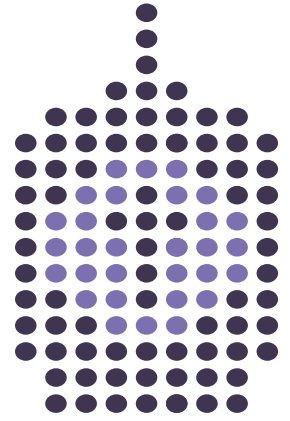


# Christians in Politics



## Resource Pack

**Liberal Democrat  
Christian Forum**



**Conservative  
Christian Fellowship**  
Making an impact



Christians in Politics is jointly owned by the Christian Socialist Movement, the Conservative Christian Fellowship and the Liberal Democrat Christian Forum.

# POLITICS SUNDAY RESOURCE PACK

## Introduction

This pack is intended to help your church run its own 'Politics Sunday'. The pack is adaptable – you can use as much as little as you want – to make it suitable for a small group setting or larger joint church Politics Day.

The aim is to encourage your congregation to engage with the political process – to get informed, to get voting and to get involved. The pack is intended as a resource to enable discussion on political involvement without promoting one particular party.

Please feel free to hold your 'Politics Day' whenever is best for you. But do write and let us know how it went, so we can encourage other churches to do the same thing and so that we can feed back to our sponsors.

Included in this pack is:

- A Proposed Plan for the Day
- Who to ask to speak and How
- Topics for discussion in smaller groups and case studies
- 3 minute DVD 'Sitting on the Sofa is not an Option'
- Bible Study on faith and politics
- How to get involved – the various ways Christians can impact politics
- How to Pray for Parliament and MPs
- Materials from the CSM, CCF and LDCF
- Leaflets from CiP

# POLITICS SUNDAY RESOURCE PACK

## Ideas for organising your politics day

### Full Day

- Welcome and refreshments
- Play 'Sitting on the Sofa is not an option' 3 minute DVD
- Talk on biblical principles of political engagement
- Seminars
- Guest Speaker – MP, Peer, Councillor, Prospective Parliamentary Candidate (PPC) or Member of European Parliament (MEP)
- Question Panel (members of different Parties)

### In Sunday Service

- Give time to praying for MPs, Peers and political process
- Ask someone from your congregation involved in politics to speak for 5-10 minutes
- Set up literature stand at the back with info from the three parties and Christians in Politics
- Invite your local MP to take part in a Question and Answer session after the service and invite church members to stay on to participate (this is particularly valuable before local or national elections).

### In Small Group Setting

- Bible study on political engagement
- Discussion on 'issues' or legislation of interest to Christians
- Prayer time for MPs, peers and those involved in politics
- Discuss the different parties' Mission Statement
- Get people to write down their most important issues / what matters to them. Discuss how politics affects that area of life
- Invite someone to speak who is involved in politics (this could be a researcher, someone who works for a lobby organisation or charity, someone who works for a think tank, or someone who volunteers for their local party)

# POLITICS SUNDAY RESOURCE PACK

## Asking Speakers

Members of Parliament and councillors are usually very happy to come and speak to their constituents. It is very important to give them lots of notice (a couple of months). They are happy to speak for free, but do ask them if they need travel expenses.

If you would like to hear from a Christian MP, then it is fine to ask people from outside your area. Do let them know why you are asking them and not your local MP. And it is still good to inform your own MP out of courtesy.

Your letter *must* include:

- The subject you would like them to speak on
- How many people you expect to be there
- Who the audience will be e.g. church members / a wider group
- Length of time you expect them to speak
- Who else will be speaking, particularly if it is another MP or someone from another political party
- What the aim of the event is

Do let MPs know what the order for the day will look like and where they are to come in the programme. It is usual to have the most high profile parliamentarian speak last. When writing a letter, you can check the correct title e.g. whether they are a Rt Hon, by going to [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk) and clicking on directory of MPs and Peers.

### During Election Time

During election time, special rules apply! It is courteous and correct to ask the candidates of ALL political parties to attend the 'hustings' events. If you do not invite all the candidates, people will be offended. If you are organising a hustings event, please see [www.care.org.uk](http://www.care.org.uk) for more information.

Outside of election time, it is acceptable to ask an MP, MEP or Peer from one party to come and speak. If you would like the speaker to stick to a Christian message (and not a party political one) do let them know.

During election time you need to look at the designated site set up by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) which enables different churches in the same constituency to hook up with each other and avoid duplicating hustings events.

# POLITICS SUNDAY RESOURCE PACK

## Who can you ask to speak?

- Members of Parliament
- Members of the European Parliament
- Peers (members of the House of Lords)
- Prospective Parliamentary Candidates (people who stood at the last election or intend to stand next time)
- Local Councillors
- School governors
- Members of Primary Care Trusts
- Church Parliamentary Officers (many of the major denominations have their own Parliamentary Officers who interact with government and politicians representing the views of that denomination in regard to legislation).
- People who work for the following organisations:
  - Charities that regularly work with politicians and / or respond to policy
  - Think tanks
  - Political parties
  - Lobby groups or public affairs companies
  - People involved in social action in their local communities who interact with local government
  - Researchers for parliamentarians

# POLITICS SUNDAY RESOURCE PACK

## Ideas for Discussion Groups

### Discussion Starters

- Read all the three parties 'Mission statement' – their core values and goals. What do you agree or disagree with?
- What issues do you care about -global poverty, trade justice, homelessness, social breakdown etc? How many of them are decided by politicians at Westminster?

### Facts

- Membership of the three main political parties now stands at less than one quarter of membership in 1964. If these trends continue, the main parties will have no members at all in ten years' time. (Source citizenspace.co.uk)
- Membership of political parties has been in decline since the 1960s.
- Party members chose their local candidate – only party members can make sure they are people of principle! Most MPs who sit in Westminster today were selected to stand by gatherings of about 100 people. Churchgoers in this constituency would number several times this many people.
- Today about 0.5 million Britons belong to a political party. The Evangelical Alliance's membership represents over 1 million people.
- The Liberal Democrats have around 75,000 members. The Labour party have around 200,000 members and the Conservatives had around 300,000 members.
- People under 35 are less likely to vote than any other age group. In 2001 women under 24 were the least likely to vote at less than 50%. (Source ERSC)

# POLITICS SUNDAY RESOURCE PACK

## James Keir Hardie - Founder of the Labour Party

Many of the founders of the Labour Party at the turn of the last century were Christians, the most notable being James Keir Hardie (1856-1915). Born of very humble stock, Hardie became an MP in 1892 and led the Labour Party he helped to form from 1906 until 1910.

### A passion for justice

Hardie's passion for justice was formed early in his life. As a boy he worked 12 hours a day for a Glasgow baker, and one day, wet through from the rain and starving, he arrived for work a few minutes late. Told to wait outside his master's dining room he heard prayers thanking God for breakfast, and when he entered saw food and comforts beyond anything he had ever imagined. None was for him, though, his portion being a lecture on the sin of sloth and the offer of forgiveness on condition that it did not happen again. But it did happen again, resulting in the sack and loss of two weeks' wages. This incident stayed with Hardie all his life, driving him and his party to stand up for children against bad employers and promote change to protect vulnerable families. And while it led him 'to doubt the sincerity of those who pray' he later embraced the Christian faith, writing in his diary at the age of 21, 'Today I have given my life to Jesus Christ'.

### Sacrifice and service

Hardie described his faith in terms of sacrifice and service. Perhaps mindful of his former boss he once wrote that 'it is not enough to pray to God [or] sing hymns unless our lives are consecrated to the service of God through humanity.' True to his word, he devoted himself to improving the lot of miners in his native Lanarkshire – even challenging one mine-owner, a prominent Christian, to 'do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets' (Matt 7.12)!

### Political solutions

Convinced that political solutions were needed to tackle social problems Hardie fought his first parliamentary election as a Liberal in 1887. Believing that working people would be better represented in Parliament if they had their own party he formed the Scottish Labour Party in 1888, later merging it with the Independent Labour Party and overseeing the formation of the Labour Representation Committee in 1900. In 1906 Hardie was elected leader of the fledgling Labour Party after it gained its first seats in the General Election that year.

### 'Member for the Unemployed'

In Parliament, Hardie became known as the 'Member for the Unemployed' because he spoke up so often for those whose poverty was caused by a lack of work or a lack of regular work. He promoted women's suffrage, land reform in favour of the poor and higher taxation for the rich to raise more money for old-age pensions and schools. Throughout he saw his faith and politics as one: 'the impetus which drove me first of all into the Labour movement and the inspiration which carried me on in it, has been derived more from the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth than all other sources combined' he once said.

# POLITICS SUNDAY RESOURCE PACK

## **William Wilberforce, Conservative MP and anti-slavery campaigner**

In 1780 William Wilberforce was elected to the House of Commons from Hull. In 1784 Wilberforce became an Evangelical Christian, a step that changed his life and behaviour completely. A meeting in 1787 with dedicated abolitionist Thomas Clarkson was to alter the social fabric of the British Empire and, in time, the western world.

### **The Anti-Slavery Campaign**

For 18 years, from 1788 onwards, Wilberforce - with Pitt's support - annually introduced anti-slavery motions in Parliament. But Wilberforce and his supporters had only limited success against the planters in the colonies who relied on slaves for cheap labour. It was not until 1807 that Parliament abolished slavery and it was not until August 1833 - a month after Wilberforce's death - that the slave trade was abolished throughout the Empire.

### **The Reformation of Manners**

Although Wilberforce is most famous for his battle against slavery, he was also active in many other social and religious areas. His book, *A Practical View of the Prevailing Religious System of Professed Christians in the Higher and Middle Classes of this Country contrasted with Real Christianity* was published in 1797 and sold well for many years. What he really wanted to do was to *reform manners*, the way in which people thought of virtue. Nowadays we might call that a project for making goodness fashionable.

"God Almighty has set before me two great objects, the suppression of the slave trade and the reformation of manners." *William Wilberforce*

### **The Poor**

He worked with friends inside and outside of parliament, Bishops, friends in high places, and influential people throughout British society. He worked with the poor, he worked to establish educational reform, prison reform, health care reform and to limit the number of hours children were required to work in factories.

# POLITICS SUNDAY RESOURCE PACK

## **David Lloyd George, Liberal MP, British Prime Minister and founder of health and unemployment insurance**

The Liberal Party has strong roots in the non-conformist churches, and David Lloyd George is a well-known example. The Lloyd family were staunch Nonconformists and worshipped at the Disciples of Christ Chapel in Criccieth. In 1888 Lloyd George married Margaret Owen, the daughter of a prosperous farmer. He remained an active member of the Disciples of Christ Chapel and it was during his church work that he gained his early training as an orator. Lloyd George developed a reputation as a fiery preacher and was often asked to speak at Temperance Society meetings in Wales.

### **Politics**

In 1890 he was elected Liberal MP for Caernarvon, aged 27. His scathing wit made him a dreaded but respected debating opponent in the House. He became one of the great reforming chancellors of the 20th century, introducing state pensions for the first time and declaring a war on poverty.

### **Introducing State Pensions**

Based on the ideas of Tom Paine that first appeared in his book *Rights of Man* in 1791, Lloyd George's measure, the Old Age Pensions Act provided an allowance for people over seventy. To pay for these pensions Lloyd George had to raise government revenues by an additional £16 million a year. In 1909 Lloyd George announced what became known as the People's Budget. This included increases in taxation for those on higher incomes compared to those on less. Other measures included an increase in death duties on the estates of the rich and heavy taxes on profits gained from the ownership and sale of property. Other major achievements were in the field of social insurance. DLG introduced health and unemployment insurance through the "*National Insurance Act*" of 1911, which laid the foundations of the modern welfare state.

# POLITICS SUNDAY RESOURCE PACK

## What does the Bible say about politics?

### 1. Stewardship

The importance of political activism is clear right at the start of the biblical narrative.

In the beginning God created human beings in his image and commanded them to “rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” (Genesis 1:26, 28) The ‘image of God’ status enjoyed by human beings confers on them some special privileges and responsibilities. One of these is look after Planet Earth and its resources on God’s behalf. God’s human creatures, all of them, are his stewards. Man must give an account of how this stewardship is exercised, since his status as the lord of God’s world is ultimately subordinate to God himself.

God created the world ‘good’ and his intention is that human beings should rule it accordingly. In the Old Testament law the Israelites are commanded not to rule “ruthlessly” but to “fear God.” (Leviticus 25:43) Proverbs 1:7 states that “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge.” Only to the extent that God’s image-bearers rule the earth under his absolute authority and wise counsel do they fulfil their human task.

So government is not a ‘necessary evil’, a consequence of the fall, required only to restrain evil (although it must do this). Government of sorts has always existed and it was God’s original intention that it should do so. Thomas Aquinas argued that there would have been government before the fall because, as social beings, even the residents of paradise would have needed a way to care for the common good.

#### Questions:

- Do you agree that ‘government’ was part of God’s original intention for mankind?
- If so, how is this relevant to how we approach politics and different forms of worldly government today?

### 2. Love of God and neighbour

In the Old Testament the importance of doing good to all is set out in the law. The Israelites were required to “Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” (Deuteronomy 6:5) They were also told ‘Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbour as yourself.’ (Leviticus 19:18). Unfortunately the Israelites singularly failed to obey the law and suffered both the rebuke of the prophets and the crisis of exile as a consequence. The prophet Isaiah said “Your New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts my soul hates. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. ....Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong, learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.” (Isaiah 1:14-17) Isaiah warned Judah of impending judgment because of her covenant disloyalty, her rebellion against God. The people’s commitment to cultic worship at the Temple was empty ritual. The wealthy were happy to stand by and exploit or ignore the weakest members of society. They had come to see their faith in strictly ‘personal’ and ‘private’ terms, to be kept in a box. They did not let it impact their public lives and certainly not their politics.

# POLITICS SUNDAY RESOURCE PACK

In the New Testament, the requirements of the Old Testament law are 'intensified' by Jesus. In his Gospel, Matthew writes that on one occasion "an expert in the law, tested [Jesus] with this question: 'Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?' Jesus replied:

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22: 33-28)

In essence, says Jesus, true spirituality is all about love. Intimacy with God leads to involvement in his world. In the parable of the Samaritan Jesus dramatically illustrates to the crowd that there is no limit to their neighbourhood or the requirements of neighbourliness. Even enemies are to be counted as neighbours.

If we are serious about loving God and loving our neighbours as ourselves, it makes sense to get involved in the institutions that have the greatest impact on the lives of our neighbours - especially the most disadvantaged and vulnerable.

## Questions:

- Many of the Old Testament prophets spoke about issues beyond 'religious ceremony' – they spoke about the poor, the orphans, social justice, finance etc. Are these issues still relevant?
- In 21<sup>st</sup> century Britain what are the main channels for impacting the lives of our neighbours?
- Is there a limit to what institutions or organisations Christians should 'engage' in, as part of their mission?
- Is political service a means of expressing 'love of neighbour'?

## 3. Responsibility and opportunity

Globally, democracy is a relatively new phenomenon. The majority of the human race have lived, and do live, under non-democratic systems of government. Similarly, in biblical times the opportunities for ordinary people to influence the governance of nations were very limited. This helps to explain the absence of injunctions to get involved. Daniel and Esther represent two exceptional examples, of people who had the opportunity to engage with the political rulers and structures of their day and change the course of history in the process. They did so relevantly but without personal compromise. They succeeded in 'singing the Lord's song in a strange land'. (Psalm 137:4)

In democratic societies it is not possible to disclaim either the opportunities or responsibilities conferred by democracy. Choosing not to vote, for example, affects the outcome of an election and the policies implemented in society. Democracy distributes power together with responsibility. Democracy confers responsibility, and responsibility obligation.

## Questions:

- Christians in different countries and throughout different periods of history have had to engage with a wide variety of governmental structures. What particular advantages and difficulties arise for Christians living in a parliamentary democracy?
- What do the examples of Daniel and Ester teach us about engaging with political rulers?

# POLITICS SUNDAY RESOURCE PACK

So, assuming we are clear about the biblical basis for political involvement, how can we practically make a difference?

## 5 ways to make a difference!

**1. Pray.** The apostle Paul instructs his readers to pray for all people in positions of authority (1 Timothy 2:1-4). Prayer is an important aspect of political activism. William Wilberforce and his friends (later known as the Clapham Sect) were as committed to praying for social change as they were to engaging with government.

**2. Get informed.** Effective prayer should be informed prayer. In order to keep abreast with the issues in your local community, society and the world, read the newspapers, watch the TV news, and go online. Consider joining the mailing list of organisations involved in public affairs research and lobbying. Knowledge is power!

**3. Vote.** President Josiah Bartlet, the fictional President from TV's *The West Wing*, said "Decisions are made by those who show up." Democracy gives people a stake in power, responsibility. So use your vote and use it wisely.

**4. Join a political Party and the Christian group affiliated to it.** The democratic opportunities within each of the major political parties are enormous. Party membership is on the decline, so the opportunities are greater than ever.

**5. Stand for election.** The next step after joining a Party is to stand for a position within it. There are always vacancies. Ultimately, you may even consider standing for the local council or Parliament.

Further reading:

>Matthew 5

>Matthew 22:15-22

>Romans 13:1-7

Produced with the help of Paul Woolley, The Bible Society.

# POLITICS SUNDAY RESOURCE PACK

## Prayer for Parliament

### The Vision

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.”

**2 Chronicles 7 v 14 - 15**

“During the last year this verse has cropped up a number of times when we have been praying for Parliament and the nation. During June in the last two years, the Christian Fellowship in Parliament held a week of “24-7” round-the-clock prayer for Parliament, which involved MPs and Peers, staff, the 24-7 prayer network, and many others, including churches across the country and around the world”

**Steve Webb MP, Chair of the National Prayer Breakfast 2005**

### Prayer Points

#### Prime Minister and the Government departments:

The responsibilities of office and the difficulties of decision making, for the Government’s legislative programme, for wise use of resources, for accountability. The Conservatives, the Liberal Democrats and the other parties in Parliament – those who have the task of being constructively critical of the Government.

#### MPs and their constituencies:

- Find out who your MP is and pray for them by name.
- Their faith
- Their family issues – pressure of being away from home
- Their workload in the House
- For MPs constituency work

#### Peers and the work of the House of Lords:

- Wise decision making
- The ability to constructively criticise and to work with the Government
- Workload and times away from home

# POLITICS SUNDAY RESOURCE PACK

## Prayer for Parliament

### For those who support Parliamentarians and the Work of Government

- Research staff, secretaries, office/diary managers in Parliament
- House staff, caterers, Sarjeant-at-Arms, Office of Black Rod
- Security, police
- Civil servants – for those handling development of policy and delivery of results, for specialists such as lawyers and auditors, for those in internal administration
- Charities, organisations, campaign groups
- Policy Areas

### Abroad

- Peace and security abroad
- Relief of poverty, and the encouragement of development, education and healthcare in the developing world
- For constructive relationships between nations and their representatives, for grace, wisdom and discernment in their dealings with each other
- Care for creation - global warming and the environment

### Domestic

- Pray for Parliament and Government responsibilities towards those in Education, Health, Police, Armed Forces, Social & Welfare services
- Pray for Local Government
- Pray for an end to terrorism, its threat and its causes

### 1 Timothy 2 vs 1-4

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for everyone - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our saviour who wants all men to be saved and to come to a full knowledge of the truth.

Produced with assistance of Nigel Double, Praying for Your MP co-ordinator and Dr David Landrum, Christians in Parliament.

# POLITICS SUNDAY RESOURCE PACK

## So you want to get political?

### Join a Christian group within the Party

Christians in Politics is jointly owned by the Christian Socialist Movement, the Conservative Christian Fellowship and the Liberal Democrat Christian Forum. These groups exist to be the Christian voice within the three main political parties, as well as supporting and encouraging Christians to become politically engaged.

One of the best ways for Christians to become involved with politics is to join one of the Christian groups. It is our passionate belief that to really effect change we must work with the three main established parties and these groups provide a means of access and support. If you would like more information on how to join the group which most represents your political persuasion then please visit the appropriate website.

**Christian Socialist Movement: [www.thecsm.org.uk](http://www.thecsm.org.uk)**  
**Conservative Christian Fellowship: [www.ccfwebsite.com](http://www.ccfwebsite.com)**  
**Liberal Democrat Christian Forum: [www.ldcf.net](http://www.ldcf.net)**

**Rebecca Smith**, Parliamentary Assistant for David Burrowes MP guides us through other ways to get involved.

### Join a Political Party

If you can identify which side of the political spectrum you lean towards, why not join a political party? Once a card-carrying member of a political party, the level of engagement that you opt for depends on you. It is perfectly possible just to join the party and have a nominal input. As a paid up member you will be supporting the party's activity financially.

If you are not sure which party is for you, take your time to read about their beliefs and goals. Also read their manifestos, although specific policy will change from one election to another. It is also possible to be a member or an associate member of the Christian Socialist Movement, the Conservative Christian Fellowship or the Liberal Democrat Christian Forum without being a member of the Party. However, once you join a party the opportunities for further involvement open up...

### Local Party Activist

An ideal first step is to get involved in the local branch of your party. Depending upon where you live, there will be differing levels of local party activity. Local parties or associations are made up of party members of all ages and from all walks of life. There are differing levels of involvement ranging from joining the party and providing financial support through to holding office within a local party or association and being responsible for the party's activities in your area. Most local parties or associations have regular social events and are great ways to meet other people with similar political views. At the time of writing, two of the major parties have been through a recent leadership election. Whilst lots of people had an opinion on the different leadership races, the fact of the matter is that only those who were members of the party were able to vote directly Councillors County, Borough, City... whichever level of regional or local government you might have the opportunity to become involved in, they all offer means of changing the area in which you live for the better. Candidates for local elections are generally representing a specific party. Having got involved in your local party, the opportunity to stand as a local candidate may then follow. In areas where your preferred party has control of the local authority, there is opportunity to significantly impact the way in which your local area is run. Furthermore, being part of an effective local opposition party is also essential; it is not just national politicians who need holding to account.

# POLITICS SUNDAY RESOURCE PACK

## **Working for an MP**

The structure and composition of a Member of Parliament's office varies greatly. Some run the majority of their work from the constituency, others run everything from the House of Commons, and there are those who do a mixture of both! However, they all have staff of some description; Personal Assistant, Secretary, Caseworker, Constituency Assistant, Researcher, Political Assistant, Chief of Staff, Policy Advisor...the list is endless!

Working in a constituency office, or in Westminster itself is often billed as a role for a new graduate with an interest in politics, providing a perfect introduction to the workings of Parliamentary politics, and a great stepping-stone to a career in a whole host of fields. Often graduates spend only one or two years working for an MP. Some may feel a specific calling to politics for just a few years, others realise the value of political experience in the pursuit of their dream career. Yet, there are also those who believe they are called to work for an MP on a more long-term basis. There are many Christians working in Parliament, based in the offices of MPs who believe their role in politics is in serving politicians, both Christian and non-Christian. Furthermore, there are those who believe they have been placed in Parliament to support all Christians in politics, those who feel called to Parliament to pray, and those who work as staff of the Houses of Parliament and serve the many hundreds of people working within the Palace of Westminster, and see this as their vocation. God is also calling Christians to serve him in all political institutions, the Scottish Parliament, the Welsh Assembly and the European Parliament.

## **Working for a Political Party**

There are a wide variety of employed positions within the different political parties. Whilst not all Christians working for the Party in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff or Brussels may feel that they are doing so as a result of a direct calling from God, if you believe that God uses you wherever he places you, then having Christians working in these fields is incredibly important. Whether working to support the IT network at Conservative Campaign Headquarters, working for the Labour Press Office, working in the Liberal Democrat Policy Unit, or within a human resources department, all positions are vital to the working of the Party itself, and provide a valuable means to be a Christian to others working for the Party.

## **Think Tank**

A Think Tank is an organisation or group of experts researching and advising on issues of society, science, technology, industry, or business. They seek to influence policy formation by providing research and developing ideas that could be translated into legislation, or which can be used to challenge the thinking around certain legislative areas within government. Some Think Tanks have a Christian remit. They are seeking to influence the political climate in a way that is specifically based upon Biblical principles. However, there are also those with no Christian basis. Whatever the basis of the organisation, working in this field provides yet another opportunity to bring Christian values into a further arena within politics. In all of these areas of work within politics, to view them as equally valuable callings or vocations is essential. To categorise them into levels of importance is to say that some are better than others. This is unbiblical. As Christians we are called to be salt and light to the world, and to work at whatever we do in life with all our heart to bring glory to God. Have an open mind and think outside of the box and God may surprise you by the way he is able to use you.

This list is not exhaustive. However, it is designed to get you thinking.

[www.w4mp.org](http://www.w4mp.org) - website advertising a wide range of political jobs.

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## Book List

Nick Spencer; **Votewise** (2004) SPCK, ISBN 0-281-05683-8

Rob Frost ed., **Freedom Fighters** (2005) Authentic, ISBN 1-85078-613-5

Jonathan Bartley, **The Subversive Manifesto** (2003) The Bible Reading Fellowship, ISBN 1-84101-211-4

Graham Dale, **God's Politicians: The Christian Contribution to 100 Years of Labour** (2000) London, HarperCollins, ISBN: 0-00-7100647

Chris Bryant, ed. **Restoring Faith in Politics**, (1996) London: CSM

Rt. Hon John Smith & others, **Reclaiming the Ground**, (1993) London: Spire, ISBN: 0-340-58857-8

Charles Colson and Nancy Pearcey, **How Now Shall We Live?** (1999) Tyndale House Publishers, ISBN: 0-84231-808-9

Michael Schluter and David Lee, **The R Factor**, (1993) Hodder & Stoughton, ISBN 0340588926

# POLITICS SUNDAY RESOURCE PACK

## Further resources

### Useful websites

[www.christiansinpolitics.org.uk](http://www.christiansinpolitics.org.uk)  
[www.christiansinparliament.org.uk](http://www.christiansinparliament.org.uk)  
[www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk)  
[www.care.org.uk](http://www.care.org.uk)  
[www.aboutmyvote.co.uk](http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk)  
[www.ldcf.net](http://www.ldcf.net)  
[www.theesm.org.uk](http://www.theesm.org.uk)  
[www.ccfwebsite.com](http://www.ccfwebsite.com)  
[www.24-7prayer.com](http://www.24-7prayer.com)

### Events of Interest

National Prayer Breakfast 2010  
24-7 week of prayer for Parliament

### Party Conference 2010

Lib Dem: 18th – 22nd September, Liverpool  
Labour: 26th – 30th September, Manchester  
Conservative: 3rd – 6th October, Birmingham

### Can you help us?

The work of Christians in Politics relies solely on donations. If you would like to help us financially, please contact the office for further details.

**If you do have a Politics Sunday in your church, please do let us know. We would love to know how it went!**