

Tuesday 12 June 2012 – Katei Kirby

“Belonging together – dream or reality?”

Katei Kirby, the former CEO of the African and Caribbean Evangelical Alliance (ACEA) in the UK, is heading up a major initiative called ‘Belonging Together’ for the Methodist Church in Britain. This initiative is a 3-year programme to *affirm, bring together and celebrate* the whole people of God – in short, unity in diversity. Katei is a patriotic British-born Antiguan who celebrates her rich cultural heritage ...but readily admits to avoiding cricket! Her passions are marketing, mentoring and ministry, and she enjoys travel, good food and good company. Katei is bi-vocational, with a career in marketing communications, while developing in Christian ministry and leadership at local, national and international levels. She was ordained in 1999, and was a visiting lecturer at London Metropolitan University before becoming the first female CEO of ACEA in 2005. She is currently a Vice President of Tearfund and supports a range of organisations with a visible ethos of inclusion. In this lecture, Katei will explore the dream of belonging and the theology that underpins it, and some of the challenges that the reality presents. Her own dream is to see the kind of inclusion and community cohesion that Jesus prayed for in John 17, and which Dr Martin Luther King Jr dared to dream about too.

This is the fourteenth series of Hugh Price Hughes Lectures. The Revd Hugh Price Hughes founded the West London Mission in 1887. He was one of the most forward-looking thinkers of the day. We believe these annual lectures are making a significant contribution towards exploring our faith in the 21st Century.

WEST LONDON MISSION

The calling of the West London Mission is to respond to the transforming Gospel of God’s love in Christ and to witness to it through our life and work.

We will proclaim the transforming Gospel of God’s love by:

- Underpinning everything we do with God-centred worship and prayer
- Building communities of faithful and fruitful disciples
- Encouraging more people to be followers of Jesus Christ
- Serving the marginalized in society
- Engaging prophetically with the world
- Learning from our diversity and celebrating each others’ cultures.

The West London Mission (WLM) is a Circuit of the Methodist Church. It is a circuit with two city-centre churches at Hinde Street in Marylebone and King’s Cross, and three circuit mission projects. Each of the churches engages in worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism in ways that reflect Methodist tradition and their distinctive identity, history and context. The circuit mission projects include professional Social Work, a student community at Methodist Chaplaincy House at King’s Cross and Chaplaincy to the University of Westminster. Our work with students and the most marginalized is an expression of our historic roots and the current convictions of Hinde Street and Kings Cross churches.



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HUGH PRICE HUGHES LECTURES 2012

“Belonging Together?”



Hinde Street Methodist Church
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METHODIST CHURCH

All lectures are on Tuesday evening at 7.30pm and are free.

The increasing diversity of the worlds in which we live presents each of us with a daily challenge about how to relate to difference. Christians speak about being “members of the body of Christ.” We affirm that we “belong together.” And we celebrate our diversity as a God-given gift. Yet it is rare to hear constructive public conversation about the difficulties and challenges of belonging together – especially in relation to the wider society – our context for life and mission. Taking five different starting points, the lecturers in this series, will use their practical experience to explore some of these issues.

14th February — Hugh Starkey

“Learning to Live Together”

Hugh Starkey is Professor of Education at the Institute of Education University of London. He teaches and researches citizenship and human rights education and draws on the experiences of increasingly multicultural societies across the world. His latest book *Teachers and Human Rights Education* (Trentham, 2010, with Audrey Osler) makes the case that learning to live together starts with the acceptance of common universal standards and principles that cross cultures. His lecture will suggest that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) provides as a starting point a cosmopolitan worldview based on the concept of the human family. This perspective is common to most faith communities and also humanists. The UDHR also proposes a utopia, where respect for human dignity leads to justice and peace. Many Christians identify with this vision as also expressing their values and their faith. The lecture proposes that human rights provide a language for describing injustices and entitlements that religious and secular communities alike can draw on when engaged in dialogue and in struggles for justice.

Tuesday 13th March – Frances Ward

“Political Friendship “

Frances Ward has been Dean of St Edmundsbury in Bury St Edmunds since 2010. Previously, she served as a Canon at Bradford Cathedral, a priest in the Diocese of Manchester, and theological educator at Luther King House for the United Reformed Church. She published *Lifelong Learning* in 2005 is working on a book entitled *Brittle Britain*. Her lecture will be based on *Fear and Friendship: Anglicans Engaging with Islam* (Continuum, 2010, ed. with Sarah Coakley) and will focus on developing interfaith friendship through local churches. The book arose from her experience in Bradford where she worked with Muslim women to present public friendship as a means of addressing difficult issues. The thinking behind the book was based on Hannah Arendt's reflections on friendship after her experience as a Jew during the 2nd World War, and in today's environment friendship offers qualities of trust, and of open and honest discourse instead of the fear of causing offence, between people of difference.

Tuesday 17th April - Ann Morisy

“Playing Fair Across the Generations”

Ann is a freelance community theologian who has worked in both rural and urban contexts and was the Director of the Commission on Urban Life and Faith which produced the report *Faithful Cities*. Ann is a well regarded key-note speaker and as well as author of a number of bestselling books on community ministry and mission, the spirituality of public transport, re-neighbouring, apt liturgy and creating sacred space. Ann is also a chaplain at the University of Westminster on behalf of Hinde St Methodist Church and the West London Mission. In this lecture Ann will provide a theological perspective on being part of the generation that Harold Macmillan suggested had ‘never had it so good.’ Awareness is growing that future

generations are unlikely to be quite so blest as their parents’ and grandparents’. In valuing the rights of tomorrow alongside those of today the challenge is how to move beyond analysis to action. Ann will also explore how the purpose of later life is threatened by unhealthy narcissism as well as consider the danger of resentment and blaming infecting the relationships between generations.

Tuesday 8th May – Clive Marsh

“Belonging together...with those of no faith?”

Clive Marsh is Senior Lecturer and Director of Teaching and Learning at the Institute of Lifelong Learning at the University of Leicester. Prior to this, he was involved in theological education for over 20 years in universities and the church. He is a layperson, Local Preacher and was Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee of the Methodist Church for 7 years. He has been engaged in national and international ecumenical work, and involved in exploring the interplay between theology, religion and popular culture. His books include *Explorations in Theology and Film* (co-edited with Gaye Ortiz in 1997), *Christ in Focus: Radical Christocentrism in Christian Theology* (2005) and *Christ in Practice: A Christology of Everyday Life* (2006). His latest work is a theological response to popular music (co-writer Vaughan S. Roberts, Baker Academic, USA, Nov 2012) At a time when ‘spirituality’ may be OK, but ‘religion’ is often deemed a bad thing, the lecture will explore creative ways of understanding how ‘meaning-making’ happens in practice in Britain today. How do those who are religious create a healthy society with the non-religious and the anti-religious? How are theists, atheists and agnostics to get along together in practice? In a so-called ‘secular society’, when choices still have to be made about how to live, and ‘meanings’ are still found, constructed or disputed by religious and non-religious alike, these are vital questions.