EG 18-03 14

extra paper for information

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**Churches Together in England**

**Forum 2018 evaluation: all responses**

*Please be aware that the numbering is simply to aid reference in discussion. The same number in different questions may relate to different people.*

Q1. What did you find most helpful/enjoyable about the Forum?

Answered: 60

Skipped: 0

1. The opportunity to meet and talk to people from very different churches to mine. The bible study
2. The sense of shared faith. The fact that our differences do not need to divide us was very evident.
3. Talking to other ecumenically minded people
4. Networking and David Cornick's input. I was encouraged by Paul Goodliff's contribution.
5. networking
6. Being with a very diverse group of like-minded people
7. Presidents' presence and inputs; Small groups
8. Meeting people
9. Networking
10. Meeting people form so many different Christian Traditions.
11. Ad hoc conversations with other delegates
12. Networking with people a getting to know new colleagues. Inspirational in a way I didn't expect!
13. Listening to others’ insights
14. speaking with others
15. Very positive atmosphere.
Well organised.
Good panel discussions.
16. The insights shared by the presidents in conversation and then the session with questions created by the small groups.
I also found the Marketplace also very useful as a new CEO.
17. The opportunity to meet with people from so many different churches and traditions. I liked the way that both formally and informally there were lots of chances to talk to different people.
18. Hearing the 6 Presidents. Hearing David Cornick. Time to share, network
19. The presence of young people
20. The whole event was helpful and enjoyable
21. Seeing the Presidents relaxing in each other's company
Singing
22. Sessions with the 6 Presidents in Dialogue.
Opportunity to engage with fellow delegates...& to gain insight on engagement at local level.
Workshop on Science & Faith...excellent!
23. The wise & stimulating contributions from David Cornick, the Presidents in conversation especially Mon night & the Bible Study especially Janet Scott. Meeting old friends. Making new ones. Being encouraged that there are still others who believe in ecumenism.
24. Coming together with Christians from different denominations and sharing in conversation, worship and fellowship
Worship and workshops
25. Meeting other people from a wide range of traditions and sharing time and conversation with them.
26. Always the networking and inter denominational inter change
27. The weaving project throughout the forum
28. Meeting people, both those I knew before and those who I was meeting for he first time - praying with someone from the Mar Thoma church
29. Hearing and meeting the diversity of the churches
30. the networking. It's what we came for and it worked for us
31. worship/prayer together, especially the bible study and meeting new people from different areas and church traditions
32. The warmth of fellowship and sharing in and between the sessions. The focus on Jesus throughout.
33. Conversation between the Presidents and informal conversations with old friends
34. Networking with other delegates
35. The shared meals and conversations with other people. Especially due to the 'issue' of not being able to share Communion with each other, the meals and the small group times took the place of Communion. Maybe they were even closer to the true meaning of Communion than any liturgy could ever be...? I am now in email conversation with an Orthodox colleague and we are discussing different liturgical roles etc. Most enjoyable!
36. The enthusiasm and commitment of the other delegates.
But MOST was seeing how comfortable and trusting the leaders were with each other in the panels, and seeing how humble they all were.
37. The networking. The bible study.
38. The enthusiasm and commitment of other delegates.
But MOST was seeing the presidents in panel presentations and discussion. Wonderful witness to us to see how comfortable/trusting they were with each other, and how humble they were as individuals.
39. Informal sharing with such a wide variety of Christians.
40. The togetherness, the enthusiasm, the joy.
41. The Presidents' sessions
42. I really loved being around Christians of all ages. A lot of the conferences I attend are specifically for 18-30 year olds, and so I loved being able to learn and fellowship with a more diverse group of people.
43. The overall atmosphere of the Forum was a marked improvement than the one in 2015. The theme was well interwoven into the entire proceedings. The music and singing was good. Also, the fact that apart from David Cornick's lecture there wasn't any more lectures after that.
44. The friendliness of the people
45. sense of hope from Christians coming together from different places and theologies, yet with a similar passion and vision
46. Firstly, the presidents in conversation, and secondly, the workshops
47. networking, marketplace, workshops
48. Having all six Presidents present
49. Meeting and talking with Christians from a broad range of traditions; the presidents' panel
50. Many things. It was good to see and hear the Presidents speak: at times, frankly and with great humility. It was good to see CTE Directors (who I was unaware of) The spread of church representation. Bible study, especially Janet Scott, Meeting of old friends but also getting to know people newly involved in ecumenical life and witness.
51. Meeting old and new friends. Our small group really blossomed when we met for the longer time.
'Swanwick' is a terrific venue. I played croquet.
52. From the 'front': David Cornick's thoughtful reflection & Patsy's Bible study input.
Individually - conversations around the table/ in the bar & the commitment and deeply worshipful approach of our musicians. I may not have liked everything they did, but I appreciated it all the same!
53. The range of traditions represented was really a joy to see. I enjoyed meeting lots of new people, and I found it helpful as an introduction to national ecumenical environments. It was definitely more diverse racially and socio-economically than my own tradition's gatherings, which was a wake-up call.
54. I found everything helpful. I thought the worship throughout the forum and the "gathering of the threads" activity were great.
55. Bible Study on the final day
56. meeting others, input from David Cornick, Presidents' sessions, worship and music, small groups
57. Presidents and David's report
58. I found one or two of the plenary speakers inspirational. I also made connections during the meals and breaks that inspired me in various different ways.
59. It offered so much opportunity for so many things.
It was amazing to see & hear the Presidents speak: at times, frankly & with great humility.
It was good to see CTE Directors (who I was unaware of)
So many good workshops but tricky deciding which 2 when so many looked really important.
Bible study was wonderful
So many people to catch up with
60. The presidents contributions and the final Bible study.

Q2. What did you find least helpful/enjoyable?

Answered: 55

Skipped: 5

1. Small groups
2. Those who were more pessimistic about the future, I understand the need for constructive critic but I like to have hope.
3. Nothing in particular.
4. workshops
5. The workshops (though they were not uninteresting)
6. I wasn't to bothered about the Market Place
7. Long panel debates
8. The small group was not great to be honest
9. Christ in Politics Workshop
10. one of my workshops was thin
11. Possibly the workshop on Politics.
Night prayer in small groups! It felt rather awkward in our group. I was disappointed we did not come together for night prayer on Tuesday - Monday's night prayer was lovely!
12. NA
13. the workshops
14. Taize worship seemed rushed - but I appreciate this was a way of combining new with more traditional. Very hard to get right for all tastes.
15. Evening prayer as was very late, people were tired and it was a bit too long.
16. Limited time for sharing, learning.
17. not sure
18. None
19. The workshops
20. Workshop on faith and politics...too much politics & too little faith! Poorly structured & hopelessly biased.
21. My small group and my second workshop.
22. The session on The Presence of Christ in faith sharing.
23. Although I enjoyed the small groups, they did lack depth or resolution at the end of the group
24. The packed programme - I was exhausted by the time it came to the workshops and didn't engage very well
25. The workshops were OK, but the level was too basic, so I didn't learn anything
26. At times there was too much sitting and listening, especially as the Presidents responded to questions from the small groups
27. I didn't find the worship on Tuesday evening terribly good. Next door's small group was running ahead of us and we could hear them singing "The Day Thou Gavest" while we were still discussing. There were several groups in the small rooms off the main conference hall and it might have been better (and easily possible) for us to have joined together at nine o'clock
28. would have liked to have gone to more than one type of morning prayer
29. Nothing in the content. A ground map of the venue would have been helpful.
30. Workshops
31. Plenary session - as only a few questions were chosen it was unfortunate that one on gender make-up of President group was included. Gender equality is not relevant to ecumenism.
32. The workshops. Although the presenters were very good, there wasn't anything new for me and it didn't challenge me (enough).
33. SORRY not to know there was Mass Wed am. I would STILL have gone to 8am service AFTER Mass, not Mass instead of the 8am service, which in fact didn’t have a ‘full house’ attendance anyway.
34. The marketplace (probably my fault as I did not commit enough time to it). I would have preferred more workshop sessions - even in place of small groups if needed.
35. Small group poorly led
36. The phones! Disrespectful to those on the stage, and very disturbing to those nearby.
37. Since you ask...the juxtaposition and similarity between small groups and workshops.
38. As someone who had never heard of CTE before this forum, there was a lot of stuff in the main meetings that (to an outsider) felt a bit like 'admin'. But I'm sure this was all thoroughly enjoyable to people who have been connected for years.
39. The lack of a more open Q&A/response opportunity from the floor during any of the plenary sessions. It still came across as 'spectator viewing' at times!
40. One of the workshops was a bit disappointing
41. nothing
42. the small groups
43. No coffee available first thing Wednesday morning.
44. Workshops; didn't get so much out of the 8pm small group meeting due to tiredness!
45. Workshops - particularly Christ in Politics
46. Neither of the workshops I attended really 'caught fire' in my view - 'Politics' and 'the Economy', and I had been looking forward to them
47. Too much emphasis on the presidents. It was good to hear from them, but rather too much.
48. I found it quite bitty. If we'd had a theme e.g. the role of the church in society, our expressions of evangelism/outreach, power and privilege in the church, then we might have got deeper/more specific exchanges that built up into something more coherent. But I did still enjoy it and find it helpful! This is just a way I, personally, would have found it more so.
49. In the Market Place, I really enjoyed looking around the book stall and bought a few books, but I did not really spend time looking at the other stalls. I felt that I was receiving enough information via the forum itself, without needing to absorb anything extra.
50. Workshop on Finding Christ in Politics
51. Final bible study session, workshops
52. The first part of the opening session and parts of the final session were a bit patronising like the jokey bit on four Es
53. The vegetarian meal options. Think I may now be protein deficient!
54. Sometimes one felt overwhelmed by so many people & remembering those you had spoken to(but that is the nature of the Forum!)
Some labels could have been more helpful to say the part of the Country, role they did...
55. The workshops and small groups.

Q3. Please comment on the opening session and the closing session.

Answered: 55

Skipped: 5

1. Both good - worshiping together is inspiring and I thought both David Cornick and Paul Goodliff were inspiring and challenging
2. They were pitched at the right level. We were enabled to come together in a neutral way which enabled our sharing and our sending out.
3. I enjoyed the opening session especially David Cornick and I sadly left before the close.
4. Both were meaningful.
5. missed both!
6. No comment
7. Both excellent. I (as ever) valued David Cornick's contribution, and was encouraged by Paul Goodliff's
8. Yes I enjoyed the worship
9. Good, especially David's address
10. Little bit stilted both times. Maybe too long. Could have been tighter and more uplifting. The Weaver in Residence was yet another example of the feminization of Christianity. It provoked laughter and scorn from some more evangelical delegates, I noticed! The Christian Church is not the W.I at prayer!
11. Opening session was memorable for David Cornick's superb address.
Closing session was OK, but felt like something that needed to be done rather than having strong energy in itself. Not helped by people leaving early.
12. Very much enjoyed and stimulated by David Cornick. He is a great loss to CTE.
13. Very welcoming opening session; closing session very inspiring and promoted hope and courage!
14. I thought both were excellent, and pitched well
15. Only present for the opening session - found this uplifting. Also representing a BIA I didn't feel like an add-on.
16. Missed the opening session so no comment personally, but heard very positive comments from others about David Cornick's address.
Closing session enjoyed hearing from Paul Goodliff.
17. Good balance of expectation and explanation for the opening session. Set the right atmosphere.
18. Starting with a hymn as a common prayer felt very powerful.
19. The sessions were good and well presented
20. Opening: a very good, clear introduction, setting out themes and objectives with a positive confidence that set the tone for the Forum.
Closing: appropriate thank yous, without running over time or becoming a bit of a chore.
21. Inspiring and uplifting on both occasions.
22. The opening session felt somewhat bitty and not sure when/whether worshipping or attending a meeting. this was probably deliberate but a bit confusing. It felt somewhat better integrated in the last session, perhaps because I was more used to the mixed 'style'. In both cases the 'ending' was poor - could we have shared the Peace in some acceptable form as a service ending each time?? I am guessing the 'Grace' would exclude some e.g. Quakers.
23. Diverse mixture of worship and conversation-especially appreciated the Lord's prayer, and art project
Was interesting to learn about CTE and its vision
24. Excellent - set the scene and mood well at the beginning and then drew things together sensitively and with good grasp of the feeling in the room.
25. Joyful and a strong sense of togetherness
26. Great
27. Pretty good, surprisingly good, too, in that it seemed possible to find a tone that worked for most of those present
28. Lovely (even if at times I found the band a bit loud). The addresses were excellent
29. The opening session felt a bit flat - not inspirational enough.
The closing session was very good
30. Valuable for setting the present in the context of the past and hope for the future. Wonderful quote by Rachel from Mother Mary Clare SLG about understanding our age to set up a loom for future generations to weave.
31. Only present for opening session: although could see it was planned came across as a bit off the cuff and wasn't clear where it was heading
32. Both were good. However, for this and questions 4 to 7 please note my comments on Forum in general.
33. Very good and meaningful.
34. Great bookends to the overall conference.
35. Very enjoyable opening session. Wonderful closing session enhanced by the music.
36. The problems facing society now are so huge, we need to act ecumenically.
37. Good... liked the paperchains!
38. Potentially the same as the above answer...
39. Both were excellent sessions, drawing out the theme (including a good historical overview) and drawing together the threads at the end. The reflection on the weaving was helpful.
40. Unfortunately, I could not be present for either.
41. not there
42. Appreciated the music, and in particular The Lord's Prayer
43. Opening session was very good and set the tone for the event. Closing session was a bit long winded.
44. David's talk was very good; good range of worship songs (the band are excellent)
45. I enjoyed the opening session, good setting the scene, quick and simple sharing and David's input was excellent (pity had no way to follow this up). The final session felt a bit more disjointed, a mix-match of different things, but perhaps that's the nature of a plenary
46. Not present for either of them - sorry
47. Very helpful - the worship band were fabulous.
48. Fun, and I especially enjoyed David Cornick's opening remarks. Our moderators had a light touch which I appreciated.
49. I thought the opening and closing sessions were well thought out and put together, and I found them inspiring and helpful.
50. Both excellent
51. I enjoyed the opening session, good setting the scene, quick and simple sharing and David's input was excellent. The final session felt a bit more disjointed but perhaps that's the nature of trying to sum up and do a plenary, I thought the worship element was good, although personally did not really enjoy the singing and signing of the Lord's prayer and would have like just to say it.
52. David’s address was outstanding and it was a shame that was not followed up in group and plenary to give CTE positive feedback
53. The opening session was good for scene-setting. It was also personally startling because the type of God language used was so unfamiliar to me. It offered a good opportunity to attune myself to what was to come.
Unfortunately, I had to leave before the closing session.
54. Both fine: tricky with the latter when people tend to drift away early...
55. Both uplifting and encouraging.

Q4. Please comment on the sessions with the Presidents.

Answered: 59

Skipped: 1

1. I was a little disappointed. It is good to know how well they all get on and their obvious friendship is encouraging but they didn't really address the real burning question which is how to translate their personal good relationships into something more practical within their church institutions
2. It was evident to see the deep affection thay have for each other and that each was strengthened in their faith through knowing the others.
3. It would have been helpful to mix them up more - traditional denominations and new. I appreciate scheduling is a nightmare though. I particularly enjoyed Tuesday morning, they seemed more relaxed.
4. It was good to observe the good relationships that appear to exist between them.
5. very inspiring
6. It was notable that while the two conversations were quite different in style but the content was very similar. The Holy Spirit is evidently saying the same things to all our Churches!
7. They were important and clearly impacted on those attending, setting the mood of the Forum.
8. I think they ought to have given time to the questioners to also give their experiences.
9. Loved it
10. I thought that this wasn`t particularly inspiring. Better if they had been given questions in advance. Seemed like an endless stream of cliches, which we were all expected to receive as words of wisdom. It was in reality people simply desperately trying to think on their feet and not always coming up with "the goods".
11. Really important to have them there. Good positive sense of engagement from them and liked the "young people questioning" format. Made me conscious of gap between Presidential level and grass roots.
12. Very good to see them talking and responding together. Excellent conversations. Disappointed (though understandable) +Justin wasn't able to be there the following day for the more general session. Especially inspired by Archbishop Angelous!
13. Really interesting to hear the Presidents’ views spoken directly and first- hand!
14. This was a highlight for me
15. Enjoyed these. I thought they were well chaired given that time constraints and difficulty of 'staging' a discussion.
16. Enjoyed hearing from the presidents was a pity that not all 6 were there. I missed the first evening so wasn't sure why Justin Welby wasn't at the final gathering as nothing was announced or if it was I didn't hear it. The idea of creating questions in small groups to the ask was excellent.
17. I was pleased that much of what was said seemed very genuine and from the heart. It was good to see the warmth and friendship between them.
18. Highlight of the conference was the 6 presidents. Good modelling of ecumenical dialogue. Pity the 6 couldn't be together
19. It was good to hear their honest responses - especially Justin Welby's remained with me. Great to hear the response to what they'd do in their own denomination to turn over the tables. Also it was moving to see that both the Cardinal and Archbishop came to the Forum although it was obvious how tired they were. Very good to hear from Archbishp Anchaelos and Pastor Agu that we are too 'alive' and that we need to be empty of ourselves in order to be able to dialogue.
20. The president's comments were challenging and at the same time very open and in particular Rev Agu.
21. Fantastic to see them together, so clearly with a depth of friendship that I don't remember before. Excellent to have younger people on the stage and asking searching questions.
22. Presidents in dialogue was especially valuable and very worthwhile...& it was good to see the participation by younger members of Forum in those sessions.
23. Excellent and thought-provoking, especially inspirational on Mon night, despite the slight nervousness and formality of the format. We are fortunate in the Presidents and their mutual commitment and friendship. I wish they could have tackled some of the harder topics though e.g. the eucharist & apostolic succession etc, the role of women in leadership, or the sexuality debates.
24. I enjoyed participating and asking question; friendship and answers to questions and ensuing conversation helped foster positive atmosphere at Forum
25. Excellent - so uplifting, inspiring and encouraging. Brilliant to have them model how we can all be with each other (even with our differences) showing trust, respect, honesty and humour in a safe space.
26. Awesome. The sheer friendship evident was worth coming just in itself. If I could bottle up their enthusiasm and love, I'd sprinkle it as liberally as is possible across the congregations I meet. Thank you Presidents
27. Good - it might have been interesting to mix up the presidents a bit more.
28. Interesting, but a bit bland. It is good to meet together, and I know we are trying to build relationships, but there is a natural level of challenge in all good relationship
29. The Monday evening session was brilliant and inspiring. Tuesday morning less so.
30. Excellent, especially Monday evening
31. These were excellent - a shame not to have input from the floor to respond to some of their answers to questions but truly touching to see the shared vulnerability and fellowship
32. Good to hear from them all and their emphasis on image and friendship, rather than doctrine, for inspiration and getting things done.
33. Very helpful and encouraging. The first evening didn't feel like a conversation but individual comments
34. Both were very good and it was great to have the 6 Presidents at the conference.
35. This was especially inspiring and gave a sense of true ecumenism. Would have liked to drill a bit deeper into some of the topics.
36. Please see No.1 above.
37. Very informative. Liked the discussion concept. However, perhaps more questions from the floor (even if moderated beforehand) would have been a good addition.
38. Please see No. 1 above, MOST helpful/enjoyable : Seeing the presidents in panel presentations and discussion. Wonderful witness to us to see how comfortable/trusting they were with each other, and how humble they were as individuals.
39. A privilege to listen to them and to witness their friendship.
40. 30 years ago this just would not have happened.
41. AS above. Inspiring.
42. I really enjoyed these. You can tell they have a genuine friendship and enjoyed being there with each other. Nothing was an argument, even if their beliefs might have differed. Everything was handled with love and humour. They may have been a little too close together though. I felt as though Tuesday morning/afternoon were very busy, whereas the evening was a little more sparse. (I have planned weekends away before though and so understand what a nightmare timetabling can be!)
43. Unfortunately they were all men!! The second session was slightly better than the first. Frankly, the first one [with the CoE and RC Archbishops] came across as rather official even though they had both shared from some personal situations. Archbishop Angelos was a delight to hear!!
44. I particularly enjoyed the second of them, as being a bit more engaging, although it was very interesting to hear what the Archbishops had to say and to see them interacting with each other.
45. good balance and respectful conversations with easy and hard questions. Shame that Justin Welby not present for second session - given that CofE weight hangs over all
46. The 2 sessions were totally engrossing. They spoke with humility, wisdom, humanity, and honesty
47. Both sessions were excellent but it is a shame that the Traditional and newer denominational presidents were not mixed up a bit.
48. Very insightful - I think their discussions shaped how the rest of the forum played out. I enjoyed the more informal approach to the discussions, which led to honest and open responses from the panel.
49. These were very good and it was great to have all the Presidents there, but next time I would welcome a reconfiguration of historical and new church expressions. Felt a little like the first session had the important people there and the second session had the rest. For me, these sessions would have more value if we included in the conversations those things that are difficult to talk about – we would model people disagreeing but still talking and walking together.
50. A bit mixed - there's a surprise. Is it me, or were Vincent Nichols and Hugh Osgood, clearer and brief than the others?
51. I would have preferred more detailed input, rather than the 'vox pop' approach all the time.
52. I got something out of them. It was lovely seeing the fond relationships, but I felt like they stayed quite general/'nice' (which the exception of Justin Welby's comments on the Anglican church!). I was one of the people asking questions, which was a great opportunity, but to be honest I would have liked to ask a more challenging/controversial question (which the Presidents would likely have had a range of answers to and not agreed on), but felt unable to do so because it would have brought conflict slightly more obviously to the fore, whereas I felt that up to that point they were being very conciliatory. Perhaps I should have been bolder :)
53. The Presidents' words and reflections were inspiring. I felt the Presidents were very open and honest about their own church/denomination and were willing to share quite personal experiences, which I found very moving and helpful..
54. Very good. So much good stuff to take away but much easier to listen to than a series of lectures.
55. I really enjoyed these, I thought the evening session worked better, it was less personal and more about the church or churches. On the whole the questions were answered well and with openness.
56. These were excellent and different but next time a reconfiguration like Anglican New Church and Orthodox as three and Catholic, Free Church and Pentecostal as three would be interesting
57. I particularly enjoyed the first session - though it was too short. Justin Welby's contributions were thoughtful, considered and thought provoking. It was a pity there was no opportunity for follow up questions from the floor as some of the contributions might have merited wider debate. The plenary panel session answers seemed comparatively superficial. I would have welcomed more theology.
58. Great!
59. Very powerful and challenging

Q5. Please comment on the small groups and worship.

Answered: 57

Skipped: 3

1. I didn't really get anything out of my small group. The chemistry between us was non-existent and the facilitator struggled a bit. .
2. Useful to gain insight.
3. I enjoyed mine, although I think some people were less comfortable.
4. One member of the group was too vocal - the leader of the group perhaps lacked the experience to address this.
5. did not work for me
6. My small group provided some interesting interaction. I would have liked a choice of morning prayer on the Wednesday (as we had on the Tuesday morning) rather than plenary worship.
7. I enjoyed and valued the small groups and welcomed the diversity within them. The chemistry of our group seemed to work, but I appreciate this is not true of all.
I thought the worship times worked well, but it may be they chimed with my particular churchmanship.
8. Enjoyed small group but facilitator needed to be more assertive
9. I think it is hard when the worship is aimed at several styles, but I do understand why
10. Celtic Worship was wonderful.
Small Group sessions were well led and a chance for people to be open and frank.
11. I didn't have high expectations of the small group, but in practice, mine was very worthwhile: people engaged well and it was well facilitated. I wondered beforehand if the facilitation might have been carried by CEOs or similar as a means of lending profile.
Main worship was fine...I didn't make it to the morning slots. I did have negative feedback about the music practice where some felt that they were surplus to requirements/not welcome.
12. Small groups helpful to discuss although was perhaps not enough leadership. Had young girl leading ours - she did very well but sensed it needed someone more provocative! Worship was very well led and very helpful. Lovely blend of styles and music.
13. I really enjoyed the small groups- very well led and friendly.
It is great that people had a choice of worship.
14. my small group worked well - it was well balanced and we had a good leader. The worship was good but I didn't know many of the songs.
15. Enjoyed small group. I just had one query as a facilitator - I was not sure of the merit of writing things down particularly as this was a confidential space. I think the same can be easily achieved without doing so.
16. Small group was helpful to share and review and get to know people's thoughts.
17. I really appreciated the time in the small groups which I thought were a great way in to building relationships and learning from each other. I thought having one of the evening prayers together was also really lovely.
I attended orthodox matins on Tuesday and valued the way a firm of worship with which I am unfamiliar was made so accessible and inclusive.
As someone who loves Taizé, on the other hand, I was disappointed with the Taizé prayer which I didn't feel really reflected the beauty of Taizé prayer at its best.
18. Small group was well led and structured. Glad of the variety and the choice of worship.
19. Small groups were good for sharing and voicing topics that were important to people, but needed a small group. Young people expressed that they didn't care about denominations, but it transpired that twere still looking for the 'one where they would feel 'at home'.
20. The small groups were interesting, All members of the group participated and we learnt from each other.
21. Ours was well led and was a good way to use the limited time available. The worship worked very well.
22. Small group was very well lead (Eleri) and elicited a quite profound set of discussions. Worship was very good throughout.
23. My small group was disappointing. Please do not put a group in the Vinery again! In the first session we had to move because of a photo shoot. We ended up in the open area where noise from the bar & staff made both sessions difficult, and the worship unsatisfactory. Also the 'tasks' were too vague and so we never got into any meaningful discussion.
24. Worship was great-only wish I could have tried out a few more types. Was good to have the small groups to discuss things together
25. Good to have an opportunity to share and reflect on some of the aspects of the forum and to be able to form a question for the Presidents. Good to feel that we could give feedback and also worship together.
26. The small groups left me slightly feeling it had been slightly superficial in depth. The Plenary worship was thoroughly helpful
27. I led a small group and it was a particularly challenging group, but it was helpful to think through some of the issues. The worship was good.
28. I enjoyed the group I was in and the shared worship - especially the chance to pray with people of different traditions.
29. My small group was well led and enjoyable. I liked the active listening discipline
30. Talk less, pray more
31. Great to see the harp accompanying modern hymns. All the worship was good but not much space for Catholic or Orthodox prayer idioms
32. Our small group was lively. I went to the Quaker worship to support fellow Friends and would like to have gone to an RC mass too but the time clashed.
33. Worship I enjoyed the variety and quality of leadership. Small groups helped ground things a bit
34. Small groups useful for hearing about the experiences/beliefs of others. Worship well organised but pity no mention was made of the opportunity to go to Mass on Wednesday morning.
35. Like the meals, these were times of great sharing and mutual understanding and I very much enjoyed these. I remember especially fondly an RC colleague who would have passed as a peace activist from 1968 at any time (maybe he once was one) whilst remaining deeply and authentically rooted in his tradition and spirituality. We had a great time!
36. I got less out of the small groups. Would have preferred the option of attending more workshops.
37. I did not enjoy the small group and did not attend the small group worship because I was not feeling well.
38. The worship was inspiring, with many different styles coming together. The small group was worthwhile. Wonderful to share so truthfully.
39. Worship excellent: musically inspiring and a Taize prayer which came close to authentic Taize liturgy (except the silence perhaps rushed and not deep enough!)
40. I LOVED these! They were really lovely groups to have in depth discussions and warmly and lovingly ask questions to people that we would never have the opportunity to sit down with in everyday life.
41. Dynamics were generally open and frank, and mine gelled quite well. Capable facilitator.
Worship: unfortunately although we allowed ourselves time, it was difficult locating the Quaker worship venue, so a few of us were embarrassingly late though the room was actually in Lakeside itself.
42. My small group was excellent. The Catholic Mass was as expected and the worship on the last day was lively.
43. Worship was a good mix of traditional, imaginative and modern; missed small groups
44. I struggled with the small groups, but probably because I was tired (and so were others in the group). I suggest that they should be optional - but 'signed up' for, so that you can plan.
45. Small group was good. Worship was excellent.
46. Prayer times were well planned, thought out, and lasted just the right amount of time.
47. Our small group worked well with everyone participating and no one person dominating. Worship was good but not outstanding
48. Orthodox morning prayer, very graciously introduced, was tedious, I thought. But I was still glad to have been there..
49. Both well prepared & led & therefore helpful
50. It's nice to have a base group to come back to - I think they're a good idea! I found mine occasionally challenging, being very out-numbered gender-wise, and one of only a few members who wasn't clergy, but it was a good chance to have longer chats, which some people in my group had been craving, so that was good.
I enjoyed the small group worship and felt like a lot of thought and care had gone into planning it. (With the exception of the 'male', 'female' speaking bits, which I find pretty awful in any setting. Not everyone is male or female, and this is a pretty horrible time to make someone show that! I didn't have any conversations at Forum about sexuality or gender identity diversity, which I think is telling in itself [not as a reflection on CTE in particular, but of the member churches], but I don't think it's OK to reinforce binary gender in this way, in an act of worship. I realise this is the kind of thing someone might have just not thought about, and don't mean to make anyone feel bad that they hadn't. But maybe we can not do it next time?)
51. The small groups were a great opportunity to discuss and prayer together in a more intimate way. The forum was richer for having these groups.
52. Small group worked well but the worship on Tuesday night suffered from there being 4 groups within hearing of each other - singing at different times.
53. Our small group worked well, it was open and everyone participated with no one person dominating. Night prayer for some was a little too structured and some were uncomfortable with this, although I am assuming that, like us, they adjusted to fit the group and include everyone. I thought the music was great and probably would have liked a bit more throughout.
54. The small groups were good. I wondered why there was only one Eucharist and why we did not have a choice on both days
55. Great way of getting to know people whom I might not normally hear in quite the same way. The night worship was a lovely way to end the day together.
56. Great
57. Groups could be waffly. Worship was a good mixture. It would be good to have words displayed for music group songs before the sessions as well as in worship.

Q6. How were your workshops? (Please remember to say which ones you attended.)

Answered: 60

Skipped: 0

1. They were brilliant! Prayer and Music, both were led very well and I learnt a lot and was taken out of my comfort zone which is a good thing to do.
2. The presence of Christ in Science:
Informative and interesting presentation. Reminded me of what I already knew.
The presence of Christ in human diversity:
Helpful use of a meal metaphor to explore difference in attitude and in what we perceive.
3. I was facilitating one so can't comment.
4. Helpful.
5. Finding God in the economy - poorly conceived, but nicely delivered
6. Not quite what I expected.
7. Workshops (Diversity and Politics) were Ok, but neither, because of time and size, were able to do more than scratch the surface
8. Prayer was good.
The one on diversity did not link in enough to spiritual or theological underpinning of the embrace of God's diverse people
9. All very good
10. The Music Workshop was interesting and inspiring and the antidote to the previous one on Politics, where by implication, people with my political views were described as "grotesque", "neo-fascist" "evil" and "deluded by satan". Political correctness at prayer! Unacceptable generalization and defamation of fellow believers is not on!
11. The science and faith workshop was good with informed input.
I was less taken with the faith and economy session which felt a bit lightweight.
12. Politics one was least helpful and we got side tracked by a few dominant voices (can't even remember why!)
Movement of People was very helpful and gently but well led.
13. Conflict: amazing and thought provoking
Economy: very informative - lots of signposting to significant organisations and resources
14. Christ in prayer was not good at all. It simply outlined different types of prayer on power point.
Conflict was also not good - it was not well presented and very basic.
15. I attended one and it was excellent.
My only comment was that after that I felt too tired to immediately attend another - would they be better separated by a meal or day?
16. Diversity - very good and participative.
Prayer - excellent and left me considering how I might approach prayer differently in the future.
17. Politics.
This felt a little superficial, but I do appreciate the difficulty of providing workshops where people are likely to have vastly different starting points.
Conflict.
I thought the idea of reflecting together on bible texts was an interesting one ... It was a chance to hear different perspectives but also, and this was a theme for me throughout, the way often it is our "language of church" which is different to each other while our ideas are not so far apart.
18. Enjoyed hearing Paul on contemplative prayer, and had a great time on music learning and creating together- fun!
19. Science - very good
Politics - interesting might have needed more IT support for delivery
20. The two workshop that I attended were the presence of Christ in sharing faith and the presence of Christ in the Church. The first was very good looking at how Jesus used words to lead others to repentance. Seeing three different representatives on the same topic which were very similar was quite interesting.
21. Movement of Peoples: More of a lecture than I was hoping for. I expected a bit more discussion. The leader was very knowledgeable, but appeared to assume that we would have a very basic knowledge ourselves. In fact, there were people in the room with some amazing experience and I would have loved to hear more from them.
Music: I loved the opportunity to express ourselves in music. The ideas sounded a bit daunting, but people created beautiful, worshipful music.
22. Very good...& very bad! Science...very good! Politics...the other one! A meaningful discussion on Europe would have been helpful but this was beyond the facilitators to enable,
23. The first one (on Faith Sharing) was excellent. Well led and a good discussion. The second (on Human Diversity) was disappointing. I had assumed (wrongly it seemed) that this would be the 'safe space' where the 'elephant in the room' of sexuality would be discussed. However, it was clearly and decisively excluded as a topic by the leader who listed a number of other very important issues of diversity: race, age, culture, class etc but did not include sexuality in that list. It could have been helpful to talk about race, (the chosen topic) except that the exercises we were given sowed confusion and the discussion never really got very far.
24. Music-very interactive and creative-a shame not to perform our song though; Christ in the church-very interesting-would have been good to hear from a few more different denominations e.g. Salvation army
25. The Presence of Christ in conflict was excellent - very well prepared and run. Having bible study in small groups within the session was very helpful and then the sharing was brilliant.
The Presence of Christ in faith sharing was not so good. Not as well presented, limited thoughts and limited discussion. Sadly, for me, not inspiring or helpful.
26. The refugees and anti-human trafficking(slavery)
Both were well put together and informative to say the least
27. Economy - nothing brand new in it, but interesting as a starting point. Music - I enjoyed having space to think around music.
28. Science and Religion, Politics. They ere well led and engaging, but not at the right level - so I didn't learn anything.
29. Science and economy. OK, but seemed not to relate to the Forum well. The science one was too well attended to permit any participation. It was neither a workshop nor a seminar, but a presentation
30. "Prayer" was excellent. I would have liked a script so I could use it for other groups.
"The Movement of Peoples" was interesting and informative, but in so far as we talked about the presence of Christ it was mostly about our response, rather than what we could learn from the movement of peoples itself. It also concentrated on refugees, rather than economic migrants or people driven by climate change
31. Work - good introduction to the area but not much suggestion of follow up actions
Politics - good but felt like we only scratched the surface - not sure quite who it was for
32. Christ in the Church and in Prayer: it was helpful to be given a basic outline of traditions and practice in both workshops. That provided signposts if we want to explore.
33. Presence of Christ in Faith Sharing & Prayer
34. Christ in the Church and Christ in music. Both well run.
35. Economy and Politics. As above, great presenters. The workshops would have been ideal at church level, but at forum's level I'd be surprised if the material was new to any of the participants.
36. Both were good. 1) hospitals & prisons. I’ve done hospital chaplaincy 18 years. 2) unity: One Bread One Body.
37. Loved the one on prayer (Paul) and Faith Sharing (Jim). Would have loved the opportunity to attend more though. As we could not get to all of the workshops, it would be great if we can all have the PowerPoints that were used (and perhaps typed up notes from the session leaders).
38. Both good: 1) in hospitals and prisons - I've 18 yrs in hospital chaplaincy 2)sign of unity: 'One Bread, One Body' (Editor: I think this person was remembering the Eucharistic Congress, not the Forum?)
39. Very different. Conflict was much more interactive
Faith sharing more listening. Both okay but didn't excite me. Would have been better with a break between the two.
40. I attended "prayer", which again was greatly beneficial.
41. 1 plus music: fine: but one would be enough.
42. I ended up on one that I'm fairly certain I didn't opt for, but it was a happy coincident and I did very much enjoy them. Good varied topics as well and there really was something for everyone. I attended human diversity and science.
43. Movement of Peoples; Science.
Good informative workshops with different styles.
The facilitator for Movement of Peoples spoke rather much but there was some opportunity to interact over a quiz.
For the Science & Religion workshop, the interaction was very good with most having the opportunity to ask a question. Felt like a proper workshop.
44. Jesus in the Church: very well organized and with good input from a range of perspectives.
Jesus and Conflict: the discussions were fine but I found the resulting categories ('justice', 'mercy', 'peace') a bit contrived, especially with regard to Mark's version of the episode of the 'cleansing' of the temple, with the omission of the fig tree. Probably just me being fussy!
45. Was leading a workshop.. seemed to go well.
46. I attended the workshops on mission and science. Both were excellent, and both gave me insights which will be helpful in my future ministry
47. Economy. Useful.
48. Politics one had the potential to be good but was hijacked by a few people. The one entitled 'The presence of Christ in the Church' was interesting however, the perspectives of over half the membership of CTE (Pentecostals) were not included.
49. I attended the science and music workshops. The former led to interesting discussions on the interaction between clergy and scientists; the latter I felt could have benefitted with a more theological look at music.
50. Christ in the church was interesting because of the similarities between the different approaches.
Christ in Politics. The presenters gave a very slanted view and my session was dominated by a few people with strong opinions who assumed everyone else shared them. A big disappointment.
51. A workshop on politics at this time was ever likely to mention 'Trump', but we evaded brexit, and we hardly dealt with the process of engagement....
52. Both very good: Music workshop (truly inspirational) & Christ in the church (very helpful).
53. Interesting! On diversity and on prayer. The latter encouraged me to use new forms of prayer, or try forms I haven't tried in a while, again.
54. I enjoyed very much both the workshops I attended - the Presence of Christ in Science and the Presence of Christ in the Church. The workshop on science encouraged me to buy a very helpful book from the book stall. It was quite moving and encouraging to me to hear how the different traditions have so much in common when answering the question of where Christ is to be found in the Church. My only criticism is that as well as a Roman Catholic, Free Church and Orthodox short presentation on the Presence of Christ in the Church, it would been good to have Pentecostal perspective.
55. Politics was dominated b a few people with strong opinions who assumed everyone else shared them. Speaking to someone who attended the second one that sounded much better.
Movement of people was very good. Everyone took part and I learnt a lot.
56. The movement of peoples workshop wasn't really a workshop, more a talk with little interaction limited to a very simple quiz. There wasn't anything in that was practical about what people were doing or sharing of ideas. The Christ in conflict one I enjoyed, a good interactive bible study, lots of interaction and discussion
57. I attended music which was jolly and participatory. Also Science with a lot of valuable input but only an hour. Thought one workshop choice clearly related to aspects of CTE or CTBI initiatives were local insights could have been fed in would be better. Great workshops but they could have related to any overall theme.
58. Mixed. I attended the Christ in Politics and Christ in Conflict workshops. The latter was slightly basic, though interesting to work together on biblical text. The former attempted to cover a huge amount of ground and the presentation was a little disjointed, relying too much on answers from attendees at too early a point, so that I felt we didn't really get to the heart of the matter.
59. Economy & Politics: both were good
60. Christ in the church was interesting because of the similarities between the different approaches.
The science workshop could have been a lot broader as it really only focussed on one piece of research.

Q7. What did you think of the multi-voice Bible Study?

Answered: 57

Skipped: 3

1. Excellent. I really enjoyed the different reflections and wish it could have gone on longer. I learnt so much.
2. Very insightful. It reminded me of how very similar Quakers and Pentecostals are in their spirituality if not in their expression.
3. I think this was good but it would have been more useful if the three voices were spread across the programme rather than all together. This would have allowed the whole group to keep coming back to this key passage and would have allowed time for reflection between the three inputs. The Quaker lady (sorry I can't remember her name) was particularly good.
4. Worthwhile - despite the different backgrounds of the speakers there was much common ground in their interpretations.
5. waste of time!
6. Fabulous! One of the best sessions.
7. Very much appreciated. I have already used some of the contributions in recent addresses
8. One speaker was much more down to earth and more accessible than the others who were a bit too academic
9. Okay
10. 2 out of 3 of the speakers were brilliant. One was exceedingly boring and tried to be too clever by half. Only succeeded in turning me off.
11. Really good idea, worth repeating. Speakers were a bit uneven in quality to my mind (though that might be a function of the diversity in theological starting points)
12. Very helpful with good depth and a variety of insights. Useful as a common message I will be using elsewhere!
13. Amazing insights - a wonderful idea
14. I thought this was very good, both interesting and challenging
15. I had left by then - sorry to miss it.
16. Excellent opportunity to learn.
17. I found this interesting but did struggle to keep concentrating throughout as it was quite a lot of passive listening together. I probably should have taken notes as tgat might have kept me focussed better!
18. Couldn't stay for this.
19. Excellent and enriching to look at it from different angles. They complemented each other. Would be good to try this again.
20. This event was good, each person giving their point of view from the same passage which was enlightening.
21. It was good to hear different voices from different traditions - certainly a lot easier to listen to than one long study. I came away with an interesting variety of insights to mull over. However, this might have been another opportunity to hear a younger voice reflecting on the relationship between the reading and their own life.
22. Conceptually good...but a little too long. The harmony of the voices was both good and a little too much of the same.
23. I thought it was an excellent idea and fascinating to see the similarities and differences in their approaches to the same topic. I learnt from all of them, but especially from Janet Scott. In discussion later with some of the young people I found she was the only one they engaged with at all, They found the others to academic and hard to listen to. I confessed that I'd had to resort to taking notes - but then I had got a humanities degree so was used to that style.
24. Fascinating-highlighted similarities and unity as well as differences between denominations
25. Excellent. What insights and teaching. So inspiring that 3 people could take the same passage and offer such different richness!
26. I know it would be difficult in a large situation, but the opportunity for interaction with the floor, I believe could have added to it. (Even if it was prepared and sanctioned questions)
27. Good on the whole to get different perspectives.
28. Good
29. Good. I would like to see this repeated
30. I found it interesting. I thought initially that the 3 speakers had agreed amongst themselves that each was going to take a chunk to look at, as the first talk was mostly about the journey to Emmaus. This wasn't really the case, and they didn't work as a team. Was this because the third speaker (who was SUPERB!!) was a late replacement.
So a) "multi-voice" didn't really work but b) it was worth it for the Quaker lady alone
31. Amazing - would have liked more of this
32. The choice of text was perfect for the theme in the uncertainties of our time. The approach of each speaker was interesting, Janet Scott's most moving.
33. Was not present
34. Interesting
35. I was unfortunately very tired at that point (due to the vending machine's espresso choc the night before) and didn't take any notes! However, I particularly enjoyed the contribution by the Quaker.
36. The first two were too academic, but Janet's was very moving and more down to earth. Very tempted to ask her to come and preach that as a sermon!
37. Absolutely wonderful. I will never forget it. Have taken copious notes and will try to share it with others.
38. Again, greatly enhanced by the coming together of different voices and perspectives.
39. OK but one voice may still be better.
40. Again, I know what a nightmare timetabling is, but I felt like Wednesday morning was very packed and we spent a lot of time sitting in the hall listening to a lot of people. It was all very good stuff, but just a lot of it!
41. I didn't really enjoy this. It was a passage that I have used on several occasions and reflecting on a live conflict situation. I didn't think the three speakers actually rooted the discussion sufficiently for our contexts. [PS. If I had known that the original third speaker couldn't do it, I would have volunteered to speak :-)) ]
42. I was a presenter and enjoyed it.
43. Very good; very rich insights and variety.
44. A very good idea. It would have been better if the 3rd speaker had kept to the 10 minute brief, because the upshot was that we were listening for a long time and I lost attention. However, I appreciate that the 3rd speaker had short notice to prepare. All the input was excellent.
45. This was very good. Always good to hear different perspectives on the same thing.
46. Great - a good passage was chosen and Janet's thoughts were especially useful.
47. The first two speakers' presentations were interesting but they did not say anything new. I felt they read into the text something of their own ecclesiology. They were a disappointment. Janet Scott was great as the final speaker. She brought the material to life with great relevance and energy and for me this was the best part of the Forum.
48. Missed that. Sorry.
49. Disappointed we didn't get more deeply into the differences between the speakers' approaches, but interesting.
50. I was really glad to be there. Though sad not all of the intended speakers could be present (and recognise that if they had of been, the panel would have been more diverse), I got something out of what they all said, so thanks to everyone! And what a joyous bit of scripture to choose!
I would have like to have a more dispersed conversation earlier e.g. three speakers speak for ten mins each and then we have half an hour in groups of five - that for me is properly multi-voice, taking away the power from just the scholars. But then I am a fan of base community/liberationist bible studies, so I would say that!
51. It was excellent. William, Patricia and Janet gave three very different, interesting and complimentary perspectives on the biblical passage. I was particularly moved by some of things that Janet said.
52. The highlight of the event for me. To see the same passage through 3 very different lenses was fascinating.
53. For me personally I found this the least helpful thing of the forum, sorry. There were some interesting nuggets in there but I found it very hard to listen to and concentrate, all three speakers delivered in way that was being 'talked at' in a very measured way, there was little change of tone and mood. Perhaps because it was such a well known passage, I just didn't feel there was anything new or challenging. Listening to 3, quite lengthy talks all in one go was also difficult to process
54. Very though provoking but again could not see a close fit with the theme
55. Great! The first two speakers' academic assessments were interesting. Janet Scott was perfect as the final speaker. She lifted the source material from the page and brought it life with great relevance and energy. I found it a truly inspirational session.
56. Great
57. Incredible. Mind blowing. The enlightenment from 3 approaches was blessed by God.

Q8. Is it worth continuing to host large gatherings like the Forum?

Answered: 60

Skipped: 0

91.67% (55 people) Yes

0.00% (no-one) No

8.33% (5 people) Don't know/prefer not to answer/my answer is below.

Q9. Have you any guidance about the content, shape, location and frequency of future Forums?

Answered: 53

Skipped: 7

1. 3 years is about right. The Hayes is the right place as it has the appropriate accommodation. Could we set ourselves a challenge for the future at the next one? Something that we can all aspire to try and achieve and with which to go back to our respective communities and include them in the challenge of achievement
2. I'm unaware of the frequency of them now, but every two years would be good.
3. I think three yearly is good. It doesn't get old but is regular and this is a huge piece of work. The Hayes, Swanwick is much improved and both large and central. I think the input from the Presidents is good and rare to see so a real highlight but it has dominated the programme. Small groups and unscheduled conversations are equally important so need to be part of the programme. If there could be some way of feeding into the broader work of CTE/regional and local ecumenism that would be good. There was almost a "what now" question left hanging in the air.
4. I think that the balance was about right.
5. do not know enough to comment yet
6. I felt that the 2018 Forum was a good experience and was clearly the fruit of very thoughtful planning. I would suggest that future gatherings be planned as carefully.
7. It is about right
8. More opportunities for different traditions worship. An opportunity for different traditions to speak briefly about their ethos/beliefs etc, as is the case at Enabling Group.
9. Would have appreciated another bible study earlier on the set the theme. David was excellent - as above - but seemed odd to not have a bible passage unpacked until day 3.
Location - The Hayes is good venue and although a trek, it's OK.
Every 3 years is probably about right.
10. No
11. no
12. Not sure I can comment as it's the first time I've been so it was all very useful and the conference centre is very familiar/comfortable.
13. I think the model of having a space which is explicitly and intentionally about meeting one another is a good one.
I think it is good that it isn't trying to be a decision making body, or having a specific outcome in mind ... While I guess that could feel theoretically more "productive" I think in reality it would mean getting either bogged down in little insignificant or irrelevant details, or reducing everything to lowest common denominator platitudes ... Whereas this way, it made space for honest, unpressured, open sharing.
14. I felt it was a very well planned and delivered conference. Really good content from the speakers, and appreciated folk from the Pentecostal and new churches- really enriched the gathering. Very good central location- aware not many there from the north and a more southerly location may be a put off.
15. Every three years seem good. Location is fine, if it took place before schools and universities begin again, the attendance of more young people might be possible. Have a session where people from various denominations share how they experienced God's action in their personal lives or in the life of their communities, churches.
Reflect on the Trinity and how the understanding of God as ONE and THREE impacts on our lives as Christians/ Christian communities.
16. None as this was my first
17. Every three years seems about right, and the overall shape worked well for me. Swanwick is a great venue and reasonably easy to access from all over England.
18. Triennial is about right and location is fine.
19. The opportunity to meet such a wide range of Christians is valuable and excellent for overcoming misconceptions and facilitating networking. But the 'hard' issues do also need to be tackled and not just glossed over. We can only walk honestly together if we can first articulate our differences and then still agree to find our unity in Christ. I hope any future forums will continue to emphasise including younger people and hope those who came benefitted. I know how valuably formative student ecumenical gatherings were to me. I also agree with other comments about trying to find a timing where more 'workers' in their 30s & 40s can join in.
20. Include regional meet-ups, and say a bit more about ecumenical groups; space for young people to meet one another too
21. This was my first one, so I have nothing to compare it with. I thought it was excellent and can't think how it could be better! Probably every 2 or 3 years is about right. The Swanwick Centre is good as it's fairly central and has enough space.
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22. Work on the weak areas intimated, including I believe a prayer and worship plenary rather than the small group prayer time, which very much depended on the openness of the group members to open prayer
23. Perhaps a less packed programme would be helpful.
24. It would be good to have longer to pray together in smaller groups. To have one or two speakers willing to be challenging
25. The conversations in queues, at table, and in small groups were good. I would welcome a little more time for these
26. I think Swanwick is a good venue as it is fairly central, and a nice place in its own right.
27. More bible study, more prayer time
Frequency about right
More structured opportunities to meet other people
28. Frequency: organising and managing an event of this size takes a great deal of CTE staff time. Balance frequency with how their energy and gifts can implement objectives.
29. Some of language (IB's etc) is a little unclear for those who don't regularly engage with such events.
30. This was my first Forum and I was surprised at the content of the programme. For a gathering of those involved in ecumenism, whilst it is always good to share in worship, bible study, etc. would it not be more helpful to actually engage with ecumenical action ? Perhaps we could address how our ecumenical efforts are going, future strategies or how the denominations could work together to try and counter the rise of secularism or lack of religious education in our schools and many of the other problems which beset our nation.
31. I would have enjoyed more panel discussions and the small group work could have been expanded, maybe instead of having workshops?
32. Location - much further south- perhaps slightly north of London.
33. Having the ability to network in the way that we did was invaluable. However, I would love to see a formal networking session. This could include timed visits to the marketplace and 'speed dating'. I have seen this work in the business context very well where you get 2 or 3 minutes sat down with a number of people (one at a time rotating round) - excellent opportunity for introductions.
34. location - please further south, ideally slightly north of London
35. I liked the venue.Fairly easily accessible especially if using the M1 or A38
It was my first Forum and felt the subject was perfect.Future Conference as often as time and money allows
36. Can't wait for another, just the same kind of thing. Came away really fired up!
37. Three years seems a long gap but it presumably depends on the logistics of getting everyone together, especially Presidents. Swanwick is an excellent venue. The sheer numbers make it difficult to establish or renew contacts, so a bit more time between the various elements would be good- more time for getting to know... perhaps regional meetings as well rather than say workshops and even a denominational meeting to reflect on progress.
38. I think the format has evolved well over the past three forums and each one for the future will be determined by the demands of the times. Personally I prefer a more relaxed schedule [three nights] but with more time for planning further ecumenical social (e.g.) action. Triennial forums are fine owing to financial and other constraints, though my point about three nights remains. Swanwick has improved tremendously over the past 30 years; always good to visit.
39. Concentrating on 'Jesus' maximized the possible agreement across denominational boundaries. Going deeper would have involved engaging with theology, which would have been more difficult; someone in my group brought up a question about the Orthodox belief in the Trinity, and the only resources (particularly among the excellent younger people, but not only them) seemed to be a knowledge of scripture, which is not sufficient. Going more into theology would be a big challenge, particularly for the really good aspects of this Forum (recognition of what we have in common; enthusiastic young people from newer churches) but is probably necessary to some degree and at some stage.
40. There is still a task to get younger people to come to the Forum in larger numbers.. wonder if weekend forum would be easier for working people and possibly regional forums, to make it easier to get to. Also minorities not very well represented in numbers. But was very good to have sessions / worship leadership from a diverse group.
41. I think the whole thing worked well.
42. Swanwick is a good geographical location to host the forum, because of its centrality in England. Triennial is just right in terms of frequency, and 48 hours is enough time to have some in-depth content without it running on too long!
43. Good location and with the present staff numbers limited to what CTE can budget for cannot see how you could increase the frequency of future Forums. Would not want to see it held less than every three years.
44. I was at the previous one, so the novelty of 6 presidents and 47 member churches is wearing thin. Real personal engagement was rare, I fear.
45. At what point do we decide Forum has the 'maturity' to handle the difficult issues? (see below).
46. As above, I would value a theme, so that we can get in-depth about something.
I think every three years is about right, any longer might feel like we've lost touch!
The veggie options at Swanwick aren't always great. In general the venue is lovely and my room was extremely comfortable.
47. I thought the content, shape and length of this Forum was good. The Hayes Conference Centre is an excellent venue and location, although I would be happy to try somewhere different. I also think that three years is the right length of time between forums.
48. It is disappointing that so many people arrived late and left early. Not sure how to avoid this with busy people, possibly only pay expenses for IB members who stayed for the whole time!
49. Content wise I think any future forum would have to respond to what was happening at the time but I think to continue the emphasis on being real, accepting where we are and what we can do together in practical ways, hearing good news stories. I think there is a place for large gatherings but I am aware that for younger people to come, those who are working etc the shape might have to change to perhaps 2 days, one night, perhaps a weekend. Taking three days out of work and family is quite difficult so is always going to be easier for the retired. Location wise, Swanwick is good, it would be nice to move around the country but impractical. Perhaps we could look a reducing frequency of forum as such and holding regional day events. I know that its difficult to get the presidents but I think it was a key part of the forum that showed they valued what was happening and that working together was as much a priority to be supported as anything else. There were a number of comments about the lack of diversity, not just ethnic but particularly social and gender and of course age despite all the efforts made. As I said earlier I don't know how to change that but it may need a think about when and for how long a future forum is held, we may even need a creche!!
50. I was involved with CTE in its formation and the early nineties. Different then as the Forum elected a chunk of the Enabling Group. We also had regional and denominational gatherings which I think would have been very useful. I thought the Presidents sharing was great but would have like a whole session onupdates with all the staff speaking then following that up in Groups and or workshops. An impression was given that having you people was innovative. There were probably over twenty under 25s in the early seventies and there were as I recall two elected to the Enabling Group
51. It was a great event and it's a shame that it is only triennial, but to run it more often might dilute the currency. I would welcome more opportunities for plenary debate at the event. For perhaps obvious reasons, the event steered clear of more contentious matters. Is that the right thing to do? It may be but only if this bridge building leads in time to an airing of our differences and the pain they entail and then to healing. On that basis, the gap of three years between events means progress will necessarily be slow and disjointed.
52. You will never please everyone all the time.
Given the very diverse group of attendees, you all did a brilliant job - thank you
53. You are already on to a winner.

Q10. Any other comments?

Answered: 44

Skipped: 16

1. I understand why there is never a joint eucharistic service but I think we miss a trick by not ever facing up to the existing difficulties there still are between our churches in this respect and calling them out. It felt just a little too comfortable this time.
2. Thank you all.
3. where are all the 30 to 40 somethings? working I guess?
4. It would be good to encourage attenders to stay for the whole time - those who leave early not only miss out but also deprive others of their presence and their insights (particularly in the small groups).
5. of the three forums I have attended, this was the best. Possibly also worth observing that, in contrast to my first forum in which there seemed to be quite a bit of unease around for the BME/Pentecostal reps, this appeared almost wholly absent which, if true, is a substantial move forward.
6. I wasn't sure what to expect, it being my first time at Forum. There was a question mark over what it could achieve. However I realise now that it is a vehicle for inspiration and bringing together the wider ecumenical scene in a way which can not be achieved otherwise. I guess I was expecting a business meeting but it was not that at all - and rightly so. It is important to find a way to meet nationally as otherwise every local and area expression of unity is isolated. I hope it continues.
7. Overall a very positive experience - and heartening to know there is so much life within the Church. Thanks to all who organised it!
8. As I am new it would have been helpful to have a slot where the CEOs could have met each other - have a group picture etc.
I will ensure I promote within my intermediate body next time so other people come with me.
9. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of what felt like a very special gathering.
10. It would be good to get people to attend Forums who have never been before, since it is a unique opportunity to make contact with Christians from many different Churches and see for themselves how much we have in common. It would also be great to open it to Church Leaders who haven't experienced Forums or to those training for the ministry in any denomination.
11. The venue was excellent, the staff were friendly and the food excellent
12. Thank you for the huge amount of work that went in behind the scenes. I came 6 years ago and I was amazed how far the vision and relationships of CTE have developed since then. That is also a tribute to a huge amount of prayer and work.
13. A thoroughly enjoyable and spiritually uplifting occasion.
14. Thank you to the organisers for all your hard work and ensuring everything ran so smoothly. I did hear some complaints about the workshops being togheter, but I imagine that is logistics - to suit the workshop leaders. But would it be possible to have the tea break in between the two sessions then?
15. Fantastic time; very encouraging; felt blessed to be there and grew in faith. Thanks for all the hard work put into organising it!
16. I was there as someone with a heart for unity at grass-roots level (Chair of Christians Together in Fareham) and I have come away feeling inspired and energised with some concrete ideas about how to engage more of the local Christian leadership as well as congregation members in listening to each other and working together. Thank you so much.
17. I left feeling as I've been in a little bit of heaven, experiencing something of the High Priestly Prayer of John 17:21. As a group co-ordinator from my denomination, I was encouraged to see their reactions, both senior delegates alongside the Youth Delegates and Chairs, CEOs and County reps
18. It was my second forum and I found this one much easier to engage with. The conversations around the dinner table were really interesting - a fantastic mix of people doing exciting things.
19. I wondered if the very visible Orthodox clergy felt at home within the gathering and in its worship. I didn’t manage to ask any of them
20. The Marketplace was not well visited. One person said to me that he assumed it was just for selling stuff, rather than being an information bureau (it was in fact both)
Was it insufficiently advertised? Was it in the wrong place? At the wrong time?
Could it be made into a formal session with each BIA etc having one minute to introduce themselves?
21. 1. The Church/World relationship: Justin Welby spoke of our being 'anaesthetised by pain in the Body of Christ'. Yes. There is darkness as well as light in the Church - as there is light as well as darkness outside its doors. Very tricky to address but can we afford not to? Jesus avoided such a dichotomy in his discernment.
2. Friendship with overseas churches is important. In global turmoil we need each other for balance. Could some of their leaders be invited to participate in the next Forum?
22. Thank you!
23. I valued the opportunity to worship in different styles. I attended a Quaker Meeting for the first time. I would love to see more of this.
I would also appreciate slightly more voices from the progressive spectrum, including queer and feminist theology. Sometimes I got the impression we had an elephant in the room ;-)
24. Thank you for your hard work and responsiveness to all requests and needs.
25. SORRY not to have known of Mass Wed am, would STILL have gone to 8am joint service AFTER Mass. 8AM service was not in any case a 'full house' attendance.
26. Thank you ,thank you , thank you for all your hard work and dedication.
I learnt a lot,shared a lot and worshipped God with some very godly people.
27. Thank you all so much. It was a joy and a privilege to be among you. I think we came away saying "I know that my Redeemer liveth".
28. Puzzling as a Catholic to find Catholic Mass offered as a Worship option as sadly it can be felt to be divisive.
Otherwise could be offered as a separate optional celebration for those with a "daily" custom at say 7:30am.
29. I did genuinely love this conference and have left sad that it only happens every 3 years!
30. To assist with feedback, the Survey should include a balance of both close-ended and open-ended questions, please. This is still the same format after so many years!
31. Thank you for a really well planned and organized Forum. I very much enjoyed and appreciated being there, as someone not immediately involved in CTE.
32. Marketplace doesn't get a lot of visitors; those that visited were interested in stalls. Perhaps there needs to be another attraction as well as the stalls? eg café area?
33. It was an excellent Forum. Having wondered, the previous week, if I could afford the time, I came away encouraged, inspired, and resourced. And with the feeling of privilege to have been on the receiving end of such wisdom.
34. Thanks to all who organised and planned - a very well-run event.
35. You will never please everyone all the time. Given the very diverse group of attendees, it was a good Forum - thank you. Good to see a spread of church representation. Good to see the interaction of the Presidents (pity most, if not all, missed the closing session)
36. As sole rep of a limping intermediate body and part-time, I ought not to say more...
37. There are still 'elephants in the room' which we are not addressing (e.g. Anglican hierarchy ignoring ecumenism with the strategy of 'resource church planting' , Sexuality & gender, Biblical interpretation...)- perhaps it is thought that Forum is not the place, but then i wonder where the place is? It does not feel like a safe space for LGBT+ people: I found it interesting that others commented on how 'vulnerable' we were all able to be with each other - some of us were being carefully guarded. If we could find a way to model a conversation that is mutually respectful despite our differences, that would be a great step forward. I know it's a huge ask!
38. Thank you very much to everyone who helped make it happen. The organisation must have been a huge amount of work and I am very grateful!
39. An excellent event, thank you.
40. I really enjoyed it and learnt and received a lot, I thought the attention to detail in the planning and organising was very obvious and I valued all the work put in. The venue is good and welcoming and I know there were issues with taxis etc but i'm sure that can be thought about for next time. One thing I did think might have been good was a clear direction to a 'quiet space' or prayer space. I knew the Labyrinth etc were there but others did not, and I don't know whether the chapel was open. Overall a big thank you.
41. A lot of hard work went in so bravo. Market place great idea. Can not do much about the spread out ness of Swanwick.
42. Thank you!