

# Engaging Issues

*Exploring Issues in Society*

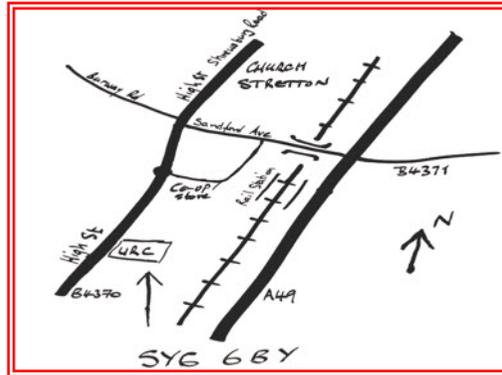
## Our Purposes:

To keep in our minds the  
connectedness and interdependence  
of human life on this fragile planet  
To promote the strong belief that all  
are our neighbours and share a  
common future

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Challenge	Discussion
Dialogue	Tolerance
Openness	Respect
Learning	Understanding
Development	Difference
Independence	Critical Thinking
Spirituality	Communication
Humanism	Building Bridges
Sharing	Contemporary Issues

**A forum for the exploration of beliefs  
and positions.**



## Q... What is Engaging Issues?

A... Engaging Issues is a Forum for everyone who wants to consider significant social, ethical, spiritual and religious issues of our day. It aspires to be an open, inclusive and questioning assembly, where we can speak our minds freely and respectfully. It may challenge our assumptions and can be uncomfortable in the pursuit of encouraging greater understanding, integrity and tolerance of differing views.

## Q.. Where?

A... Meetings take place in **The United Reformed Church, High Street, Church Stretton, SY6 6BY** during the Autumn and Winter months.

## Q... When?

A... From 7.30pm - 9.00pm usually on alternate Tuesday evenings.

## Q... How much (£) ?

A... A suggested donation of £3 an evening.

*Organised and published by a non profit making, small and informal group of local friends with only small axes to grind.  
For further details contact Lesley Richards 01694 722068*



**Exploring Issues in Society**  
For the 13th season - October 2017 into February 2018

## **The Rise & Rise of the Social Enterprise**

**Jean Jarvis - October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Jean has extensive experience of setting up and running successful social enterprises. She was Social Enterprise Ambassador for Gordon Brown's government; in 2011 she was awarded an MBE for services to social enterprise. Jean's vision "is that Social Enterprise becomes the normal way to do business."

Jean is Co-founder and CEO of the Furniture Scheme

[www.furniturescheme.co.uk](http://www.furniturescheme.co.uk)

Details from David Griffin 01588 672640

## **Weighing up Health and Justice**

**Lucy Aphramor - November 14<sup>th</sup>**

Lucy Aphramor is an award-winning dietitian. In response to the shame and stigma linked to dieting she developed 'Well Now', an approach that promotes health equity, body respect, and has compassion at its core. 'Well Now' is adopted in NHS Highland as their healthy weight policy. A Quaker and co-author of the book "*Body Respect: What Conventional Health Books Get Wrong, Leave Out, and Just Plain Fail to Understand About Weight*". She uses poetry for health activism, performing as The Naked Dietitian.

Details from Lesley Richards 01694 722068

## **We're all in this together? *The British and the Common Good.***

**John Moffatt - January 9<sup>th</sup> 2018**

From post-war rationing to the Great Recession, as governments have struggled to balance wealth-creation and welfare, how has our own vision evolved of how society ought to be? **John Moffatt SJ** is a Roman Catholic priest and member of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). In recent years he has been exploring the relationship between economics and social ethics.

Details from Dave Griffin 01588 672640

## **Martin Luther and the Reformation- *Faith & Secularity***

**John Tiller - October 17<sup>th</sup>**

John read History at Christ Church, Oxford (1957-60); He lectured on the Reformation at Trinity College, Bristol, Wesley College, Bristol, and part-time ordination courses in St Albans and Ludlow;

Was Chief Secretary to the Advisory Council for the Church's Ministry (1978-84);

Was a Residentiary Canon of Hereford Cathedral (1984-2004) And latterly Archdeacon of Hereford

Details from Mike Bourke 01694 722910

## **Myth and Mystery in Religion**

**Donald Horsfield - November 28<sup>th</sup>**

Donald will be looking for a deeper meaning of the word "myth": not as a being an escape into some fantasy land, but as a means of putting us in touch with the spirituality which is an essential part of who we are.

Religion needs to be "re-mythologised" to make us aware of the great mystery of existence itself. We are part of that mystery, It's about time the competitive world religions became more inclusive, and started telling us about.. *One human family, living in the world, and part of a mysterious oneness, some of us call God.*

Details from Janet Longstaff 01694 722085

## **Does he still take sugar?**

**Meredith Vivian - January 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Meredith explores attitudes towards disability and questions whether we are any closer to an inclusive society. This presentation will challenge us to confront prejudice and misconception.

**Meredith Vivian OBE**, a former senior civil servant at the Department of Health, moved to Church Stretton in 2013. He is now a clinical hypnotherapist and life coach, and a newly appointed lay member of Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

Details from Janet Longstaff 01694 722085

## **Foreign Aid: *Trick or Treat?***

**David Howard - October 31<sup>st</sup>**  
(URC Hall)

Who benefits from foreign aid? How effective is it? Is it a good use of our money, or should we use our resources differently? Do we have a responsibility to give, or should we look after ourselves first?

**David Howard** is a former headteacher and education consultant, who fills his retirement with reading, gardening, cycling, walking, and working for the community, as well as entertaining his seven grandchildren.

Details from David Howard 01694 722904

## **Britain's housing affordability Crisis: *How did we get here? And how do we get out of it?***

**Chrissie Pepler - December 12<sup>th</sup>**

The government produced a White Paper in Feb 2017 which recognised that our housing model in the UK is 'broken'. Housing is a basic human need; the lack of suitable or affordable housing creates instability for people, contributes to poor health and wellbeing and makes it very difficult for people to make a sustainable livelihood. How can we, in our local communities, respond to this basic need for affordable housing for the wellbeing of future generations?

Details from Janet Longstaff 01694 722085

## **God, Words and Us:**

### ***Recovering the Narrative Shape of the Mystery***

**Ben Wood - February 6<sup>th</sup>**

Can Christians talk with one voice about God? We need to recover the God at the heart of the Christian story... expressed in the life and death of an obscure first-century Jew. It will be argued that recapturing the distinctive character of the Christian God can also heal divisions not just between but also within Churches. **Dr Benjamin Wood** is a Quaker ethicist and theologian, interested in the relationship between faith & society, secular politics and the Church.

Details from Lesley Richards 01694 722068