

Churches Election Bulletin, Issue 4, April 2010

This will be the last Churches Election Bulletin issued before the General Election on May 6th.

An impressive range of election materials has now been put together by churches around the country. This bulletin gives a brief outline of the more recent initiatives. A broader overview – including previous bulletins - can be found on our website at www.churcheselection.org.uk/.

The aim of all these materials is to help you make an informed decision between the candidates in your own constituency. You can find the names of your local candidates on [the BBC Election Website](#).

Scottish Parliamentary Office

The Scottish Parliamentary Office has produced a [briefing](#) outlining the impact on Scottish people of the manifesto commitments of the 5 main parties in Scotland.

Questions to ask Parliamentary Candidates

The Catholic Church has suggested [five questions](#) for voters to consider putting to their parliamentary candidates on the doorstep. These questions are meant to help Christians make an informed decision between candidates.

Not too late to register a Church Hustings

Over 250 hustings are being held in church buildings across the country, but there is still time to register an event being held in your local area.

The online hustings registration system and database, where you can see what is happening in your constituency, can be accessed at www.ctbi.org.uk/428.

If you are organising a hustings that is taking place during the final few days, please register details at www.ctbi.org.uk/444.

Churches Criminal Justice Forum

The Churches Criminal Justice Forum has been seeking to highlight the role that criminal justice issues should play in this election. [The CCJF General Election Position Paper](#) (PDF) identifies specific concerns that might be raised with candidates of all parties.

CCJF has also produced a set of [basic questions for parliamentary candidates](#) (PDF) covering issues such as prison overcrowding, support for families of victims and prisoners and issues of restorative justice.

Launch of Christians in Politics Election Resource

Christians in Politics was set up in 2001 as a joint initiative between Christian groups from the three major parties represented at Westminster.

The group recently launched a set of [election resources](#).

Citizens for Sanctuary

The Citizens for Sanctuary Campaign has continued to gather support from voters and candidates around the country. Supporters of the Campaign visit their Prospective Parliamentary Candidates and ask them to sign the Sanctuary Pledge on humane treatment and justice for asylum seekers. They will then revisit the successful candidate in six months to ask what action the MP has taken. The major 'ask' is that no asylum-seeking child should be held in detention.

For more information on the Campaign, its supporters and how you can help promote it, visit [Sanctuary Pledge](#) or email support@sanctuarypledge.co.uk.

Other Sites to Visit

A wide range of resources have been produced for the General Election by Churches and Christian charities.

Please follow the links below to see what they are saying in the run up to the election:

[Salvation Army alternative election manifesto](#)

[Baptist Union of Great Britain](#)

[Bible Society's take on faith and politics on the Susa site](#)

[Catholic Church Election Site](#)

[Church of England Election Site](#)

[Evangelical Alliance](#)

[CARE election site](#)

[Premier Christian Media](#)

[CAFOD election toolkit](#)

[Help persuade your Parliamentary candidates to sign the Sanctuary Pledge](#)

[Does your MP back the Robin Hood Tax on bankers to raise money for the poor?](#)

[Mothers' Union Guide to the 2010 general election: *New Vision, New Future* \(PDF\)](#)

More information

Further information is available from www.churcheselection.org.uk or through e-mail from election@ctbi.org.uk