

This event takes place at Christ Church United Reformed Church, High Street, Swanley, Kent BR8 8AN.

A FREE LUNCH will be served, so we need to know numbers by Wednesday **10 November 2010**. A reminder will be emailed to those attending in mid-November.

Please bring: Study Bible; any commentaries you may have on Acts

Travel: The church is a short walking distance from Swanley railway station.

Parking: There is limited parking at the front of the church and reasonable parking on side streets around church. Also plentiful paid parking within 400 meters (Bevan Place and Park Road).

Enquiries: Contact:
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SOUTHERN SYNOD

ONGOING EDUCATION AND TRAINING (ONET)

"Mid toil and tribulation": conflicting convictions and paradigm shift in the church's ethical thinking"

Led by

Rev. Dr. Richard Goldring
Development Officer for Education and Learning, Southern Synod of the United Reformed Church.

Wednesday 1 December 2010

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

at

**Christ Church United Reformed Church,
Swanley**

Rev. Dr. Richard Goldring



Richard has been a minister of the United Reformed Church since 1997, having formerly been a solicitor. He is currently the Southern Synod's Development Officer for Education and Learning. He trained for the ministry at Queen's College, Birmingham (as it was then known) and holds an M.Th. from Glasgow University and Ph.D. from Birmingham University.

His doctoral research concerned a once controversial issue, divorce and remarriage. But his reflections on the way church bodies debated those (and other) issues left him with some broader questions, such as these:

- How does one generation's "hot potato" simply cease to be an issue during the next?
- How does, and how should, the church change its corporate mind on controversial topics?
- What part do different approaches to scripture play in the process?

He believes that these questions raise important issues about what it means to be church.

The day will draw on Richard's research and his recently published article – we will concentrate on issues raised by the *process* of debating controversial issues. You may find yourself disagreeing with him (and/or your colleagues) but he will be posing some important challenges!

Programme (provisional)

10.00 Arrivals and coffee

10.20 Worship

10.40 Session One – Introduction. Controversial Debate – surprises and pitfalls from history

11.30 Break

11.40 – 12.30 Session Two The use of scriptures in controversial debate.

- To what extent does theological method affect one's conclusions?
- How should we be reading the scriptures?

Case studies

12.30 Session Three Theological issues about working together

13.10 LUNCH

14.00 Session Four Acts 15 as a core text for paradigm shift in ethical thinking [Groups]

14.45 Session Five – How can we be church amidst controversy? (Plenary Session with Panel)

15.45 Closing prayers

16.00 Tea and depart