

A Soul for the Union?

Faith-based perspectives on the EU Referendum

An evening to help people of faith and others explore some of the issues to be considered in a deciding on how best to vote in the forth-coming referendum.

13 June 2016
7.30 - 9:30pm

THE AGAPE CENTRE
238 Lisburn Road
Belfast BT9 6GF
(served by Metro bus route 9)

Keynote speaker - Ben Ryan (Theos Think Tank)

Ben first joined the Theos think tank as an intern in September 2013 and graduated to a researcher in early 2014. He read Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Cambridge and also has an MSc in European Studies from the LSE European Institute. He is the author of the Theos reports A Very Modern Ministry: Chaplaincy in the UK and A Soul for the Union.

Responders giving a N.I. perspective:

Colin Harvey (Professor of Human Rights Law, Queen's University Belfast) will respond with reference to Human Rights and Constitutional issues.

Esmond Birnie (Chief Economist PWC in Scotland and N.I.) will respond with reference to Economic and Financial issues.

There will be an opportunity for questions to Ben, Colin and Esmond.

The Referendum is a democratic opportunity; the outcome will influence our relationships for years to come. Politics is inherently spiritual since God gives us the responsibility to govern within His sovereignty.

This evening will explore issues of sovereignty and subsidiarity, business and bureaucracy, security, migrants and other national and local challenges we all face in making a decision on how to vote. It will encourage and help in making an informed response and not just one that thinks of self-interest!



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The Big ISSEU ...

Some helpful websites and articles:

Theos Think Tank (www.theosthinktank.co.uk)

Research report: A Soul for the Union

Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics (www.klice.co.uk)

'Klice Comment' issues:

Feb - What is the EU for? Introducing KLICE's Referendum Coverage

May - The EU budget: black hole or loving our neighbour?

Evangelical Alliance (<http://www.eauk.org>)

Idea magazine: May/June 2016

The Jubilee Centre (www.jubilee-centre.org)

Report: Brexit Unless... Three Fundamental Conditions for Staying in the EU

Billington's Blog (antony-billington.blogspot.co.uk)

Blog entry: European Referendum Resources

Writing back in 1991 Sir Fred Catherwood, in whose honour we hold our annual public theology lecture, said,

"as we are forced by the pace of events to confront our European future, we badly need a sense of vision, to decide where we want to go and why"

This evening is intended to help us discern important issues on this critical political issue facing us in 2016. It is not a debate between "Vote Leave" and "Britain Stronger in Europe" representatives.

Organised by Contemporary Christianity in partnership with The Agape Centre and Evangelical Alliance (NI)