

Reflection of the Month: Welcome to the CTE Marquee



Paul Goodliff writes:

Even if you have never been to a wedding reception held in a marquee in someone's back garden (and I confess that I never have, not being acquainted with anyone who owns a garden that large, although I did attend a wedding reception once in a tepee in a field near Skipton!) you'll have seen one in a film, I guess — "Four Weddings and a Funeral" springs to mind. Underneath the shelter of the canvas there are tables for guests to eat the wedding breakfast, and a space big enough to be used as the dance floor. Generally, if it is a warm summer evening, the sides are rolled up, and the breeze blows through the gathered friends and family as they eat, chat, listen to speeches, dance — oh, yes, and argue too.

In a recent address [here](#) to the Churches Together in England Enabling Group as its newly-appointed General Secretary I used this picture as a way of understanding the ecumenical challenges and opportunities that lie before us. We gather as churches and networks under the shelter of the "CTE tent", but like that wedding marquee, the sides are wide open to the world beyond, with its diverse culture and society. Some in the wider world welcome our presence in their midst (and the evidence is that, on the whole, government and other faith groups do value our contribution to the welfare of civil society) while others are more suspicious of our motives or values. Nonetheless, the role of the churches is never to withdraw from that society, but, as Jesus described in the Sermon on the Mount, to be salt and light, both proclaiming the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ and living it out. The sides of the marquee could be rolled down, but that would hinder both our connection with the world beyond — a world that God loves and that Jesus Christ died to save — and the free wind of the Holy Spirit that empowers and enlivens the Church.

Within the CTE tent we too sit around tables, eat, drink, engage in animated conversation, find the connections and, yes, disagree about important things — just as any gathering of family and friends experience. We are even called to join in with the divine dance that the Fathers of the Church called perichoresis, the dance of God's love within the Holy Trinity that overflows to all that God has made. On some of the statements on the CTE website we are described as 'the family of churches', and that is a profoundly Scriptural and theological truth. We are brothers and sisters by new birth and divine adoption, who call God 'Father' and recognise Jesus as both Lord and Saviour. But Jesus also calls his disciples 'friends' (John 15:12–15) and one of the joys of the ecumenical community of churches is that there is real and deep friendship between the churches and those who their members. This is evident often at local

levels in town or village CT groups, and also at the national level, where the work of ecumenism is strong. At the 'intermediate level', while the friendship is no less real, the organisations that provide the structures for ecumenical collaboration require some fresh attention, new vision and greater support.

Whether strong or weaker, the challenge ahead for CTE is how to collaborate more readily in the Missio Dei, the mission of God that is our calling in every generation. How can we deepen our discipleship so that every member in our churches is effective in their own calling to serve God's world in Christ's name and so serve God himself? How can we proclaim the good news with greater ecumenical collaboration? How can we partner with one another — both member churches and our Bodies in Association — to make the compassion of Christ real to the many in our society who are left behind (who are sometimes described as 'the last, the lost and the least'.) We do so reaching out to those alternative ecumenical networks that do so much to incarnate the love of God in towns throughout the nation: movements like Gather, Heartedge and Hope.

I believe that CTE is best placed to provide the tent within which we can dream those dreams, catch fresh visions, plan, strategize and, most importantly, discover what it means to love one another deeply. Something of that is captured in the new CTE strapline — "one in Christ Jesus, engaged in God's mission, empowered by the Spirit" — and if I were to opt for one phrase to capture my hopes and prayers for the churches in England over the coming years it would be something that emerged unprepared in a conversation at a recent CTE Presidents' meeting — almost as if gifted by the Spirit, perhaps — and which I expressed as 'discipling the whole church to reach the whole nation.' I hope that you will be hearing more of that as the months unfold in this new year of 2019.

Rev'd Dr. Paul Goodliff
General Secretary, Churches Together in England.

2019 CTE Leaflet

The 2019 CTE tri-fold leaflet is a very useful resource which includes staff details, a list of our member churches, an overview of 2018 and planned projects for 2019.

It is available as a pdf and can be [downloaded here](#).

Printed copies are now available and can be requested by [emailing Lorraine](#) and confirming the number you would like and the postal address to which you would like them sent.

Previous leaflets and annual reports can be [viewed here](#).



The leaflet cover features a central graphic of a stylized cross with the text 'CHURCHES TOGETHER in ENGLAND 2019'. To the left, under the heading 'Staff', are portraits and names of key personnel: Rev'd Dr Paul Goodliff (General Secretary), Bishop Dr Ian Ashdell (President), Jerry Ford (Finance, Resources and Training), Captain Ann Gault, CA (Ecological, Mission and Media), Leah-Louise Gault (Education of Free Churches Group), Lorraine Sherrin (CTE Administration), and the Office of Churches Together in England. To the right, under 'Looking back on 2018', are sections for 'Retirement of Rev'd Dr David Cornick', 'New General Secretary', 'CTE News', 'Windsor 75th Anniversary Service', 'Remembering Oscar Romero', 'Churches Together in Cornwall receive', and 'New Member Churches in Association (MMA)'. A vertical banner on the right edge reads 'One in Christ...one mission...empowered by the Spirit'.

CTE Evangelism & Mission Co-ordinator



- Full time/Flexible over 5/6 days per week incl. weekends/evenings, travel etc.
- Home based, accessible to London
- £42–46k, depending upon experience

Due to the impending retirement of the current post holder, Churches Together in England (CTE) is seeking to appoint an able and experienced full-time Evangelism & Mission Co-ordinator.

The ideal candidate will

- be skilled at brokering and developing relationships within and beyond CTE
- have wide ecumenical experience of evangelism and mission networks
- take responsibility for evangelism and mission co-ordination
- be an able written and verbal communicator in presentations, reports and papers
- share in the responsibilities of the staff team

If you wish to apply for the role of Evangelism & Mission Co-ordinator, information can be viewed as follows;

[Guidance for applicants \(including application process\)](#)

[Copy of the advert](#)

[Background information about Churches Together in England](#)

[Role description](#)

[Person specification](#)

[Equality and Diversity monitoring form*](#)

[Application form*](#)

** Please note, you will need to save these forms and click on the button to allow editing.*

To arrange an informal chat, please contact the General Secretary, Revd Dr Paul Goodliff at paul.goodliff@cte.org.uk

Closing date: 12 noon on Friday 1st February 2019

Interview dates: Wednesday 27th & Thursday 28th February 2019

There is a Genuine Occupational Requirement for applicants to be a practising Christian and an active member in good standing of a member church of CTE/CTBI.

CTE Communications & Media Officer



- Half time/Flexible over 5/6 days per week incl. weekends/evenings, travel etc.
- 1-year fixed term contract
- Home based, accessible to London
- £11–15k (£22–30k pro rata) depending upon experience

Due to the impending retirement of the current post holder, Churches Together in England (CTE) is seeking to appoint an experienced Communications & Media Officer. This is a new role separated-out from the mix of responsibilities held by the current media and communications staff member and offers an exciting new opportunity to develop media and communications for the national ecumenical body for England at a significant time of change.

The ideal candidate will

- be able to maintain the CTE website
- be able to communicate through social media
- be skilled at building rapport, brokering and developing relationships with integrity at all levels
- have knowledge of the Christian denominational communications landscape
- develop CTE publications
- produce monthly mailings

If you wish to apply for the role of Communications & Media Officer, information can be viewed as follows;

[Guidance for applicants \(including application process\)](#)

[Copy of the advert](#)

[Background information about Churches Together in England](#)

[Role description](#)

[Person specification](#)

[Equality and Diversity monitoring form*](#)

[Application form*](#)

** Please note, you will need to save these forms and click on the button to allow editing.*

To arrange an informal chat, please contact the General Secretary, Revd Dr Paul Goodliff at paul.goodliff@cte.org.uk

Closing date: 12 noon on Friday 1st February 2019

Interview dates: Wednesday 27th & Thursday 28th February 2019

There is a Genuine Occupational Requirement for applicants to be a practising Christian and an active member in good standing of a member church of CTE/CTBI.

SCM Chief Executive Officer



Do you want to help students find inclusive communities and churches where they will be supported to grow in faith and discipleship? Do you share our vision of a vibrant and growing student-led movement committed to deepening faith, seeking justice, celebrating diversity and working for Christian unity?

SCM is looking to appoint a leader who is:

- A great networker who can raise SCM's profile nationally
- A fantastic ambassador for the organisation and its values
- Excellent at leading and developing a dedicated staff team
- A strategic thinker who can work collaboratively with our trustees and other stakeholders to realise SCM's vision
- An experienced fundraiser
- Highly organised and self-motivated

The Chief Executive Officer will work with the Trustees to develop and lead on the direction and strategy of the charity, ensuring that SCM's vision is realised in line with our values. Working closely with the Trustees, the Chief Executive Officer will be responsible for overseeing the management of SCM and taking responsibility for implementing the agreed strategies and plans as well as the effective and efficient management of SCM's resources. If you feel you could meet the challenge, a full job description together with an application form can be obtained at <https://www.movement.org.uk/vacancies>

Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Monday 7 January 2019

Interviews: w/c Monday 21 January 2019

Faith and Police Together



Sgt Marie Reavey writes:

Over the last few weeks I've met with and spoken to lots of people from a variety of different areas and organisations including Faith Forum for London, Faith in Society, Faith Action, NishkamSWAT, Churches Together in England and I've been to see a number of project/organisations which are reducing demand on the police and other statutory agencies to help transform lives and their communities.

I am very keen that groups of churches work together in their local community, with [Faith and Police Together](#), so let me introduce you to Faith and Police Together:

Please check out our website thought the year to make sure you get updates ideas and resources' as they are added. Or do get in touch my details are on the website.

Interview of Marie for CTE Vimeo link: <https://vimeo.com/307698871> or click the video image.

Marie continues:

I am also very keen that Faith and Police together is covered in Prayer, as we know when Gods' people pray God moves. Please pray for:-



Churches to be equipped and to rise up to the challenge of helping to tackle addiction, Homelessness, Serious Youth Gang/Knife violence and Loneliness.

- For policing to grasp the vision and recognise the value of faith communities in tackling problems.
- Each force would identify a 'faith lead' person: someone who will have oversight of what is happening within the force in relation to faith related engagement.
- Me to source / create good quality useful resources that help both the church to feel more confident in engaging with the police and likewise for the police to understand how to engage with their local churches.
- Me to have godly wisdom in all I am doing.
- Jesus to be Glorified though Faith and Police Together.

www.faithandpolicetogether.org.uk

Conference on Peace and Respect in the Middle East

From 14 to 16 December, the Conference of European Churches and Cumberland Lodge held a conference titled "Towards Peaceful co-existence in the Middle East: challenges and opportunities," which took place at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park, United Kingdom, and was co-hosted by the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.



Participants from a broad range of Middle Eastern and European Churches discussed issues such as religious and cultural diversity. A central issue was how states treat people of different religious affiliation, respecting the rights of every person, including their Freedom of Religion or Belief. They emphasised that states need to implement equal status for and treatment of all its citizens, instead of continuing with a system of a majority granting certain minority rights. In order to achieve this, a principle of "moderate secularism" – that is moving towards secular laws and state institutions, not society – might be a way forward, establishing state neutrality towards people and communities of all religions and beliefs.

The President of CEC, Rev. Christian Krieger, stated: "We are aware that in Europe, when we talk about justice for minorities, we also look for everyone to have the status

of equal citizens. This point, as our partners in the Middle East have stressed, requires more attention and clarification.”

The conference also addressed other concrete challenges and opportunities in countries such as Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria. Participants expressed a need for churches to continue a peaceful and constructive dialogue amongst themselves and with other faiths. In two days, they reflected on a variety of issues relevant to dialogue, such as language differences and different understandings and concepts.

The contribution of a living Christian presence in the Middle East is important to counter religious hatred, violence and terrorism. Participants stressed that education is one of the key elements in overcoming prejudices. The need to become advocates for each other’s human rights remains a common task for all Christians and people of good will. While the notion of tolerance has different interpretations, an agreement could be reached that people should try to move from mere tolerance to respect, valuing the contribution of everybody.

In his greetings, His Beatitude John X Patriarch of Antioch and All the East, read by Metropolitan Silwan, said, “By the grace of God, we, as Christians, have been living in the East for two thousand years, and we have coexisted with our Muslim brothers and sisters for many centuries. The actions happening today in the East, from intimidation to kidnapping and desacralizing, affects both Muslims and Christians, sheikhs, priests and bishops alike. Differences of religion do not separate us, but rather enrich us in many areas of life.”

The Conference of European Churches will continue its advocacy work to support the needs of Churches in the Middle East, including interfaith dialogue.

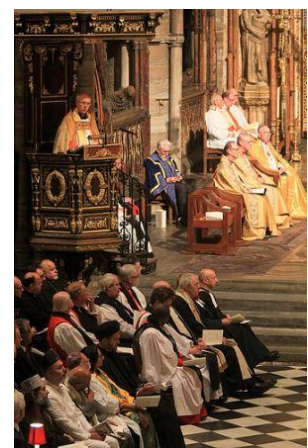
This was originally published on the CEC [website](#) and the image in Copyright to Cumberland Lodge.

Service for Christians in the Middle East

The Coptic Orthodox Church UK writes:

On 4 December 2018, a historic service was held in Westminster Abbey, attended by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, to celebrate the contribution of Christians in the Middle East.

The choir of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of London commenced the service with an introit, singing the Coptic processional hymn ‘O King of Peace’; the choir of the Syriac Orthodox Church also contributed to the service. Overall the event aimed to offer both celebration of, and encouragement to, the Christian communities of the Middle East in light of ongoing challenges and persecution faced by Christians in the region.



In the various addresses, prayers and reflections, the experience and challenges of suffering, and the expression of endurance and hope were highlighted, as well as the acknowledgement of the positive contributions that Christians, as indigenous peoples, offer their communities throughout the region.

At the beginning of the service, in his reflection, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales said: "In recent years, I have had the great privilege of meeting so many Christians who, with such inspiring faith and courage, are battling oppression and persecution, or who have fled to escape it." He went on to say: "Forgiveness, as many of you know far better than I, is not a passive act, or submission. Rather, it is an act of supreme courage; of a refusal to be defined by the sin against you; of determination that love will triumph over hate ... So, in coming together today, we can only give thanks for the truly remarkable strength of the Faith with which so many Christians face persecution, and which gives them the courage and the determination to endure, and to overcome."

In his address, the Most Reverend Archbishop Justin Welby, The Archbishop of Canterbury said: "When the church of Jesus Christ is attacked, it is an attack on Christ Himself. When any part of the church suffers, we also suffer, and yet distance and ignorance take away the pain we should feel." "For suffering, and especially persecution, is something that isolates. Those outside its experience cannot say "I know how you feel" because they don't." The Archbishop went on to say: "One thinks of the martyrs on the beach in Libya, of those countless killed in Iraq and Syria, of the faithfulness of Christians in parts of the region that are secure and stable, who have maintained their worship, welcomed their refugee brothers and sisters in Christ, for example in Jordan and Lebanon, and thus shone a light around the world."

Following the event, His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos, Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London, who contributed to the prayers during the service, said: "Seeing Westminster Abbey filled with so many who came to recognise and pray for Christians in the Middle East was truly inspiring. The event was prayerful while also very honest in its description of both the plight and gracious contribution of Christians in the region ... It is only when we all come together as Churches, organisations, governments, and so many other interested parties, that we can provide tangible and holistic solutions to the immense challenges encountered by many of our Christian sisters and brothers on a daily basis. Core to this, is also keeping this matter alive and relevant in the eyes, hearts and minds of our global community. We pray, as we continue to come together for those who struggle and suffer, that they are comforted and supported by the grace of God and by our collective interest and action in and for them as individuals and communities."

The service was officiated by The Dean of Westminster, and attended by representatives of a number of Middle East Churches, as well as Church leaders from the United Kingdom, including the General Secretary's of Churches Together in England and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. Over 1000 people were in attendance, and along with members of the public were congregation members from churches of the Middle East across the United Kingdom.

And Finally ...

Archbishop Evangelou receives MBE

A member of the [CTE Enabling Group](#), Archbishop Costakis C. Evangelou will receive an MBE for his services to young people in North London. Mr Evangelou appeared in this year's honours list most notably for helping to found and support the [Edmonton Eagles Amateur Boxing Club](#) which serves as a positive place for young people to better themselves.



Speaking about his MBE, Mr Evangelou said: *"It was a very humbling honour to be recognised. It was a big surprise to me to receive a letter from the Prime Minister's office saying I had been put forward, then appearing in Queen's honours list. I believe the actual ceremony will be in February."*

A spokesperson for the boxing club said: *"All of us at Edmonton Eagles are delighted that our head coach and honorary secretary Archbishop Costakis C. Evangelou was honoured in the Queen's New Year's honours with an MBE for his years of faithful service to young people in north London. This is such a wonderful award for an outstanding selfless person in our community and is on top of the prestigious Queen's award for voluntary service that the club received in 2015."*

Archbishop Evangelou is the International President of [Ixthus Church Council](#)

CTE staff member wins Windrush award

CTE staff member for Pentecostal and Multicultural Relations, Bishop Dr Joe Aldred, won an award at a black-tie dinner recently. He received a lifetime award for services to faith at the Windrush Legacy Gala 2018 in London, sponsored by the Society of Black Lawyers, Blacksox, Operation Black Vote, and A Few Good Men.



Photo credit: Sean Jones from Yazzi Photography.

.....

This mailing is from Churches Together in England and is sent once a month

Subscribe and see the archive: www.cte.org.uk/news

To unsubscribe or to submit items for consideration, email: website@cte.org.uk

A Word version is available to cut and paste articles for further distribution: www.cte.org.uk/news