



action of churches together in scotland  
7 Forrester Lodge, Inglewood, Alloa FK10 2HU

**ACTS**  
**Is looking for a new**  
**General Secretary.**  
**Please see details**  
**on Page 2**

Winter/Spring 2007

**TOGETHER**

## ***Immigration: a challenge for Scottish Churches***

Over the past few years the number of immigrants coming to Scotland has increased substantially. Most of those immigrants come from countries which recently joined the European Union. The impact of immigrants is already felt in every part of Scotland and in all sectors of life in our society. Overall there is agreement that Scotland as a whole has benefited greatly from this wave of immigrants. They have filled gaps in areas such as the Highlands where there is a reported under population and a shortage of skilled workers.

The majority of new immigrants in Scotland are working in food manufacturing, in agriculture and the health sectors.

[A recent study in the Highlands has revealed that 69% of the nationals from the new EU accession countries are employed in hospitality, agriculture and food processing. Migrant Workers in the Highlands and Islands: Research Report, October 2005. It is estimated that 1% of the total work force in the health, hospitality and manufacturing services, and 5% in the agriculture

and fishing sectors are from the new EU accession countries]

It is understood that most of these migrant workers move to the rural areas rather than traditional migration centres.

The migrants' experiences and difficulties are varied. In terms of employment many of them have limited understanding of employment law in this country, and as a result might not be aware of their rights and entitlements. Most are employed in semi-skilled or unskilled work, often in jobs below their

Qualifications and experience. As a result their income is relatively low.

Migrants also face difficulties outside work. Some report a hostile reaction from members of the local community because they are seen as taking their jobs away or suppress wages for local people. Some report experiencing racist abuse and in few cases even violence. Language problems, cultural differences as well as unfamiliarity with the system, mean many of the immigrants are finding it difficult to

.....Continued on page 2

## Situations Vacant

# General Secretary

£32,500 pa

**Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS)** are seeking to appoint a new General Secretary to assist the development, and oversee the implementation, of the ecumenical strategy agreed by the Scottish Churches Forum. The post supports the Trustees of ACTS in fulfilling their responsibilities and is responsible for providing effective support to the consistent elements and activities of ACTS through appropriate and collaborative leadership of the paid staff.

This exciting post needs someone of vision who is able to assist ACTS to further its mission to provide a national focus of inter-church counsel and action in Scotland, in partnership with the national ecumenical bodies in England, Wales and Ireland and with CTBI.

As well as your knowledge and experience of the breadth and diversity of the Church scene, you will be a person who puts a premium on relationship building. You will have a wide range of proven skills in such areas as communication, management, IT and ecumenical working. It is considered a genuine occupational requirement that the General Secretary is in membership of one of the member churches of ACTS or CTBI.

Further details including an application form can be downloaded from:

[www.acts-scotland.org](http://www.acts-scotland.org) or obtained by email from [ecumenical@acts-scotland.org](mailto:ecumenical@acts-scotland.org) or by telephoning **01259 216980**

**Closing date: 11 April 2007**

Interviews will be held on 1 May 2007

*Immigration: continued from page 1*

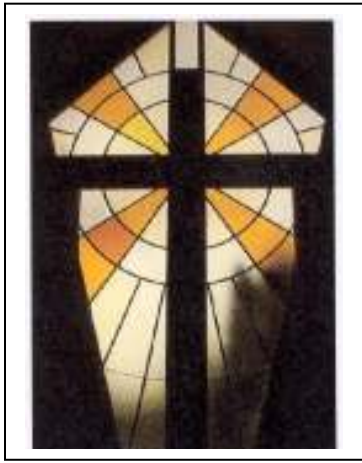
access information about services such as health and education. In many rural areas though, due to reduced capacity, the local authorities are unable to meet some of the needs of the immigrant population. Therefore help offered by local voluntary organisations and churches is vital.

**What do the churches do?** There are many instances where churches have been actively seeking to help the immigrants in practical ways. Some churches have asked assistance from sister churches in the countries of origin of migrants living in the area they serve.

Many recognise the value of the work and support churches offer but there is still more churches could do to help with immigration in their local area. It is often the case that churches know their local area better than anyone else. As a result they might be in the best position to inform the community about the immigrant population in the area.

A considerable number of immigrants are coming from a church related background in their own country and would love to attend and be involved in our local churches. Unfortunately this is often impossible because churches are ill prepared to make the migrant community feel welcome, and sometimes our obsession with the 'status quo' might turn them away from our church doors. Nevertheless, it is now accepted that migrants are making a positive impact on the church in Scotland.

**Dr Nelu Balaj**  
**Racial Justice Officer,**



## Seminars on the Ecumenical Movement

Third Series, 2007

### The light of Christ shines upon all Hope for Renewal and Unity in Europe

Third European Ecumenical Assembly  
4-9 September 2007, Sibiu, Romania

#### ***Easter.... from the inside***

This year's excellent resource has been prepared for us by Revd Douglas Galbraith who writes ....

'...Faith speaks to faith. Secrets are shared. We are invited into the inner circle, ushered behind closed doors. We even find ourselves tuned into Jesus' own wavelength. This is Easter from the inside.'

'Easter... *from the inside*' comes in a handy A5 size. The graphic is from Milford Baptist Church in New Zealand who have kindly given us permission to use it on this occasion.

Copies are either free to download from the ACTS website [www.acts-scotland.org](http://www.acts-scotland.org) or to purchase at 14p per copy from the ACTS office at 7 Forrester Lodge, Inglewood, Alloa FK10 2HU. Telephone orders to Shona Paterson 01259 222362

You are cordially invited to attend the following seminars which have been organised by ACTS and Scottish Churches House to prepare Scottish Christians – delegates to EEA3 and all who wish to learn about it for the Third European Ecumenical Assembly. Three one day seminars will be held on major European church traditions and one to report back. The Seminars start with coffee at 10.00am, include lunch and end at 4.00pm.

Cost: £20 each seminar (£64 for all four). Participants coming from far afield who would like overnight accommodation before or after, can easily be accommodated in Scottish Churches House where the seminars will be held.

1. **An Introduction to the Orthodox Tradition**  
Tuesday, 20 March 2007
2. **An Introduction to the Lutheran Tradition**  
Thursday 26 April 2007
3. **Presenting the Roman Catholic Tradition**  
Tuesday 15 May 2007
4. **Presenting the Third European Ecumenical Assembly Follow-up Seminar**  
Monday 22 October 2007

The following conference will also take place in Scottish Churches House:

#### **British and Irish Church Delegates EEA3 Preparatory Conference**

Monday 2.30pm to Tuesday 4.30pm  
11-12 June 2007

**Programmes and Booking forms from  
Scottish Churches House, Dunblane  
Tel: 01786 823588**



Snap!  
Face 2 Faith  
Photo competition launched

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize**  
**£350 Jessops vouchers**

People of all ages and faiths are being encouraged to take part in the Face 2 Faith photo competition run by The Methodist Church who are looking for images which communicate something powerful about inter-faith relations.

Anyone in Britain can enter, with young people especially encouraged to take part. Up to 4 pictures can be submitted with digital, print and even camera phone images being accepted.

Dr Elizabeth Harris, Methodist Secretary for Inter Faith relations, said "We recognise that there are plenty of talented photographers out there – even if they don't know it yet. Photographs can really capture a moment or a feeling much better than we can express it in words. The month of prayer will draw to a close but we hope that increased understanding and commitment to working with people of other faiths will grow from that and continue into the future. A powerful image can communicate something that lasts much longer and stays in our thoughts – this is what we are looking for."

The competition will run until 31 May 2007 and entries will be displayed on the Face 2 Faith website [www.face2faith.org.uk](http://www.face2faith.org.uk). All competition details can be found on the website or requested by post from :

Inter Faith Office  
Methodist Church House  
25 Marylebone Road  
London  
NW1 5JR

## Open Your Church Tell your story

**Visitors Welcome!** But who are the visitors? Someone from down the road, or downtown New York? The local school (if invited) or a Japanese backpacker?

**Tourist or Pilgrims?** Recent research reveals that religious tourism is one of the world's fastest growing trends. Most visitors to churches are not there primarily for the history or architecture but do experience the spiritual dimension. How do people experience that in your church?

**Interpreting:** What are the important places and the key stories in your church? How do you tell them? You could do it live or with videos, in leaflets, through guides and/or pilgrim trails.

**Promoting:** Are you open? Does anyone know?

**Led ecumenically by Scotland's Churches Scheme** they are preparing for Scotland's Year of Homecoming in 2009, a concerted promotion of Scotland to itself and across the world. Are you thinking ahead?

**For more details** please contact Dr Brian Fraser on 01355 302416 or email: [fraser@dunedin67.freemove.co.uk](mailto:fraser@dunedin67.freemove.co.uk)

## A Rural Ministry Training Day

**St Mary’s Conference and Retreat Centre, Kinnoull, Perth  
12.30pm Wednesday 28 March to 2.00pm Thursday 29 March 2007**

*“This event is for all involved in ministry, mission and care for Scotland’s rural communities and its countryside”*

Organised by the Scottish Churches’ Rural Group (SCRG) of Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS), the event aims to provide an opportunity for those in rural ministry to come together:

- a. To be informed about the changes which are impacting upon our rural communities and the implications for the coming decade.
- b. To reassess the ways in which scripture guides our mission and ministry in areas such as food production methods, trade and justice in relation to food and care of the global environment.
- c. To enjoy the fellowship of others involved in mission and ministry to Scotland’s rural communities.

**Key Speakers:** Dr Jill Hopkinson, Mr Michael Paske, Rev Richard Frazer and Rev Dr Anne Tomlinson

### **Discussion Group**

**Leaders:** Rev Prof David Atkinson, Mrs Fiona Campbell, Mr Martin Robb

**Cost:** £55 Non Returnable Fee payable in advance  
(includes lunch and dinner on Wednesday, Breakfast and Lunch on Thursday)

**Booking Details:** Completed booking form required (available from ACTS telephone: 01259 216980) Completed forms should be sent to Joan Pennycook, ACTS, 7 Forrester Lodge, Inglewood, Alloa FK10 2HU together with a cheque made payable to ACTS for £55.00



## Scottish Friends of Ecumenism

AGM and Spring Gathering

**Slavery: then and now**

**Saturday 12 May 10am to 4pm**

Venue: Scottish Churches House, Dunblane

Cost: £20 To book please telephone 01786 823588

**Senior Citizens’ Break:** Enjoy a break with friends in the pleasant surroundings of Scottish Churches’ House. Participate in a specially prepared programme, including excursions, musical evenings, prayers, slide shows etc.  
**14 – 18 May** Cost £174 To book please telephone 01786 823588

# Abolition of the Slave Trade Commemoration Walk - Musselburgh - 25<sup>th</sup> March

On the day which is exactly 200 years since the Westminster Parliament passed the Act to abolish the Slave Trade, ACTS invites you to take part in a walk from the centre of Musselburgh to the Gardens at Inveresk House. On the walk we will follow in imagination the steps taken by Robert Wedderburn, the son of James Wedderburn, the owner of Inveresk House, and a slave maid on one of his Jamaican plantations. Robert came to Musselburgh in 1795 to visit his father. He did not receive a good welcome - being sent away with "a cracked sixpence" - and became a radical and well known anti-slavery activist in England.

Come along and share in this event during which we will

- mark the success of the efforts of those, slave and free, in Scotland and elsewhere, who struggled to end the Slave Trade
- remember the suffering and inhumane treatment inflicted on those who were enslaved and
- recognise that Scots were complicit in the Trade and profited from it. Share too in

## Church Life Network assists in National Service for The Scottish Police Federation

Following the success of the G8 Service which was co-hosted by the Church Life and the Church & Society Networks of ACTS, the Church Life Network has been asked to assist The Scottish Police Federation in the planning and leadership of a National Service to commemorate Police personnel who have been killed or have died in the line of duty. The Service which is to be held at the International Conference Centre on 30 September will be ecumenical, providing worship for all faiths and non. This annual service was hosted by Northern Ireland last year. It is a great honour for ACTS to be invited to play a leading role in this important national event.

demonstrating that the Churches care about and are prepared to fight against the modern forms of slavery - trafficking; forced and bonded labour; - which still require to be overcome.

The walk will set out at **14.30** from the small band stand in the riverside gardens beside the "Roman" bridge (opposite Inveresk Road) and follow the River Esk Walkway to Inveresk Gardens.

Please try to be at the starting point by **14.15**.

It would be helpful if you would let us know if you plan to come along.

Email [tommoyes@acts-scotland.org](mailto:tommoyes@acts-scotland.org)  
before March 21<sup>st</sup>.

### Notes

- There are several car parks in the centre of Musselburgh but very few parking spaces at Inveresk.*
- The walk is about a mile and a half in length and is mainly on flat ground*

**CHURCHES AGENCY for  
INTER FAITH RELATIONS in SCOTLAND**



**Christianity and Scotland's other faiths:**

**In Dialogue with Sikhism      Tuesday 24 April 2007    10.30am –  
3.00pm**

**Scottish Churches' House, Dunblane**

Those of us who know very little about Sikhism and how to build bridges with the Sikh community in Scotland can be sure of learning a great deal from this event.

Guest Speaker: Mrs Ravinder Kaur Nijjar

Cost: £20 - payable at the time of booking **(by April 16<sup>th</sup> please)**

Booking form, flyer and programme can be obtained from ACTS 01259 216980 or Scottish Churches House 01786 823588 and be downloaded from <http://www.acts-scotland.org/downloads/sikhbooking.pdf> and <http://www.acts-scotland.org/downloads/sikhflyer.pdf> and <http://www.acts-scotland.org/downloads/sikhprogramme.pdf>

**Scottish Churches House in cooperation with the Institute for Global Church Studies**

## **Theological Summer School**

23 June – 7 July at Scottish Churches House, Dunblane

This International Summer School in theology, Church & Society will offer a unique opportunity to Christians and others from all over the world to study the complex and varied social, religious and cultural life of Scotland. The fortnight is planned to explore some of the richness of past and present religious life as it faces globalisation. This historic impact of devolution, contemporary grappling with sectarianism, the new challenges of a multi-faith society will be among many aspects of the Scottish scene to be picked up through a series of visits and encounters with key people.

The beautiful heart of Dunblane will be the 'base camp' for the event. A wide range of excursions will introduce participants to Iona and the Iona Community, the Highlands European Year of Culture 2007, Edinburgh and Glasgow Divinity Schools and the history of the Reformation, with visits to St Andrews and the Border Abbeys, all in the company of skilled interpreters of their character and history.

Cost £995 per person includes full board, accommodation on Iona, excursions and museums (£955 per person for shared room)

Full programme [www.scottishchurcheshouse.org](http://www.scottishchurcheshouse.org) Tel 01786 823588

## What kind of future do you want?

Would you like to be sprinting at 80? Or zooming around in a self-driving car? Would you like a robot to serve your breakfast? Would you be happy for computers at the supermarket to know what's in your fridge? Would you have a new heart grown from stem cells?

These questions form part of the first ever widespread public engagement programme designed to get the nation talking about what we want from science and technology in the future. It invites community, including church groups across the UK to have their say by requesting a free sciencehorizons discussion pack. This pack contains everything a group needs to run a discussion and send in their views.

Discussion packs can be requested via the website [www.sciencehorizons.org.uk](http://www.sciencehorizons.org.uk) or by calling 020 8683 6602 or by email to [contact@sciencehorizons.org.uk](mailto:contact@sciencehorizons.org.uk)

The results of the discussions across the UK will help the Government to understand the public's hopes and concern's about the way science and technology could be used in the future.

The pack contains stories about what life might be like for a set of fictional characters in 2025, and asks the group to discuss their reactions to these stories, record their views on the forms supplied and return their responses to sciencehorizons. Groups do not need to have an interest in science to take part – this project is for everyone.

**April 10-19 Film Retreat:** although silent, and individually guided, this retreat will use a daily feature film to illustrate the themes of the Spiritual Exercises. Led by Jesuit film maker, Christof Wolf.

**May 4-7 Sexuality and Spirituality:** A weekend Seminar led by Fr Brendan Callaghan SJ who is a clinical psychologist and lecturer at Heythrop College.

Further details from St Bueno's tel: 01745 583444 or email: [david@jesuits.co.uk](mailto:david@jesuits.co.uk)

## What the kids say...



During a school discussion about role models and people who have influenced others by their achievements, Steven was asked who he admired most. "The minister," he replied without hesitation. "And why do you admire the minister?" his teacher asked. "Because he's the only one who can keep my granny quiet for an hour!"

If you have any interesting news you would like to see in the next edition of our newsletter, or if you have a change of mailing details please contact:  
Shona Paterson at ACTS, 7 Forrester Lodge, Inglewood, Alloa FK10 2HU  
Email: [shonapaterson@acts-scotland.org](mailto:shonapaterson@acts-scotland.org) or telephone 01259 222362  
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