

**From Adrian Bulley, Wessex Synod Moderator**

**THERE'S PROBABLY NO GOD.  
NOW STOP WORRYING AND ENJOY YOUR LIFE.**

The Atheist Bus Campaign, launched in London in January, received extensive coverage in the press, not just in London and the UK, but from Paris to Washington and from Perth to Montreal.

Two things in particular struck me about the advertisements:

1. The use of the word 'probably'. The definition of an atheist is someone who believes that God does not exist, so I'd have thought that they would have had the courage of their convictions and stated that.
2. The suggestion that the goal of humanity is to 'enjoy life'. I don't believe that my goal in life is to have fun (although it's good to do so along the way!). I believe that my goal in life is to make a difference in Jesus' name. That's what Jesus was saying when he summarised his mission in the words of Isaiah as bringing good news to the poor, release to captives and recovery of sight to the blind.

Wouldn't it be great to see a banner emblazoned along the side of London buses reading **'There probably is a God – now give God the glory by making a difference where you are'**.

The United Reformed Church's Mission Council in December was inspired by hearing of the advertising campaign **'God is Still Speaking'** which is part of the mission of our partner denomination in the United States – the United Church of Christ. 'God is Still Speaking' is a précis of part of the sermon of Pastor John Robinson to the departing 'Pilgrim Fathers' on the 'Mayflower' in 1620 in which he said, *'the Lord hath more truth and light yet to break forth out of his holy word'*. It has the strap line, *'never place a full stop where God has placed a comma'*.

Mission Council gave 'in principle' approval to using the same campaign within the United Reformed Church, linking with the evangelism year of **Vision4Life**.

I'm really excited by that possibility, and at the prospect of the United Reformed Church standing tall as we proclaim that there is a God, that God is still speaking in twenty-first century Britain, and that God has called us each to make a difference where we are.

With love and best wishes,

*Adrian J. Bulley*



### **A modern Parable : the greenhouse and the vine**

There was a master growing vines in greenhouses. In one rather dilapidated greenhouse there was a very vigorous vine on which there was much fruit. In another very beautifully maintained greenhouse there was a very weak vine bearing little fruit.

In one case the workers had been focussing on the house, whilst in the other they had been tending the vine. Which is more important, in the eyes of the master — the greenhouse or the vine?

Beautiful buildings serve no purpose unless they are enabling the 'vines' inside to prosper and grow. If the building falls down what will happen to the vine?

- How vigorous is our church vine?
- Do we as a church community focus more on our buildings ..... or on God's mission?
- How much of the time in our meetings is given to each?

*Peter Pay, Synod Clerk*