

Reflection of the Month: Holy, Holy, Holy: A Trinity Song

This is an original concept piece from a musician in Wakefield called Gus Taylor. It explores how the Body of Christ is made up of many parts and how unity is achieved when in harmony.

Gus says, 'this is a worshipful meditation on the body of Christ, where I use multiple vocal layers and body percussion to give an audio picture of one body being made up of multiple parts working together'.

Gus performs all parts and provides copyright permission for playing on this website if credited 'Gus Taylor'.

http://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/277565/Home/Resources/Relationships/Discussion_papers_audios/Holy_Holy_Holy/Holy_Holy_Holy_Holy_Holy.aspx



Referendum Vote Responses

Various Presidents, church leaders, member churches, Bodies in Association and partners of Churches Together in England, have made or collated responses to the European Union Referendum vote held on Thursday 23rd June:

[Joint Letter 'Call to Solidarity' from Church and Faith Leaders: 1st July 2016](#)



Churches in England

[Baptists Together](#) Revd Lynn Green Call for a Prayerful Response

[Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales](#) Statement of Cardinal Vincent Nichols

[Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales](#) Call for mutual respect and civility

[Church of England](#) Statement of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York

[Coptic Orthodox Church in the United Kingdom](#) His Grace Bishop Angaelos

[Evangelical Alliance](#) Steve Clifford General Director

[Ichthus Christian Fellowship](#) A Video Message from Roger Forster

[Joint Public Issues Team](#) After the Vote: A Recommitment to the Common Good

[Methodist Church](#) President and Vice President of Conference

[Religious Society of Friends: Quaker](#) Building Bridges after the Referendum

[United Reformed Church](#) The Morning After ...

In the wider world:

[Statements from the Four Nations](#) are on the website of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

[Conference of European Churches](#) Renewed Call for Unity in Divisive Times

[World Council of Churches](#) Statement on the outcome

Resources

[Churches Together in England](#) List of resources collated before June 23rd.

Interchurch Families Weekend The future of 'the family' after Rome



Doral Hayes from the Association of Interchurch Families, a Body in Association of Churches Together in England, writes:

BOOK NOW! AIF Weekend 2016 – 22nd – 23rd October

The AIF weekend, held at The Hayes Conference Centre Swanwick, nr Alfreton in Derbyshire, welcomes all couples in an interchurch marriage, anyone contemplating such a marriage including children of any age. Clergy and others interested in, or pastorally concerned with, interchurch families are also most welcome.

The title for the weekend is "The Future for "The Family" after Rome".

We will be joined by a number of speakers including Bishop Tim Thornton of Truro our Anglican President, Bishop Peter Doyle Chair of the Roman Catholic Bishops' Committee for Marriage & Family Life, as well as Fr Dominic Robinson SJ.

Worship & prayer are central to the weekend and all ages are involved in the liturgy and the music. There will be a Roman Catholic Mass and another service, this year in the Anglican tradition.

Children will also be able to enjoy their own separate, but integrated programmes, whilst those aged 15 and over may elect to join the main conference or take part in the Young Adults Group (YAG) programme.

For more details and to download a booking form please click here [2016 AIF Weekend Booking Form – March 2016](#)

Education Sunday - Inspirational Education Stories

Education Sunday, which this year takes place on the 11th September, is a national day of prayer and celebration for everyone in the world of education. It is a day not just for teachers and students but for everyone who works, volunteers and prays for education in all its forms- Sunday school leaders, receptionists in educational settings, school leaders, university lecturers, those involved in adult education, school governors...the list goes on. Education Sunday is a day to celebrate and affirm that service and bless those who work hard to bless others.



Churches Together in England are coordinating an ecumenical steering group made up of representatives from eight member churches in order to create resources to help churches and schools take part in Education Sunday. As part of these resources we want to collect stories of how education changes lives.

- stories where teachers and others in education have made a difference to people's lives.
- stories where education has pulled people back from the brink
- stories where education has changed lives and allowed empowerment and human flourishing
- stories where being an educator, or someone who works in the setting of education, has changed their own life
- stories that demonstrate this year's Education Sunday theme of 'All Are Welcome'- stories that demonstrate the hospitality of education
- stories that highlight people's vocation to work/volunteer in the world of education. We would like to collect all sorts of different stories from a wide variety of people.

So if you or someone you know has an inspirational story to share, please contact Sarah.Lane.Cawte@freechurches.org.uk and help us celebrate the life changing possibility of education.

CEA Can Help Your Evangelism

The Christian Enquiry Agency is 25 years old and serves all the member churches of Churches Together in England as an Agency of CTE.



In June 2016 over 18,000 clicked on the website www.christianity.org.uk and 73 enquirers were received by individuals who specifically requested to find out more about the Christian faith. These enquiries are followed up by individual members of a team who support the work on behalf of the churches in England.

Here, Peter Graystone, Director of the Christians Enquiry Agency, introduces 10 ways in which the ministry of CEA can help every church in England with its own ministry of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

[Download a PDF flyer of the 10 Ways](#)

[Web Version of 10 Ways](#)

Christian Enquiry Agency News Spring 2016

10 ways we can help you...

Peter Graystone writes:

There is something we long for. We know you long for the same. With all our hearts we want people in the UK to find out about Jesus. We are here to help you in much as we can. Here are ten things you can do so that we can work together to bring Good News to people who don't usually go to church.

- 1 Pain-free posters**
How easy? ★★★★★ How cheap? ★★★★★
Every time you put a poster outside your church, add 'Christianity.org.uk' to the bottom. A third of our visitors find us on a mobile phone.
- 2 Effortless emails**
How easy? ★★★★★ How cheap? ★★★★★
Set up an automated signature so that it adds the words 'Christianity.org.uk explores answers to life's most important questions' to every email you send. If you don't know how to do it, go to the page where you usually read emails, click on 'help' and type in 'signature'. It's simple.
- 3 Extra at Easter**
How easy? ★★★★★ How cheap? ★★★★★
Help those who only come to church very occasionally continue thinking by drawing attention to the website on your notice sheet or order of service.
- 4 Wise websites**
How easy? ★★★★★ How cheap? ★★★★★
Link from your church website to ours. All the instructions are at Christianity.org.uk/link
- 5 Beautiful baptisms**
How easy? ★★★★★ How cheap? ★★★★★
Ask us to send you a hundred colourful cards to give away to visitors at baptisms. They're free, but we'd love a donation to cover postage. Drop a line to FREEPOST@TLX-ENRQ-YXSE, CEA, Selsdon House, 212 Addington Rd, South Croydon, CR2 8LD.
- 6 Take on Twitter**
How easy? ★★★★★ How cheap? ★★★★★
Follow us at @christianityuk and retweet anything that interests you to your followers.

Christian Enquiry Agency News Spring 2016

- 7 Give a Gospel**
How easy? ★★★★★ How cheap? ★★★★★
Tell a friend that we can post them a Gospel of Luke free of charge if they want to find out why Jesus means so much to you. It comes in a bright, magazine format. They just need to click on 'Send me the story of Jesus' at Christianity.org.uk. (Please don't do it without asking them first. We don't want to annoy people.)
- 8 Great giveaways**
How easy? ★★★★★ How cheap? ★★★★★
Mark a Christian festival with gifts to the passing public. Last year our most interesting conversation began: 'I found your website on a service wrapped round a hot cross bun I was given.'
- 9 Let leaders know**
How easy? ★★★★★ How cheap? ★★★★★
We also have a mini-website set up to help church leaders discover what we can do for them, and why we call this 'the easiest evangelism you will ever do'. Ask them to take a look at ChristianEnquiryAgency.org.uk
- 10 Joyous generosity**
How easy? ★★★★★ How cheap? ★★★★★
To be honest, this is a way in which you can help us. Give a donation to make all this possible. We will be very, very grateful.
You can donate any time, night or day, at Christians.org.uk/don

Introducing our new patron...

We are delighted to announce that Marjorie Sherlock is to be a patron of the Christian Enquiry Agency. To give her full title: Baroness Sherlock of Durham is the County of Durham sits on the front bench in the House of Lords and is a Canon of Durham Cathedral. She was formerly the Chair Executive of the Refugee Council and President of the National Union of Students. We are thrilled to welcome Marjorie as an advocate and friend.

Someone to pray for

I wrote this in her latest email: "I think your website is wonderful. I can't get over the relief of its moderate and sane tone and approach on such a wide range of topics... You must know how thrilled and edified some Christian voices are. I never talk about faith with anybody because of the reactions people have. I need strength and peace and spirit to do what I must do. Really I need God! Please can you help me find a place to have silence with God?". Could you pray for S? And for the Christian Enquiry Agency as we reply?"

You can contact the Christian Enquiry Agency at:
enquirers@christianity.org.uk
 FREEPOST@TLX-FASK-YXSE, CEA, Selsdon House,
 212 Addington Rd, South Croydon, CR2 8LD

Registered charity number: 1152730 Companies House number: 6302274

Peace Sunday 18th September 2016



The Fellowship of Reconciliation is a Body in Association of Churches Together in England and reports:

Have you been trying to get your church to do more about peace, but it's an uphill struggle?

Perhaps you'd love to do a peace service but don't know where to start?

The Fellowship of Reconciliation have put together a free resource to help you. They've filled it with sermon ideas, activities for children & young people, news about international peace work and ways to get involved in peace & justice.

You can [download and order paper copies](#) for more information.

This year we're inviting donations towards our International Peacemakers' Fund, which supports grassroots groups overseas to rebuild their communities after violence. [More information can be found here](#)

Further resources from the Churches Group for New Housing Areas

CTe-News for June 2016 reported on a meeting with the authors of a Grove book called *Pioneer Ministry in New Housing Areas*.

The meeting with the authors was recorded on video which you can see here by clicking the screen. This will take you to the web page where the report, commendations and press releases can be found and quoted for passing on.

Below are further resources linked to the book, meeting and work of pioneer ministry in new housing areas.



Review in URC Reform Magazine

Rev Simon Ellis writes:



Practical guide to urban mission

Pioneer Ministry in New Housing Areas: Personal reflections and a practical guide
Penny Marsh and Alison Boulton
Grove Books Limited
£3.95 (booklet)
ISBN: 9781851749652

'The first resource on a significant challenge'

It is a delight to recommend this booklet – the first readily available resource on a significant current challenge for churches up and down the country. In 28 pages, this booklet provides a succinct overview of the unique mix of church planting and fresh expressions of church that can be found in new housing areas.

The United Reformed Church has a long (if largely hidden) involvement in successful ecumenical partnerships in new housing areas all over the country, but churches without that kind of ecumenical experience may not have ready access to the history and practice of

those partnerships. This booklet offers a straightforward starting point with sections on: New housing in England, underlying mission principles and a practical guide for ministers. I know that URC Synod Moderators are overwhelmed with documents to read but these 28 pages are well worth adding to that pile.

The booklet is written from a very practical, hands-on perspective and reflects the different experiences of both writers. The section on "practical steps for pioneer ministers" assumes a dedicated role, however, these practical suggestions are equally applicable to a local project that does not have the luxury of a dedicated full-time pioneer, but instead works with local DIY resources. In summary, if the town where you live has more than 1,000 new homes scheduled, buy a copy of this booklet. If you are playing catch up with existing developments being built, it will still be a great place to start thinking about how you might engage with that challenge.☺

Simon Ellis is Mission Enabler for the United Reformed Church East Midlands Synod and a member of the Churches Together in England Group for New Housing

Read the article:

http://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/276369/Home/Resources/New_Housing_Areas/Pioneer_Ministry_in/Pioneer_Ministry_in.aspx

Pioneer Ministry: A Catholic Perspective RE the Grove book *Pioneer Ministry in New Housing Areas*



Fr. James Cassidy is Ecumenical Officer for the Catholic Diocese of Northampton. Since his ordination in 1972 he has worked principally in the new towns of Milton Keynes and Harlow. His Ph.D. thesis was on membership of the Church in Local Ecumenical Partnerships. He is the Catholic Bishops' delegate to the Churches Together in England new communities group. He is also on the editorial board of One in Christ.

I live and work in Northampton Diocese, a diocese which encompasses three traditional counties: Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, (which used to include Slough) and Northamptonshire. Recently we had a conference looking at proposed building plans for the diocese. There was scarcely a town without some growth, large or small; there is also in the diocese the ever-increasing town of Milton Keynes. Given the drop in the number of clergy the proposed increase in potential parishioners is alarming to the diocese. The expansion and its consequences are true for other dioceses; for example in Essex, which includes all of Brentwood diocese, there are plans to use redundant airfields for housing, and the diocese is littered with them. When the nettle is grasped by Government and houses are built then diocesan pastoral plans will need to be ready.

This is not a new problem, or even opportunity. The New Towns Act of 1947, which brought into effect the war-time planning, saw the growth of the New Towns, built on the foundations of the late Nineteenth century's Garden City movement and the development of Letchworth and Welwyn in the early Twentieth century.[1] However, these towns, and the post-war expansion of municipal housing took place in times of relative abundance of clergy. It was easy for bishops to erect new parishes with new churches and put in eager clergy anxious to start their new parishes. (In the nineteen-fifties there were so many priests in Liverpool Archdiocese that most had to wait until their silver jubilee of ordination before they became Parish Priests.) These parishes were based around fairly small churches, and the ministry was that of traditional suburban parishes, unchanged over the decades. The only exception of which I am aware, was the Catholic pastoral provision for Skelmersdale in Liverpool, a New Town, designated in 1961 where the whole town was served by a team ministry. In contrast, the Catholic planning for Milton Keynes, designated in 1967, was for small parishes, replicating the past, in the expectation that what worked in the fifties would work in the seventies and onwards to the new millennium, with the same number of clergy available.

However, there is now a major difference. In the last century there was still a fairly strong residual Christianity. If people had gone to Church in their previous location, then when moving to a New Town, the habit generally continued. People tended to come to the Church. All this has now changed. Christianity is not any more the default religion. Awareness of things Christian is not the norm. In England, in the new towns and developments, we are living in a post-Christian world. For the new residents it cannot be presumed that they have any awareness of Church, and no knowledge that their houses are built on land which (for Anglicans and Catholics) is already part of some parish to which they belong, and whose clergy will look forward to the participation of the new residents in the traditional life of the Church. They are missionary areas, and need to be treated as such.

For the complete article visit:

http://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/277803/Home/Resources/New_Housing_Areas/Pioneer_Ministry_in/Pioneer_Ministry_a/Pioneer_Ministry_a.aspx

Theology and Praxis of Evangelisation and Ecumenism



This is a personal paper by Captain Jim Currin, Church Army, staff member at Churches Together in England for *Evangelisation, Mission and Media*. It was presented at a conference in St John's College Cambridge in June 2015.

Please note the paper is for discussion and does not necessarily represent the views of Churches Together in England or of member churches. It is a personal reflection and has been made available online from July 2016.

[PDF Download: Theology and Praxis of Evangelisation and Ecumenism: a personal paper.](#)

And Finally ...

Revd Paul Rochester, recently appointed General Secretary of the Free Churches Group, was awarded the MBE for his previous work as a Civil Servant 'for services to the Microgeneration and his voluntary work in the church'.



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