

ACT 35TH ANNIVERSARY

ACT news and reports

Biennial ACTUK Seminar hosted by NIACT

Representatives from the four national Associations of Christian Teachers in the UK gathered at The Causeway Hotel on the coast of County Antrim from Friday 23 to Sunday 25 June 2006 for the biennial ACTUK Seminar.

Bobby Jennings, founding Principal of Slemish Integrated College, Ballymena, delivered a series of presentations on the conference theme: 'Being a Christian in a Relativistic Age'. Bobby's talks stimulated discussions on various issues including the need for Christian teachers to meet together regularly for Bible study and prayer; the imperative for Christian educators to understand and counter the impact of 'creeping secularism' in public life; what it means to 'be' Christian as well as to 'think', 'speak' and 'act' Christianly; and the nature and purpose of Religious Education. The latter topic was a particular concern for NIACT representatives because of proposals to change the way RE is taught in Northern Ireland from being 100 per cent Christian to being multi-faith.

But there was more to the weekend than furrowed brows and earnest



Matt Lewis (ACTW)

conversation. There was also plenty of laughter, fresh air and good food – including the legendary 'Causeway Breakfast'. There was even time to explore the dramatic coastline and to watch a couple of World Cup football matches on the television.

At the end of the weekend the representatives from ACT, ACT Scotland, ACTW and NIACT went their separate ways. All felt tired and happy, and upheld in their calling to help Christians working in schools and colleges across the UK to be more Christ-centred and more Christ-like.



Fred Corscadden (NIACT)



The Giants Causeway



Bernard Bowers (ACT Scotland)

Herne Bay

The Association of Christian Teachers, The Stapleford Centre and Christians in Science (CiS) joined forces to put on a conference entitled *Towards a Christian Framework for Education* on Saturday 29 April 2006 at Christ Church, Herne Bay, Kent. 60 delegates attended.

Ann Holt opened the conference with a talk entitled 'Doing the same things differently – bringing a Christian perspective to the task of teaching'. Ann argued that education can never be 'value free' and considered how Christians can make a difference in the classroom.

The other keynote speakers were: Martin Rogers, Nick Spencer and Tom Hartman. Martin spoke about the Templeton Foundation-funded 'Science and Religion in Schools Project'. Nick's topic was 'Liberalism and the Gospel today'. Tom presented a pro-evolution paper entitled 'Feathery Dinosaurs: Evolution, the best explanation?' which stimulated thought and discussion well beyond the close of the conference.

Liverpool

A one-day conference for Christians working in Merseyside schools and colleges was held on Saturday 25 June 2005 at Bridge Chapel Centre, Liverpool. The event was hosted by Andy Langton, ACT Local Contact for Liverpool.

Trevor Cooling, Director of *Transforming Lives*, was the keynote speaker. He challenged the 20 delegates present to be as daring in the workplace as 'a Ruth' or 'a Daniel'.

Tim Irwin, ACT Local Contact for St Helens, spoke about the Association of Christian Teachers. He recalled how ACT had given him a great deal of support throughout his 25-year teaching career and encouraged non-members to join the Association. Tim went on to say how much he valued the way ACT represents the interests of Christians in education at a national level.

ACT Saturday events

Cost: £10 for all members of ACT, ACT Scotland, ACTW, NIACT or TISCA. £15 for everyone else.

The course fee includes lunch, afternoon tea, other refreshments and all course materials.

Booking: Please photocopy and complete the booking form at the bottom of this page and post it to the ACT office, attaching a cheque payable to 'ACT', by the closing date indicated. Please use a separate form for each event you wish to book a place on.

Time: All of the Saturday events listed here start at 10.30am and finish at 3.30pm.

Saturday 21 October 2006

Hosted by South Bucks ACT Group

Christian approaches to classroom management and challenging behaviour

Led by: Rupert Kaye (ACT)

At: King's Church Amersham, Chapel Yard, High Street, Amersham, Bucks, HP7 0DJ

Closing date for bookings: 11 October 2006

Saturday 28 October 2006

Hosted by Reading ACT Group

The Christian teacher: making a difference (being a Christian witness in school)

Led by: Rupert Kaye (ACT)

At: Earley Christian Fellowship, 153 Wokingham Road, Reading, RG6 1LP

Closing date for bookings: 18 October 2006

Saturday 11 November 2006

Hosted by Preston/West Lancs ACT Group

Take a break: a quiet day for Christians working in education

Led by: Alison Harris (*Barnabas*)

At: Winmarleigh C of E Primary School, Church Lane, Winmarleigh, Preston, Lancashire, PR3 0LA

Closing date for bookings: 1 November 2006

Saturday 9 December 2006

Hosted by Tyne & Wear ACT Group

Christian approaches to classroom management and challenging behaviour

Led by: Rupert Kaye (ACT)

At: Church House, St John's Terrace, North Shields, Tyne & Wear, NE29 6HS

Closing date for bookings: 29 November 2006

Saturday 13 January 2007

Hosted by Bath ACT Group

Christian approaches to classroom management and challenging behaviour

Led by: Rupert Kaye (ACT)

At: St Bartholomew's Church Centre, King Edward Road, Oldfield Park, Bath, BA2 3PB

Closing date for bookings: 3 January 2007

Saturday 3 March 2007

Hosted by Dunstable ACT Group

Take a Break: a quiet day for Christians working in education

Led by: Rupert Kaye (ACT)

At: All Saints' Church, Main Road South, Dagnall, Nr Dunstable, Buckinghamshire, HP4 1QX

Closing date for bookings: 21 February 2007

Saturday 17 March 2007

Hosted by Nottingham ACT Group

Called to Teach: 1st National Conference for Christian NQTs and Student Teachers

Led by: Rupert Kaye (ACT)

At: Trent Vineyard, Easter Park, Lenton Lane, Nottingham, NG7 2PX

Closing date for bookings: 7 March 2007

Saturday 24 March 2007

Hosted by Plymouth ACT Group

Christian approaches to classroom management and challenging behaviour

Led by: Rupert Kaye (ACT)

At: Hope Baptist Church, Peverell Corner, Peverell Park Road, Plymouth, PL3 4QG

Closing date for bookings: 14 March 2007

BOOKING FORM

Please return this booking form to ACT, 94a London Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 1NX no later than ten days prior to the date of the event.

Please note: we need to know by this date in order to confirm the catering arrangements. Bookings cancelled seven days or less prior to the event will not be refunded.

I wish to book a place on the following Saturday event:

Date of event: _____

Hosting ACT Group: _____

I am a member of:

ACT ACT Scotland ACTW NIACT TISCA

I enclose a cheque (made payable to 'ACT') for:

£10 £15

Please tick as appropriate

Name: _____ Please print

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Tel: _____

Email: _____

I work at: _____ School / College name

My dietary (or other) requirements:

vegetarian vegan gluten free

other: _____

Please specify