



May 2013

Electronic, ecumenical news from Churches Together in England

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Reflection

At the start of his enthronement sermon as Archbishop of Canterbury in 1942, William Temple, said: 'I believe in One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, and regret that, at present, it doesn't exist.'

This quote can be discussed in several different ways, one of which is to ask the question: 'Should it exist?' I am not so much thinking here of 'Holy, Catholic and Apostolic' - as the aspect of 'One'. What would 'One Church' look like? We might further ask, 'is it the same sort of "one" so often quoted in John 17: 21?'

This is a perennial question and one which I want to suggest has more than one answer. Reflecting on nearly seven years working with CTE, I want to suggest that there are five commonly held views expressed today of what we are aiming at. Some suggest there are more. (Note, these 'views' are in addition to the marks of unity from the 1961 'New Delhi Statement on Unity' of the WCC . <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/assembly/1961-new-delhi/new-delhi-statement-on-unity>

Each view or 'Mark' has a place in the bigger picture. These may be helpful to identify, as all frequently surface in conversations so commonly held today. Each illustrates a different base for the ecumenical vision and, significantly, each one leads to a different set of assumptions, priorities, actions and outcomes. It is good that we hold them all together and let one speak to the other.

In a 'Features' paper on the CTE website I have written a paper that explores what I dare to call 'Five Marks of Unity', I say 'dare' as the parallel with the 'Five Marks of Mission' is obvious and I wouldn't want to presume the same weight is given to my list here. This is not of an agreed statement but a discussion starter. It includes, rather than excludes a variety of views or 'Marks', which are:

1. Working together
2. Mutual accountability
3. Visible unity
4. Whole inhabited earth
5. Coming kingdom

These different views are explained and illustrated by colleagues and conversations, followed by some personal comments and questions in the 'Features' paper you can download from the CTE website. The purpose of the paper is to encourage further discussion to the question, 'What are we aiming at?' See the full paper and discuss: http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/355623/Churches_Together_in/Features_Reviews/Features/Five_Marks_of.aspx

Written by Jim Currin, Secretary for Evangelisation at Churches Together in England jim.currin(AT)cte.org.uk

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Christians in Parliament letter to church leaders

Gary Streeter MP, on behalf of the All Party Parliamentary Group in the Houses of Parliament at Westminster, writes to all church leaders and church network leaders throughout the country asking them to develop closer relationships with their local MP. The All Party Group suggests: a) make an appointment with the MP, b) say you want to pray regularly and c) invite them to the National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast - and sit with them on 25th June. The letter can be downloaded from the CTE website:

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/354992/Churches_Together_in/News_Events/News/Christians_in_Parliament.aspx

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Minister for Housing re Church and New Housing

The Minister for Housing, Mark Prisk MP, met four members of the Churches Group for New Housing Areas, at the Department for Communities and Local Government on 15th April 2013. The Minister, joined by Laura Wilkinson and Nick Stripe (Housing Policy), met Simon Taylor, Carol Richards, James Cassidy and Jim Currin representing the New Housing Group from Churches Together in England. During the meeting, the Minister heard how churches in England have invested significant time, finance, building and personnel in new housing areas. This includes church leaders considering the new housing agenda, area resource people appointed, pioneer ministers living on new developments, and ecumenical partnerships in such places as Elvetham Heath and Cambourne. Many local churches are responding to new housing, whether new towns or add on estates. The Minister heard about the Church Commissioners support fund £7.25m and the 'More than Bricks and Mortar?' report of the Joint Public Issues Team (Baptist, Methodist, URC), as well as the work of the Churches Coordinating Group for New Housing Areas and the web resource for all churches: www.cte.org.uk/newhousing. Reflecting on his own Methodist and Anglican roots, he encouraged the churches to

work ecumenically and noted the track record of churches working together in new communities. Full report and press release for wider circulation is at: http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/353274/Churches_Together_in/News_Events/News/The_Minister_for.aspx

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2/3 CUF and CofE Guide to Welfare Reforms

Church Urban Fund has just published a second report about welfare reform, in partnership with the Church of England. Over the last three years, the Coalition Government has announced a range of welfare reforms. Each new tax or benefit reform has prompted a great deal of analysis of how many households will be affected and by how much. Yet, little has been done to examine the cumulative impact of the reforms. By telling the story of two hypothetical households, this paper explores the cumulative impact of welfare reforms on household finances. With some reforms leading to a gain in disposable income and others resulting in a loss, this paper demonstrates the overall effect of welfare reforms.

This paper is the second of three to be published by Church Urban Fund and the Mission and Public Affairs Council of the Church of England on welfare reform. The first was a Guide to Welfare Reform that summarises the most significant reforms of recent years. The third paper in this mini-series will look at the broader impact of welfare reform and how explore how churches can best support those affected. Research reports are on www.cuf.org.uk

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ACAT new information on Gift Aid

This is a press release from ACAT: In the light of clarification we have had from HMRC, ACAT, the national charity for Church Treasurers has issued revised guidance on the changes to Gift Aid. This guidance particularly covers the application of the Small Donations Scheme to multiple sites. As a service to all Church Treasurers, ACAT is making this document available without charge to all visitors to its site. www.acat.uk.com

ACAT is pleased to announce that it will shortly be running two regional Workshops for Church Treasurers. The Workshops will help Treasurers take a strategic view of their work and in particular cover Taking/Handing over as a Treasurer / Fundraising and avoiding Tax Pitfalls / Budgeting and Planning a Project. The courses run on 23rd May in Abergavenny and 6th June in Maidstone and cost £25.00 per delegate including lunch. More details and online booking at <http://www.acat.uk.com/workshops.html>

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1st Woman Gen Sec of BUGB

The Baptist Union of Great Britain is delighted to announce that the Revd Lynn Green, 48, has been elected as the new General Secretary. Lynn is the first female to hold this office. Lynn, who presently holds a post of Regional Minister with the Southern Counties Baptist Association, has many years ministry experience in local, regional and national contexts, and began her working life as a Marketing Manager. Most of her working life has been bi-vocational, combining the calling to ministry with her vocation as a wife and mother. She is married to Stuart, who is a Head of Audit with The Garden Centre Group. They have two children and also care for two children as Friends and Family Foster Carers. Lynn was chosen after a searching selection process which was endorsed by an election at the Baptist Assembly on 4 May 2013 in Blackpool. Jenny Royal, the Moderator of Trustees who proposed the appointment, says "This is an exciting appointment for the Baptist Union and we are confident that Lynn is the right person to lead our Union at this strategic time, she brings many gifts and vast experience to the task." The appointment, that is a new style of General Secretary, comes at a time of renewed vision and direction for the Baptist Union having recently been on a reshaping process. More information is on the CTE website:

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/355050/Churches_Together_in/News_Events/News/First_woman_appointed.aspx

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CTBI Racial Justice Sunday 8/9/13

Please note that Racial Justice Sunday is on the 8th of September this year. CTBI will be producing the resource: Dreams of the 'Beloved Community'. This resource is on the theme of Dr Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech, this resource gives space for worship, reflection and celebration of the progress and work still to do on the journey towards an equal society as described by Dr King in August 1963. A holding page is currently available for the resource. CTBI say, 'We are trying to generate as much interest in the resource as possible so please could you make your networks and colleagues aware of this as appropriate'. Information on the resource can be found on by following the link: <http://www.ctbi.org.uk/644>

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4/5 people pray

Four out of five British adults believe in the power of prayer apparently, at least according to the way that a recent ICM poll, commissioned by the Church of England. This has been widely reported and interpreted. When asked what they would pray for, 31% of respondents said world peace, followed by an end to world poverty (27%), a family member (26%) and healing for another (22%). Although 5% said they did not know what they would pray for, 14% said they would never pray. Follow the various points of view about the research statistics, collated at:

<http://www.brin.ac.uk/news/2013/prayer-in-a-spin/>

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Quaker statements re WW1

In preparation for remembering 100 years since the outbreak of World War One in 2014, the Quaker movement have produced two documents. The first is about the Quaker position in WW1 and the second asks, 'How shall we remember 1914?' Download the documents:

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/355647/Churches_Together_in/News_Events/News/Quaker_statements_re.aspx

NOTE: At CTE and in many other networks illustrated by this statement from the Quaker movement, including Government and media networks, a lot of discussion is taking place about the forthcoming commemoration of WW1, and how it could be remembered at both national and local level.

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New Gen Sec NTA

The New Testament Assembly is a member church of Churches Together in England. The Revd Nezin Sterling, NTA International Executive Secretary, has announced that the Revd Beverley Russell-Burke is the recently appointed General Secretary of the New Testament Assembly. She replaces Revd N J Sterling. 'Revd B Russell-Burke is a qualified school teacher, a long standing member of NTA, an excellent communicator and she currently serves as the chair for the Deptford Churches Together'.

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Churches buck trend of missing young adults

New research, from Fresh Expressions, identifies five types of churches which are bucking the trend in reaching and discipling the 'missing generation' of people in their 20s and 30s. Beth Keith, a tutor at Church Army in Sheffield, conducted the qualitative research project on behalf of Church Army and Fresh Expressions. Her report, authentic faith: fresh expressions of church amongst young adults, reflects the wide-ranging ways in which churches are tackling the fact that only 11% of regular churchgoers are between the ages of 25 and 34. In the past 12 months, Beth has surveyed leaders of parish churches, traditional church plants and fresh expressions of church. The aim was to look at churches based in different contexts reaching young adults from a range of socio-economic and religious backgrounds – rather than simply tracking large student churches.

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/355627/Churches_Together_in/News_Events/News/Churches_buck_the.aspx

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Not business as usual conference

'Building the Kingdom through your work' is the theme for this conference on Saturday, June 8 2013 at the City Temple, Holborn Viaduct, London. Various tracks are available:

- Employees: So you are in business... now what's your mission? Chris Mould, Trussell Trust
- Social action in the workplace - Andrew Westerman, Jubilee+
- Business Leaders: Jesus and the Racing Rat - Geoff Shattock, Worktalk
- Ethics in the workplace - Lord Wei natwei.com
- Entrepreneurs: TBA
- Social Enterprise - Paul Harrod, Bristol Together
- Investment - Uday Thakkar, Red Ochre

Details are on: http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/355636/Churches_Together_in/News_Events/News/Not_business_as.aspx

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WYEC go to Corrymeela

Clive Barrett is the County Ecumenical Development Officer for the West Yorkshire Ecumenical Council - WYEC. Clive sent a report about Church Leaders who have recently been on pilgrimage together to Corrymeela, County Antrim. Clive says, 'Please pray for Corrymeela and its work of reconciliation. I would recommend Corrymeela for any Churches Together group looking for an innovative time away together'.

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/355743/Churches_Together_in/News_Events/News/WYEC_go_to.aspx

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Cumbria 'Growing Together'

Churches Together in Cumbria had 200 people to a service celebrating a statement of Ecumenical Intent. The Ecumenical Development Officer, Ruth Harvey says, 'At the Executive Council of Churches Together in Cumbria last Friday it was agreed to distribute a report to key partners and allies in the ecumenical world south of Cumbria. The document summarises the very exciting stage that we are at in Cumbria, where the Anglican, Methodist and United Reformed churches are seeking closer unity. We are particularly eager that this document is widely read, as there are implications not only for the denominations involved, but for the 'companion' denominations (the other 6 Member Churches of CTIC), and for all eager to see closer unity in our Churches.

The report and a video of Ruth speaking about it are on:

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/355745/Churches_Together_in/News_Events/News/CT_Cumbria_report.aspx

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Interchurch Families Conference

AIF are holding their 46th Annual conference at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire, over the August Bank Holiday weekend Saturday 24th-Monday 26th August 2013. The title is 'Christian marriage in the 21st Century - worth committing to? Doral Hayes is the new coordinator for the Association of Interchurch Families, and will write the Reflection for the June edition of CTeNews.

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/355763/Churches_Together_in/News_Events/News/Association_of_Interchurch.aspx

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Sept conference Social Justice

The following is a press release from Together for the Common Good mentioned in the last CTeNews: 'Christian collaboration for social justice: We'd like to draw your attention to a new national initiative. 'Together for the Common Good' (T4CG) is exploring how different Christian traditions and other faith communities can work better together for social justice. Drawing on Anglican, Catholic and Free Church traditions to highlight effective strategies for collaboration, it is inspired by the Sheppard Worlock years and a key element of the project is a major conference taking place in Liverpool later this year. The T4CG Conference is set to be an intensive, participative working weekend, bringing together delegates at the forefront of their respective fields with a broad range of expertise.

Confirmed speakers include Dr Anna Rowlands, Revd Ruth Gee, Maurice Glasman, Phillip Blond, Archbishop Bernard Longley, Dame Mary Tanner, Frank Field MP, Bishop Stephen Platten, Revd Professor Nicholas Sagovsky, Bernadette Farrell, Claire Dove, Rt Revd Rupert Hoare (and others, see more on the website). The T4CG Conference takes place at Liverpool Hope University (6-8 September)'. For further details and online registration click here

<http://www.togetherforthecommongood.co.uk/conference/conference-registration>.

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CTBI Director of World Programmes

Bob Fyffe, General Secretary of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland reports: 'We have made an appointment to a new post within CTBI. Christine Elliott has been appointed as the Director of World Church programmes within the small staff team. Christine Elliott is well known across the Churches of Britain, Ireland and beyond having served the Methodist Church for many years. She has held various posts within the Methodist Church including the World Church Office taking particular responsibility for the Asian and Pacific regions. In 2008 she became one of three Strategic Leaders in the Methodist Church in Britain, being the Secretary for External Relationships, with a brief focussing upon world Church, ecumenical, interfaith and public issues themes. Christine left that post in late 2012. As part of her external involvement Chris has most recently been the Moderator of the CTBI China Forum and a Trustee of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. Beginning immediately, Chris will have oversight of the CTBI engagement with Middle East issues as well as China relations. Chris has extensive experience in both areas and we look forward to benefitting from her knowledge and skills in supporting the Churches as we engage with significant and developing issues.'

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Joe Aldred's new book

The following press release is about the new book by CTE staff member Joe Aldred, called: Thinking outside the box on race, faith and life. Thinking Outside the Box is a collection of articles, lectures, talks, sermons, homilies and presentations that emerge from Bishop Dr Joe Aldred's work as a Black male Christian; a bishop in a Pentecostal church; an ecumenist with Churches Together; a broadcaster; writer; public speaker; and social commentator. His personal reflections address such themes as race, the Bible, the Black Church, progress, ecumenism, politics, preaching, multiculturalism, Christmas, money, leadership, destiny and parenting. 'This diverse mix of writings reflect an eclectic life and ministry in which a mixed-portfolio of roles has been an ever-present companion. Be challenged by what you read. Agree, disagree, argue, correct; but most of all, enjoy!'

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/355755/Churches_Together_in/News_Events/News/Thinking_outside_the.aspx

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New Journal of Theology and Ministry

A new online journal of Theology and Ministry has been published at St John's College and is available to view for free at: www.theologyandministry.org Joss Bryan, editor of the journal writes: "Welcome to the first issue of Theology and Ministry: An Online Journal, whose aim is to contribute to the growing academic research at the interdisciplinary interface of theology, ministerial practice and reflection. It offers a forum for innovative and creative work in the field, making it available rapidly and inexpensively to a world-wide readership. In particular, it encourages excellent work from new authors as well as from more established writers." We are delighted to inform you that Pete Phillips, director of CODEC, has collaborated with Dr Richard Briggs on an article for the first edition, entitled 'The Bible as Augmented Reality'.

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Church Growth conference

A major conference on church growth in Britain will be held at St Johns College, Durham on the 12th and 13th September 2013. It is entitled 'Towards a Theology of Church Growth' and includes contributions from a range of leading scholars from a wide range of traditions, including: Prof Alister McGrath, Revd Dr Graham Tomlin, Sr Benedicta Ward, Revd Dr Miranda Threlfall-Holmes, The Rt Revd Martin Warner, Revd Dr David Goodhew, The Ven Bob Jackson, David Marshall, Mark Bonnington, Revd Dr Jo Bailey, Dr Dominic Erdozain. Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury says this of the forthcoming conference: "The team involved in this conference have done ground-breaking work, and it will be very worth the commitment to attend."

<http://www.dur.ac.uk/churchgrowth.research/conferences>

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'Quartet' DVD discussion resources

The following is a press release from Damaris about the film 'Quartet' as it comes out on DVD. 'A few months ago we were pleased to provide free official resources for the cinema release of the film Quartet - starring Maggie Smith, Billy Connolly, Tom Courtenay and Pauline Collins. Now, in readiness for its release on DVD, Blu-ray and Download (available from 6th May 2013) we have created some more – together with three new downloadable video features. They are all available from the 6th May, completely free. Please help us by spreading the word about these new resources to your members in the church, who you think will find them useful for home-groups, services and outreach events. Hans Christian Andersen said, 'Where words fail, music speaks.' That's certainly the experience of many. And the official resources we have created to accompany Quartet will help people to listen to what music might tell us about love, loss, life, hope, fun and fulfilment – all illustrated by the characters in this delightful and inspirational film. Quartet is directed by Dustin Hoffman who said: "Someone once commented that 'old age ain't no fun' but I've always believed that your soul can expand." We hope that our resources and this film will help many to experience that for themselves'. Freely download the resources at: www.damaris.org/quartet

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Pilgrimage of Hope

This year's Annual British Pilgrimage of Hope run by Fusion Youth and Community UK, is taking place from the 15th – 26th of July. The Pilgrimage Includes:

- 3 day school of mission
- 3 day mission placement
- 5 days of pilgrimage – Iona and Lindisfarne
- Time in London to study the reformers, Shaftsbury, Wilberforce, Wesley and others who changed the course of history as they stood up for justice, mercy and compassion.

Part of the time takes in a mission placement. Hosted by local churches they work alongside them, running community events in their neighbourhoods – one step in a long term strategy of mission and service.

There will be the life defining journey to the island of Iona in Scotland and Lindisfarne where we will retrace the steps of Aiden, Patrick and Columba who gave their all to bring Christ to the British Isles.

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/355739/Churches_Together_in/News_Events/News/Fusion_YAC_Pilgrimage.aspx

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The Big Lunch

Hope Together and the Trussell Trust are partners with the Eden Project for the Big Lunch on June 2nd. For the Jubilee weekend in 2012 an estimated 8.4million people took part, with 4m through the church sponsored events. Even though last year was very wet, many places are planning to hold a Big Lunch again. All the information and material to help plan is available: <http://www.thebiglunch.com/>

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Videos on CTE website

The video on the CTE homepage www.cte.org.uk is of Peter Graystone speaking about the website which serves all the churches for people making an enquiry – www.christianity.org.uk – Please have a look, tweet, send on and link to your own website. This is the first of a series that will start to appear as a new resource from CTE on a range of topics. Videos from the CTE Forum 2012 and the recent Interfaith conference are on Youtube already, and the new videos will start to form an additional library of people speaking about specific topics of items reported. Ruth Harvey speaks about the Cumbria 'Growing Together' statement of intent (see above) and there are more in the pipeline. This development will work with our Twitter feed @churchesengland as well as the website.

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Twitter updates for more ecumenical news - remember daily updates of nationally relevant ecumenical news are posted @churchesengland so you can follow the news as it happens.

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