

The times they are a-changin'

Perhaps we're just noticing it more, but religion and social change seem to be very much in the news: UK embryology research has been hotly debated by Church leaders, while the Archbishop of Canterbury is in the news almost every month; thousands of Burmese monks were active in pro-democracy protests while Nepalese police arrested nuns who joined the all-women protests for Tibet; meanwhile environmental concern has spread among evangelical Christians in the USA. All this will come as no surprise to readers of this Journal who recognise how fundamental spirituality and religion are to social change, but such widespread activity may reveal deeper patterns.

Our second issue of *The Journal* offers another section from the conference proceedings of 2006 and 2007, this time with a focus on interfaith, environmentalism and literature. The 'Reflections' section uses a poem by Tom Masters to stimulate debate on the role of art in faith and social change. Can art articulate ideas we cannot express in more academic styles? How does art inspire our faith and stimulate social change? We look forward to your thoughts, especially as they will open up discussion in preparation for our next issue: Journal number 3 (November 2008) will be our first peer-reviewed issue and will explore the relationship between art, faith, spirituality and social change in detail. We'd be delighted to receive articles on this topic, but are always happy to consider material on any aspect of faith-based social change and welcome your suggestions for journal themes. We are also inviting proposals for the third international conference on faith, spirituality and social change, which will be held in April 2009. Details are [now available](#).

These are complex and changing times, but we shall strive to make this Journal an inspiring voice for articulating the power of faith. With your ongoing support and contributions, we can chart our way through the challenges ahead.

The Editors.