

Lent Breakfast Talks

5 Saturdays from 29th February to 28th March

at Solihull Methodist Church, B91 1LG



Flowers laid in memory of a pre Christmas stabbing outside Popworld on Poplar Road

Birmingham's Gang Problem

What can Churches do?

CHRISTIANITY ON THE FRONT LINE OF NEED

This year Solihull Methodist Church is raising funds for a gangster and drug rehabilitation centre called Camp Joy in Cape Town. Cape Town has one of the most dangerous ganglands in the World but, led by an outstanding pastor, churches there are making a difference. It is Christianity on a very dangerous front line - where it should be.

UNDERSTANDING GANG CULTURE

There are parallels with growing gang violence in nearby Birmingham and even parts of Solihull. These talks are intended to increase our understanding of gang problems and, hopefully, indicate ways local churches might do something about it.

A LIGHT CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

will be available from 8.30 am.

Talks, for c. 30 minutes and open to everyone, will begin at 9 am.

There is no charge but a donation of £3 for each talk would be welcomed to defray costs with any balance going to Camp Joy

More info at campjoy@solihull-methodist.org.uk

Solihull Methodist is next door to Solihull Station.



Programme of talks

29th February BIRMINGHAM'S GANG PROBLEM



Rev Dr Carver Anderson, Dept of Theology and Religion, Birmingham University and co-founder and executive director of the Bringing Hope Charity. Carver is a social scientist who describes himself as a practical theologian. He authored a leading report titled: Commission on Gangs and Violence: Uniting to Improve Safety, for the Office of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner in Nov 2017. Few have

Carver's theological insights into the depth of issues associated with gangs and violence in Birmingham.

7th March LIVE VIDEO LINK to CAPE TOWN

Rev Mike Crockett Former minister at Solihull Methodist Church Mike will bring us up to date with work in Cape Town; introduce us to some of the key workers in Hanover Park and Camp Joy and tell us some of the stories. It will be a chance to ask questions.



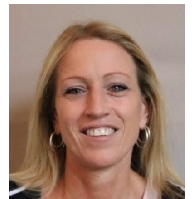
14th March NEEDS AND POTENTIAL OF YOUNG PEOPLE



Tina Brooker, formerly Youth and Community Worker at Solihull Methodist. Tina will talk about the importance of investing in high quality youth work in keeping young people out of trouble in the first place - what works, what are young people's needs and how can we help them realise their full potential.

21st March REHABILITATION IS POSSIBLE

Anji Barker, Newbigin Community Trust. In 2014, after 25 years of urban mission in Melbourne and the Klong-Toey slum in Bangkok, Anji relocated to the multi-racial and multi-religious inner-city neighbourhood of Winson Green, Birmingham. Newbigin House provides a place of welcome, inclusion and social cohesion for families in Winson Green. Anji is a trained social worker and is an innovative social entrepreneur.



28th March WHERE DO PARENTS COME IN ALL THIS?



Richard Balmer. Richard will review the role of parents and suggest their importance has become devalued at significant cost to both parents and country. He is parent to 2 sons and has twin granddaughters and, when formerly a Solihull councillor, was his party spokesman on Social Services.

He will sum up the 5 talks and, in particular, emphasize the speakers' identifications of need and where churches could do more.