

Jubilee Debt Campaign at Newcastle University



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University Chaplaincy

Dr David Golding CBE
Honorary Chaplain

Ridley Building (c/o Marine Science)
Newcastle University
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 7RU, England

david.golding@ncl.ac.uk
0191 222 5282

Briefing

To All UK University Chaplains

Urgent request for comprehensive support for

Faith Leaders' 'Jubilee for Justice' Letter

Summary:

“Unjust debt goes to the heart of inequality. We need a new jubilee.”

(The Most Revd Dr John Sentamu, October 20120)

Jubilee Debt Campaign invites faith leaders of all traditions to sign its 'Jubilee for Justice' letter and the entire chaplaincy team at Newcastle and Northumbria universities joins me in encouraging all university chaplains to do so. Nationally, hundreds of faith leaders have already signed and they include senior leaders from all major Christian traditions and other faiths.

All you have to do is to send a reply to me, David Golding (david.golding@ncl.ac.uk), saying “Agreed”, and stating your title, name, status (e.g., 'Anglican Chaplain') and university/college...

- and I'll do the rest!

Please note that the Faith Leaders' Letter will be submitted at an event in the 'Jubilee Room' (yes, really!) in the House of Commons at the beginning of February – hence the urgency.

You can assure yourself of my *bona fides* by ringing the Press Office at Newcastle University (0191 222 7850) or Jubilee Debt Campaign (020 7324 4722).

The Debt Campaign – then and now

Over a decade ago, the Founding Document of the campaign, the Jubilee 2000 Petition, was signed by 24.1 million people in 166 countries, a double world record. It demanded the cancellation of “*the backlog of unpayable debt*” and over 30 countries have received enormous benefits as a result, although others are still burdened by the millstone of often unjust debts. However, the Petition also called for “*effective steps to prevent such high levels of debt building up again*”, and little or no effort has been made to address this, the more fundamental problem.

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Jubilee Debt Campaign has made it clear that it would very much welcome the support of university chaplains (of every conceivable variety!) for the Faith Leaders' Letter. The Letter will be submitted at the beginning of February at a meeting in the 'Jubilee Room' in the House of Commons – a room which commemorates the campaign against slavery in the 18th and 19th centuries. Speakers will include Rt Revd Peter Price, Bishop of Bath & Wells, and representatives of other faith communities.

The Jubilee debt campaign has been one of the most effective movements for the relief of poverty and oppression since the fight against slavery, but we need the British Government to once again champion the cause of debt relief and to promote a 'Jubilee for Justice'!

The text of the Faith Leaders' Letter is appended, as is an excellent article by Archbishop Sentamu.



David W. Golding CBE PhD DSc DCL

Honorary Chaplain at Newcastle University,
and Associate, Newcastle Institute for Research on Sustainability

Founder Board Member & Trustee, Jubilee Debt Campaign UK;
Voluntary spokesperson for Tearfund

Office, 0191 222 5282

Home, 0191 252 6165

Mobile, 07 817 637 746

Email, david.golding@ncl.ac.uk

Web, www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk
www.ne-calltoaction.org.uk

David W. Golding CBE PhD DSc HonDCL

Honorary Chaplain at Newcastle University
Development Coordinator, Make Poverty History North East
Board member & Trustee, Jubilee Debt Campaign UK



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