world and, among them, there are Churches which bring new life and fresh theological perspectives. This day is a chance to share some of these riches, to begin to appreciate non-Western ways of thinking, and to discover new insights by practising receptive learning from one another.



From Lament to Action

Sunday 25th May 2025,
3pm, LONDON

The Racial Justice Advocacy Forum invite you to From Lament to Action, a dynamic and prophetic Ecumenical Service to mark the Fifth Anniversary of the Killing of George Floyd.

The co-celebrants include Bishop Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop Mike Royal, and Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson.

The programme includes Christ's Hospital School Gospel Choir and organist Wayne Marshall, OBE.

BOOK



GriefTech – what might AI offer the bereaved in the future?

11 June 2025, 2.30pm - 4.00pm,
ONLINE

What if AI could generate a version of your late spouse, child, or parent - would it comfort or confuse? As digital legacies reshape grief, how should Christians respond?

Join the Mission Theology & Apologetics Group (MTAG) for a thought-provoking webinar exploring faith, bereavement, and the impact of AI on how we remember our loved ones.

BOOK



REMEMBERING SREBRENICA

Remember Yesterday, Act Today



11 July – Srebrenica Memorial Day.

Remembering Srebrenica's aim is to commemorate the 1990s Bosnian genocide in which just under 100,000 Muslims were killed, two million people were displaced, and up to 50,000 women raped. It was the result of ethnic and religious hatred. 2025 is the 30th anniversary of the mass murder of 8,372 men and boys in one town: Srebrenica.

Remembering Srebrenica's mission is to remember yesterday and act today. To remember and pay tribute both to those who died and those who live with the loss of their loved ones to genocide. It also recommits to combatting the hate and racism that continue to kill people overseas and which too often blight the lives of people here in the UK.

Faith and interfaith communities are warmly invited to join this year's commemorations.

[READ MORE](#)

EIN UPDATE



EIN MEMBER UPDATE

Read the first issue of the Environmental Issues Network (EIN) Member Update, a bulletin capturing the great work of the EIN member churches and faith organisations, as shared by the members.

[READ MORE](#)

SURVEY

National Churches Survey: giving every church a voice

The National Churches Trust is carrying out a survey to help policymakers, the media, and the wider public better understand the challenges churches face and to highlight the vital work that churches do.

This survey has the support of denominations, faith, and heritage groups across the country and churches are encouraged to take part.

Please complete The National Churches Survey and encourage others you know to join in too.

The more churches that take part, the more impactful it will be. The survey is live from 6 May – 30 June 2025.



[FIND MORE](#)

PRAYER

CITIES OF REFUGEE

*Welcoming God,
who delivers us and gives us refuge,
teach us what it means to love you
and to walk in your ways
by loving the strangers in our midst
who are in need of protection*

Amen

**This prayer has been taken from the resource:
[Sanctuary: The Hospitality of Host, Guest and Stranger](#)*



[Other prayers are available on our website.](#)