

# What have you heard?

Pentecostal & Orthodox presentations:

Desire to link into ecumenical relationships of Orthodox & Pentecostals  
General delight at their inclusion.

Presidents - vs good sermons

Have heard nothing about grass roots ecumenicalism which is disappointing

How can what is heard 'up here' can be actioned 'down here' - would have liked practical suggestions.

Like the encouragement to go to other services & experience them outside our own tradition - absorb self into others experience & culture.

Heard call to pray together as leaders as well as listen & build relationship

Impressed by story of Billy Kennedy's of new church taking over old Methodist building & celebrating/carrying on

with original vision - membership & mature & impressive response

The young people - need to listen to them - really listen & hear them.

Need to be authentic - story of homeless girl - irrelevant faith inst wanted by youth.

If angry not indifferent to church which is good - how do we engage with their challenge? Or help them to engage?

Need to disciple our membership whatever their age - age in youth doesn't automatically guarantee maturity in their faith.

Have made assumptions about what each other are doing eg orthodox making sign of cross

Need an ecumenical Alpha course (that's NOT a joke!)

Noted defensive response in groups sometimes especially by newest members - reminder how vulnerable we make

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ourselves when we open up about our faith practice to others - need to be careful with each other. Easy to feel insecure & feeling judged when you are in a minority.

How hard it is to listen for some of us

Suspect those of us who are in ecumenism are on the edges of the churches - we are salt! Like Justin Welby's insistence unity is ESSENTIAL. Need more mixed marriages!

One person very vehemently saying in a group conversation was all wrong - we are already ONE - we need to accept we are one church<sup>Body</sup> (like it or not) but we are a dysfunctional Body/Church & we need to work through our differences & be healed. Others insisting we need visible unity as well - youngsters see it as a fudge & not good enough.

Need to have revisit some old conversation about eg communion that were had several years ago. New insights now from new members needed. Don't settle for the status quo - laity want to move conversations forward on issues like this.

Bottom up - evidence that some practices are broken on the ground eg RC priests serving Eucharist to non Catholics.

Hunt surrounds the inability to be <sup>in</sup>cluded in each others Eucharist/communion.

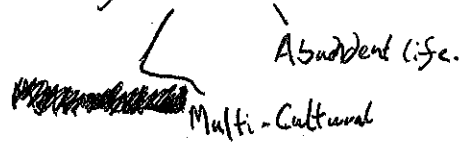
Sometimes it's the laity who hold more fiercely to the 'rules' than the church leaders.

1 cont...

# What have you heard?

Hearing people able to articulate their faith.

- A wide range of churches & expressions of God - Exciting



A chance to hear from a wide spectrum in order to inform our own spiritualities & Identity

- Diversity - "I will draw all people to myself" - Harmony in diversity through the Spirit.
- A blurring of lines - Hope for unity at a local level

Practise led ecumenism working

- Appreciation of the One-ness in Christ by sharing experiences.
- Young people are the churches now not the future.
- Young people love their church.
- Unity not Uniformity
- Heard people listening
- Safe space to dialogue
- How to deal with fundamentalism
- Practical not Covenant writing - Where is doctrine.
- We are no better as churches we just have a different
- Same work to live alongside each other.
- Celebrating what we share - not the differences

On the flipside you aren't left with much.

## What have you heard?

- Unity is indispensable — but have we heard what that means in practice?
- We do not appear to have heard about Receptive Ecumenism.
- Pentecostals formerly felt like outsiders in ecumenical dialogue but now feel to be insiders.
- Orthodox also more integrated in ecumenical discussion.

# What have you heard?

4

*Need to listen more*

*hearing of about Pentecostalism*

*Catholics do youth work!*

*Misconceptions have been corrected*

*Nothing about differences at the 'real face'*

*Young people are the driving force*

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What have you heard?

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LOTS OF GOOD STUFF,  
THINGS TO PONDER,  
VARIETY OF SPEAKERS!

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# What have you heard?

Book Room Group # 19

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- New approach and direction: <sup>going to</sup> the root of practical ecumenism in order to spread the gospel
- A strong expression of hope and hopes
  - new partners
  - something is moving e.g. Pope Francisco's words and that has come through strongly
- A lot! It worked well together but there has been a lot
- Many individual stories
- Similarities e.g. between Orthodox and Pentecostal presentation on Tuesday
- All about 'how to be church together' tending to celebrate what we already do, until the young people (the Team of Twelve) spoke when we heard 'how to be church'.
- A lot of positivity about a forwards moving trajectory along with an undercurrent of 'yes! but...' - so a lack of space in which to recognise and explore theological conflict which reveals complexity. <sup>Without this</sup> ~~Otherwise,~~ ecumenism can tend to the shallow: we all get on because we believe in nothing.
- The need to think about leadership transition; who are the young leaders we can mentor into the future?
- A lot about mission... but it would have been good to have heard more about evangelism.

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# What have you heard?



Sensed / heard a tension: there are differences, and some of them are painful.  
Yet we are at least here together - disunited, but still committed to meeting together.

One man's diversity is another man's fragmentation.

A passion for God among the young people.

From the young people - 'get on with it and do it!' (working in unity)

A lot of people saying a lot of nice things (but not people engaging with real issues)  
Heard people tell me about things (but a lack of practical engagement with real world issues)  
unity whilst walking.

willingness to engage with one another

huge diversity of input - learned more at this Forum than any other.

a lot of inspirational things - great sandwiches - different ways of communicating with God.

a lot of communication between people.

(did not hear) a clear expression of the purpose of Forum.

an ongoing fear of pentecostalism?

greatly enriching information on many different church traditions

a commitment to pushing mission together.

many people expressing a desire to engage with differences, not just to scath  
the sense.

a lot of practical + theological geekiness.



What have you heard?

8

Wonderful worship  
and deep prayer. Joy.

Listening to groups  
and individuals

A wish(es) to do our  
best, move forward, change.

Respect for others,  
including ancestors,  
young people.

Commitment to the  
journey.

# What have you heard?

9

- 'Ministry of the heart' - young people session
  - young people needing love - feeling neglected + hurt.
- The young people - not the 'future' - but they have needs in the present, now.
- Better informed about Orthodoxy.
- Locally organised co-operation more effective than nationally organised.
- Diversity within the Catholic church.
- Eucharistic sharing not an attainable goal in the near future
- Impressive presidents -
- Moppe' ecumenism
- Absent presidents - not prioritising the Forum/ecumenism?
- Call to martyrdom - 'broken bodies' - Orthodox church
- Revelation reading - v. powerful - 'listen to what the spirit is saying to the churches'
- Cry out to universities + churches to minister to students.

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MONDAY

What we heard (diversity) = exciting

Refreshing

Challenge of some feeling included / excluded

Heard from different groups, learned a lot

Heard good ideas

↳ New housing

Music

9 cont...

# What have you heard?

- bamboozled - lots of different voices
- young people - provokes lots of response.
- Young man who said → would ~~you~~ I have any peers? what needs are we not addressing?
- Feeling of discrimination against teenagers in society.
- deliberately engaging with young people
- investing in young leaders
- trusting young people more -
- We've abolished the laity.
- Share your buildings! Be less tribal.
- being glad of your young people who go to other churches in your area.
- "Unity is achieved whilst working together"
- Unity **is** achieved on our knees.
- Visible unity...
- orthodox + pentecostalism are two wings of the church but what they have in common

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Certainty.

It means we should be open to the full word of the Holy Spirit.

- the young people were stirred by the variety of styles.

- what is the spirit saying to the churches?  
↑  
disturbive  
plural.

10 cont...

## What have you heard?

- Views on Orthodoxy were fascinating and totally revelatory
  - ~ history and continuity was incredibly heartening to hear.
- Hearing from marginalised groups.
- Need to listen - noise does not equate accuracy
- People still need to <sup>shape the</sup> ~~find~~ define themselves but <sup>doing anything</sup> by the ~~Am~~ denomination.

# What have you heard?

12

no interaction in president's session  
would have liked  $\uparrow$  to be more like question

Time  
questions predictable with predictable answers -  
heard something more exciting when  
refugees mentioned

heard encouragement in <sup>good</sup> things going on

being united doesn't mean having one theology  
so long as centred around essentials -

Nicene creed - incarnation - cross -  
concentrating on the Kingdom

<sup>stronger</sup> Life without necessarily unpicking all the  
explanations

hearing a growing flexibility and appreciation  
of worship styles - although a need among  
some for a constant  $\downarrow$  worship, eucharistic  
word

heard the music too much - drawing out conversation  
rather than leading <sup>people</sup> gently to close -  
music doesn't need to be intrusive

Enjoyed more "meaty" hymns in "jazzed up" style

Some enjoyed the experience of finding God in a

different "louder" form of worship

That our differences should not be focused on -  
we are God's people, made in God's image &  
although differences are rituals and  
gifts

For all of us the cross has to be at the centre

Respect with which all are listened to,  
for instance, the Orthodox and their love  
for Mary

A different, healthier way of being than common in  
society

Listening a key role Therefore

Ecumenism helping the Church to be more  
itself

Hearing a need for receiving the gifts of the  
other, a conversation about what we  
mean by unity and an openness to  
different forms

12 cont...



What have you heard?

13

"Walking together."

celebrating diversity or concerned about fragmentation?

Session with young people made a great impression

Noted strength of denominational identity, along with a lot in common.

The process of listening, was very striking.

# What have you heard?

14

Mostly ~~the~~ saying the same thing.

If we have heard the young people's concern & challenge, how do we implement a response? If we do not, they will be further alienated.

That young adults feel vulnerable in their faith.

Emphases on the Holy Spirit, both in Orthodox & Pentecost traditions.

Mission - together - is important.

We achieve unity while we walk.

Decline of many traditional churches in the UK.

WE HAVE NOT HEARD those things we value as precious in our traditions  
We have kept quiet out of respect & not to upset.

WE HAVE NOT HEARD discussion of Catholic/Protestant sharing of  
the Eucharist.  
If we are united in Christ, then why not share Communion?

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# What have you heard?

15

Challenged seems to be 'negative'. But can be 'not thought about before'.

Minister's saying 'If we introduce something like that we'll lose people we've got'. This is especially true of making room for young people. Perhaps young people ~~should~~ need also to listen to age as well.

Contrast between Orthodox + pentecostal - at <sup>opposite</sup> end of the tradition.

Orthodox presentation interesting but still hints of Exclusionism. But they, like the rest of us, are on a journey here. Graciousness + hospitality may give a platform.

Style of worship may alienate orthodox and perhaps some of the other more traditional worship. Perhaps a combination of styles might be appropriate.

The good thing is the breadth of expression in the form + that we are sitting and listening to each other.

The leadership of the church (world) is giving a good lead to the rest of the church.

Good to hear a critique of the prosperity element of Pentecostalism from a Pentecostal.

Ecclesiological project less ambitious than when it started. But it does produce its own fruit. We listen together and ~~do~~ do work together where we can. Walking together is important for ~~and~~ our day. The important thing is acceptance of one another as fellow travellers.

Across the country we need to find a new consensus such as Praying together for the place we live.

P.T.O.

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Being together is the important thing + 'let structures be'.

- respect our diversity + have a common aim.

- walking, listening + being open.

Our willingness to be prepared listen.

Young people: some characteristics e.g. 'church not listening to young people'.

It would be interesting to hear from those same young people in 10 years time.

We are now more realistic about what can be achieved through ecumenism.

15 cont. . .

## What have you heard?

REMARKABLE INCLUSION OF THE PENTECOSTAL  
EVANGELICAL CHARISMATIC CHURCHES. NOT GIVEN  
UP ON MAINSTREAM CHURCHES.

ORTHODOX BECOMING PART OF THE MAINSTREAM  
LIFE OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

ECUMENICAL VISION STILL WITH YOUNGER GENERATION

TWO VIEWS OF ECUMENISM

Young People - Post Denominationalist

Young People Love own traditions

Questions on Post Denominationalist

IMPERIALISM OF MUSICAL CULTURE

CHURCHES COME TOGETHER WHEN THEY HAVE LITTLE  
TO BELIEVE IN

Noise - Music ONE STYLE

Young People CONVERSATIONS. BROWNBESS

# What have you heard?

Group 15

17

A voice that felt oppressed by past injustices from the historic churches to the people of the developing world

A voice that wanted to know ~~the~~ what the future would be

A voice saying that we must make the most of the now

~~Some~~ Justin Welby said that young people ~~were~~ <sup>are</sup> you. don't mind about denomination - but some young people do have very strong denominational affiliation.

Many voices from many traditions speaking and being listened to with warmth and respect.

Didn't hear voices asking for change or transformation

The Free Church rep talking about what freedom meant

A Catholic young woman who seemed to have a priestly presence - could she ever be ordained - her tradition?

"Let's do something with young people" - and then everyone goes and does the same

One young person said "were the church of the future", but the young person is the part of the church of now

Have young people as facilitators

An implicit expectation that leadership = the church will continue in the same way

Urban/suburban voices have predominated

People actively listening, rather than passively

Where does listening move into critical reflection & changed action?

Should there be a Youth President(s)?

Need a bigger variety of music.

SO MUCH BETTER than 3 YEARS AGO!

# What have you heard?

18

Lovely quiet Quaker worship!

The young people were excellent & challenging.

The Presidents' panel was as boring as it could get!

Huge variety of input.

Pain - especially Michael on university students.

Is Christ on the outside knocking at the door? <sup>Who is</sup> inside?

Joy.

A lot of 'in' language.

A lot of response & challenge from young people.

Struck by similarity between Orthodox & Pentecostal  
strangeness of ~~both~~ 'divine liturgy' & endless repetition.

Both on the 'inside' & <sup>also</sup> part of it in our terms.

e.g. Orthodox Prayers like a river flowing on - just dip in & out.  
Similarly Pentecostal worship - can be relaxed that it's being  
offered & about how much to participate.

Heard 'Jesus & the Spirit' from Pentecostals - where on the Father?  
A pointer to deeper stuff we still need to talk about.

We be ready to admit not <sup>all</sup> walking together, nor at same speed,  
nor wanting to talk about the same things.

Presidents' panel needed more challenging & sharp questions about problems.

ag. Vicky: 'I know it is going to take a long time' - why? Need more urgency?  
Non-inclusive language. Challenge of female authority in some  
denoms.

The way the young people prayed for each other & willed for each other  
to do their best.

The music dominated the proceedings too much + TOO LOUD.

Presidents should all have the opportunity to answer all questions. Panel better in past  
years.

Nothing about unity or Trinitarian God in Pentecostal presentation. Disappointing.

Orthodox - deep sense of holiness impressive.

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Feedback sheet from Wednesday small groups, CTE Forum 2015.

Impressed by frankness & lack of inhibition & mutual support of young people.  
It doesn't matter which church people attend as long as do attend church.

# What have you heard? Group 24

19

"People reading papers that I could have read." Lots of different traditions saying the same things.

"I'm so pleased I came." Everyone saying Christ is the centre. The presentation by the young people moved me. It wasn't patronising. They weren't worried about structures and history, they just accepted their differences. I'm leaving with real hope.

"Unity not uniformity." Celebrating the oneness. We're all different parts of the same body. Meeting people over the dinner table.

Young people who cared about their denomination, but were happy to share with people from different denominations.

New friends met over meals.

What now? I didn't hear much. It felt like we were talked at a lot, but didn't have much opportunity to ask questions and engage.

Not much. Lots of people saying nice things that are impossible to disagree with. "Jesus is nice."

Similar points of faith from different traditions.



## What have you heard?

- ↘ Not <sup>enough</sup> clarity on <sup>difference between</sup> Pentecostalism + Charismatics
- ↘ We all have so much in common. The similarities heard all the way through the conference and especially from the young people.
- ↘ Grassroots usually hardest place to change way of doing things perhaps.
- ↘ Hope, Good news, Deepening of own tradition
- ↘ Eucharist - No?
- ↘ All positive things heard about Forum. Not heard any negativity.
- ↘ Unity in walking together - making it practical - listening, talking
- ↘ Journey of being changed.

- Denominational Overview very helpful.
- Challenged by young people - as brothers and sisters in Christ; enthusiastic and passionate about their faith: Young leadership essential.
- Music and words of songs were meaningful and spiritual; inspirational and ~~opened~~ <sup>opened</sup> hearts.   
 Motivating for Mission
- Contacts building amongst attendees to help in Ministry in their own home churches.
- Lutherans <sup>(4 groups)</sup> agreed to start a new form of working together, ~~and~~ <sup>to</sup> set aside previous differences and weaker relations, toward celebrating 500 year Anniversary.
- Is weekday conferences best for young people's attendance? What does it mean for working with young people in local churches; how to bring them into full participation, not an "add-on". Invest in young people - (older worshippers are not here forever) to lead our Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and beyond.
- Keep the highest ideals in our various denominations whilst walking and listening, on our journey together.
- Denominational cultures are important and need to be respected.
- There is no "right" way to worship.
- This Forum has truly moved towards breaking down barriers - Long live Ecumenism! CTE!

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# What have you heard?

22

YOUNG PEOPLE - PROBLEMS OF CHURCHES - SPOKE WELL OF THEIR FAITH.  
- TIME TOGETHER GAVE THEM THE FREEDOM - SOME STRUCK STRINGS

GREATER RANGE OF CHURCHES - ~~BY~~ ENTHUSIASM TO LEAD OF EACH OTHER.  
PASSION.

EXCELLENT WORSHIP LEADER (NOEL) - MUSIC EMBRACED THE MOOD OF THE  
MEETING VERY WELL.

GOOD BALANCE OF TARGETED DENOMINATIONS

CHALLENGE IS NOT TO BE A TALKING SHOP OR PROTOCOL BUT TO SHOW  
WE ARE MOVING TOGETHER AS ONE.

## What have you heard?

23

Encouraged by dynamism of Church nationally -  
lots to rejoice in.

Even newer churches have questions.

Frustration that older church cannot always provide what  
young people want.

Listening so important - we don't always give an answer.  
Go in peace.

Need to empower all members of church to evangelise  
- young and old. Fed and sustained by God's grace.

Ability to accept contradiction without crisis -  
very encouraging. Mood of conference - not conflict.

Unity of walking - keep or tolerating and recognising differences.

Work to do for churches on belonging and believing.

Acknowledge that some people need to let go and move on.

Younger people have less of a hold on traditional denomination.  
- encouraging from a unity point of view. Most young people  
want a space where they can grow spirituality. Invest more  
into their individual growth.

Noticeable pride of some denominations and less  
understanding of others.

PTO

Being together, gracious, generous, positive.

Worried for young people if their leaf experience would be squashed out of them.

'Acorn Listening' train people to listen to empower and heal. Pope Francis setting lead of listening to those outside the room?

Personal relationship with Jesus needs to be re-discovered.

Music challenging - variety would be preferred.

Would prefer more opportunities for varied worship.

Go home now and enthuse others.

Really enjoyed this Forum!

23 cont...

# What have you heard?

\* Heard more of what I heard on the 1st night: visible unity & etc.  
 Range of things ~~not~~ reiterated, e.g. football

\* Emphasis on Unity in X+ ... worship songs included - reinforced strongly

\* Heard on the one hand the rubbishy of tradition, yet also heard the reiteration of tradition ... e.g. Billy Kennedy's description of celebrating 75th + 100th anniversaries in all <sup>buildings</sup>

→ Importance of Orthodox buildings ←  
 Through the <sup>buildings</sup>   
 ← Ecophony of noise/voices :

\* ^ there are some definite directions for ecumenism ...

P+0

\* Really appreciated the Orthodox Tradition =

Breath of the churches

→ Beauty that could be envisioned for the one ~~world~~ church.

\* Listen to the Holy Spirit  
look to the Father

// → What sort  
of unity  
will we  
have?

24 cont...

g-look at  
the Milky Way  
not just  
one star.  
See the beauty  
in the ether

\* Heard what unity would look like:

\* Heard also frustration & anger arising out of  
the deep-seated divisions, esp. as a Catholic  
- but conscious of the pain/humiliation/grief in ecumenical  
contexts.  
↓ (also personal)

### **What have we heard?**

We have a positive attitude towards dialogue. We welcome the opportunity to meet new people who are united in Christianity. We also believe that it is important for there to be an Orthodox presence for people to learn about the Orthodox Church, which would otherwise not be heard.

### **What challenged you?**

We are concerned about the presumption that all people would be comfortable to worship in a particular way.

Our theology is in our worship and in our life, and we cannot deal with this separately or non-critically. Any discussion about unity should come from a holistic basis, because it is not in our Orthodox system to differentiate and compartmentalize theology, worship and life.

Therefore, for a unity process it is essential that we discuss these as a whole.

There were also a number of significant issues that were raised that could have been dealt with more substantially. For example, sympathy regarding the issues in the middle east could have been crystallised into statements from major church leaders.

The plenary sessions would have been dramatically improved with provision for questions and answers from the floor,

### **What impressed you?**

In general, we have heard good things. There is a lot of enthusiasm and energy, particularly with the young people. We like what was said regarding the empowering of the younger generations to be the front line of the church. The freshness of the younger generation portrays a basis in the Spirit.