

Church calls for joined-up approach to help victims of human trafficking

The Church of England has welcomed steps being taken to support victims of human trafficking, in an official response to Home Office proposals for a UK action plan designed to tackle the issue. "Trafficking, whether for sexual exploitation, forced labour or removal of organs, treats human beings abusively and oppressively as a means to the enrichment and gratification of others. It is totally contrary to Christian teaching and deserves the same unremitting opposition as other forms of slavery," writes the Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Revd Tom Butler, in a paper that will add to calls for tougher action on those who perpetrate such crimes.

Da Vinci Code - making your mind up: an online resource

A new section of the Church of England website, launched in the run-up to the UK release of The Da Vinci Code film, invites people to consider the facts and fiction of the book for themselves. The site pits the 'facts' of the Dan Brown novel with the story of Jesus accepted by the Church for generations, providing weblinks to organisations such as the Christian Enquiry Agency and the Church Army Sheffield Centre.

(Please see Michael Camp's sermon – later in this issue of the Key.)

Change to date of next national church electoral roll

The date for the next preparation of church electoral rolls has been moved forward a year from 2008 to 2007, after which the preparation of a new roll will be take place every succeeding sixth year.

This one off change was made in order to alter the cycle of the formation of new electoral rolls and deanery, diocesan and general synod elections to ensure that at least every other round of elections to deanery synods should take place on the basis of up-to-date information on electoral rolls. It was brought about by an amendment to rule 2(4) of the Church Representation Rules that was agreed by the General Synod in 2004 and which came into force on 1 January 2005.

Premier Radio launches 'TV on demand'

A new UK internet television channel started transmitting this Spring.

Live news is broadcast twice daily from Premier's Westminster studios in central London, but unlike conventional television programmes, viewers won't be restricted by a broadcast schedule. They will be able to watch their favourite shows - featuring news, current affairs, worship, original music and teaching - whenever they like.

David Heron, Chairman of Premier Media Group, said: 'The arrival of internet television provides a new opportunity for ministries to get their messages across to a wider congregation. It truly is TV on demand!'

Viewers will access Premier.tv through their PC by going to www.premier.tv. Premier Radio has broadcast Christian news, music and teachings for over a decade.