

## **New ECCR South West Group launch meeting, Bristol**

*9 February 2008*

A mix of existing and potential new members of ECCR from South West England gathered with representatives of the Board and Secretariat at the Woodlands Christian Centre in Bristol on Saturday 9 February to launch a new ECCR local group in the South West region.

In addition to individual members, corporate members of ECCR represented at the meeting included the Churches' Council for Industry and Social Responsibility, Ethical Investors UK, Oikocredit UK and Rathbone Greenbank Investments.

After a period of sharing about the history, work and membership of ECCR, including inspiring input on the story of the ECCR Oxford Group, the new South West Group was launched, and the outline of a work programme for the Group was developed.

The South West Group will initially concentrate on encouraging large companies in the South West to increase their responsible management of supply chains, with particular regard to mainstreaming Fair Trade, focusing first on supermarket own-brand products and on Cadbury Schweppes, which has a key regional presence, and highlighting bottom-line reputational and market share issues. The South West Group will seek out companies in the South West that have already taken positive steps in this regard and use them as good examples to encourage others as to the business case.

ECCR members and others in the South West who would be interested in being involved in the new Group are invited to contact Matt Crossman (chair) on [Matt.Crossman@rathbones.com](mailto:Matt.Crossman@rathbones.com) or Jonathan Seagrave (secretary) on [jon\\_seagrave@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jon_seagrave@yahoo.co.uk)

ECCR members elsewhere in Britain and Ireland who might be interested in looking at the possibility of developing a local or regional ECCR group in the area where they are based are invited to contact Helen Boothroyd, Church and Membership Relations Officer, on [helen.boothroyd@eccr.org.uk](mailto:helen.boothroyd@eccr.org.uk)