

New Year Reflection of the Month: 'We don't do unity ..'



Kathy Pope writes:

This is perhaps a title which needs a little explanation. For more than 30 years my husband, Malcolm, and I have been celebrating and growing our interchurch marriage. Malcolm is a priest in the Church of England and I am Roman Catholic, so unity is not something that we do, rather it is a way of life. It is a calling that we try to live every single day and infuses every aspect of our family life.

It is often easy for us, and our churches, to compartmentalise very genuine work for Christian unity into particular events or specific projects which have beginnings and endings. The danger is that during the periods in between it is easy to revert to the way we have always done things. In an interchurch marriage, however, where each partner is faithful to their own tradition while also becoming part of another, there are no gaps, no in-between phases.

For us this gift of two traditions has been a great blessing – we have been constantly enriched by each other, often surprised and sometimes challenged. Raising our son to belong equally in both church families has been a great joy, for us as well as him, as his faith experience has been enhanced and deepened as a result. There have of course been painful moments: in particular our son's First Communion when Malcolm was not going to be allowed to receive communion. Happily, we were welcomed as a family at another church for which we were immensely thankful, and the Roman Catholic Church also recognizes that there can be appropriate times for sharing communion. We have experienced some other very special moments together over the years.

Since before we were married, we have been members of the Association of Interchurch Families (AIF), a body in association of Churches Together in England. AIF has been a constant source of comfort, support and information as couples and families share experiences and hopes, linking to both national and international initiatives and possibilities. We know that we are not alone but part of a global network of other people who strive to live Christian unity in their homes and relationships, without a model or blueprint as each couple and family finds their own path and equilibrium.

I also feel deeply honoured and humbled to be able to live unity in my working life too. I am a manager of the SACREdplace Bookshop in Cornwall. Standing for: **St Austell Christian Resources and Education** our vision is 'Practically Promoting Christian Unity'. Day by day a team of volunteers from Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, Seventh Day Adventist churches, and House Fellowships, welcomes

customers and those needing prayer or seeking pastoral support. During every day that we work with each other we share ideas and traditions, prayer and care, learning and growing together – such a delight and gift.

So for 2018 we pray that we may all continue to spread the good news that living Christian unity is a privilege, a joy and a very great blessing - not so much what you do, but as a way of life.

Kathy Pope

[Inter Church Families](#)
[SACREdplace, St Austell](#)
[Roman Catholic advice](#)

Churches Together in England General Secretary (lay or ordained)



- Full time/Flexible over 5/6 days per week inc weekends/evenings, travel etc
- Salary range £51,641 - £54,650 pa (dependent on experience) plus homeworking allowance
- Home based, accessible to London

Due to the impending retirement of the current post holder, Churches Together in England (CTE) is seeking an able and inspiring General Secretary to establish and maintain vision and provide leadership within CTE, whilst promoting the unity and mission of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The ideal candidate will

- be a confident communicator
- be skilled at brokering and developing relationships
- have wide ecumenical experience
- take responsibility for external relations with member churches
- share in the responsibilities of the staff team
- have an understanding of managing organisational change.

If you wish to apply for the role of General Secretary, information can be viewed as follows;

[Guidance for applicants \(including application process\)](#)
[Copy of the advert](#)
[Background information about Churches Together in England](#)
[Role description](#)
[Person specification](#)
[Equality and Diversity monitoring form*](#)
[Application form*](#)

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

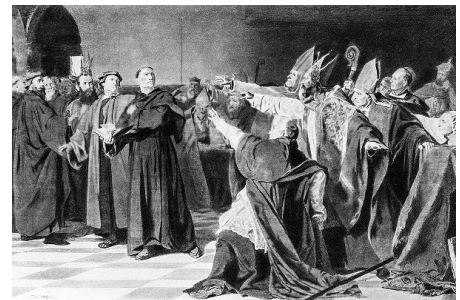
To arrange an informal chat, please contact Ruth Bottoms at rabottoms@btinternet.com

Closing date: 12 noon on Monday 12th February 2018

Interview date: Wednesday 28th February 2018

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

National Theological Conference A Pentecostal and Charismatic Response to the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation



The Pentecostal Leaders Forum of Churches Together in England cordially invites you to its National Theological Conference: 'A Pentecostal and Charismatic Response to the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation', which will take place from 12.00 noon – 4.30 pm on Saturday 24 March 2018 at [Renewal Christian Centre, Lode Lane, Solihull, West Midlands B91 2JR](#).

During 2017 protestant churches in Britain and beyond marked the 500th anniversary of the publication of Martin Luther's 95 Theses protesting against the excesses of the western Church. In conferences and church services the long, complicated and painful process for which Luther's protest has become symbolic, has highlighted wars, violence, martyrdoms, and the contested spiritual insights that have resulted in the complex denominational Christian church that exists today.

This conference will focus on aspects that appear to have had little attention, namely the Radical Reformation of Anabaptists and mapping a route from today's Pentecostals and Charismatics back to the Reformation.

Programme for the day (12.00 noon – 4.30 pm):

Chair: Dionne Gravesande

Presentation 1:

- 'Anabaptism: the often overlooked fundamental contribution to the Reformation' by Roger Forster, founder and leader of Ichthus Christian Fellowship international.
- Response by Rev Bev Thomas, Amani Consultancy – building bridges where faith and justice meet, followed by plenary.

Presentation 2:

- 'What has the European Protestant Reformation to do with Global Pentecostalism?' by Professor Allan Anderson, Professor of Mission and Pentecostal Studies, Department of Theology and Religion, University of Birmingham.
- Response by Professor Robert Beckford, Professor of Theology and Culture, African Diaspora Theology and Religious Studies Canterbury Christ Church University, Canterbury, followed by plenary.

Worship: Renewal Worship Team

Fee: £25.00 to include hot buffet lunch and drinks

Want to attend? [Please register your attendance now via Eventbrite](#)

Places are limited so early registration is essential.

For more information [contact Joe Aldred](#)

One in Christ journal Articles re 'Responding to the Reformation' conference.

John Bolger writes:

In the current, December 2017 issue of *One in Christ* we are pleased to publish the principal contributions to the CTE Conference, 'Responding to the Reformation'. Assembling such a range of Conference contributors is an achievement in itself; and their various perspectives represent the constant concerns of *One in Christ*.



Articles include:

Orthodox Reflections on the Reformation and its Legacy. Andrew Louth.
Report: 'Responding to the Reformation: Swanwick 16th-18th Oct 2017'. Dudley Coates.

Witnessing to Interchurch Marriage. Helen and Richard Connell.

Reforming the Church Today: A Theological Idea in a Secular Age? Jeremy Worthen.

Remembering: Living with the Legacy of the Reformation. Mark D Chapman.

Responding to the Reformation: A Biblical Approach. Nicholas King. SJ.

Subscription to *One in Christ* and copies of December 2017 (Vol51 No2) are available from: <http://www.oneinchrist.org.uk/>

GDPR and ecumenical organisations

The Data Protection Act (1998) will be replaced by new European regulations (GDPR – General Data Protection Regulations) which become law on May 25th 2018.

The period 1998-2017 has seen an explosion in social media and electronic storage and the regulations take account of that and seek to protect all of us as individuals from the misuse of our personal data. They have at their heart a simple principle – that an individual's personal data is precious and needs proper protection.



The paramount right to privacy

The new regulations place the individual's (data-subject's) right to privacy at the centre of legislation. That is expressed in three main ways. First of all, the data-subject must give consent to their data being held. Second, the organisation handling that data must keep it secure, must not misuse it, and only use it for the purposes for which it has been supplied. Third, the data must be accurate and as far as possible up to date.

Six principles

Article 5 of the GDPR sets out six underlying principles which will ensure those rights:

1. Transparency: data must be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner.
2. Purpose limitation: data must be collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes. (Non-profit religious organisations have a legal right to collect religious data under condition 9 (2) (d) of the Regulations.)
3. Minimisation: data must be adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed.
4. Accuracy: reasonable steps need to be taken to ensure that data is accurate and up to date.
5. Retention: data should be kept for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which it was collected.
6. Security: data should be processed in a manner that ensures appropriate *security* of the personal data, including protection against *unauthorised* or *unlawful* processing and against *accidental loss, destruction or damage*, using appropriate technical and organisational measures.

And article 5 (2) states that the Controller (which is the organisation rather than a named individual) shall be responsible for '...and able to demonstrate' compliance with the principles.

What must we do?

CTE will not be offering model documents because all ecumenical bodies, including Churches Together groups and Intermediate Bodies are different. However, it is clear that compliance involves:

- Conducting a data audit to see what information you actually have
- Obtaining consent from those whose data you hold. The main difference in the new regulations is that you have to obtain consent. An opt-out email will no longer suffice. You need the permission of all whose data you hold to retain it, and you need to have evidence of that.
- Those who provide us with their data have a right to know what we are doing with it. That information is usually contained in a privacy policy.
- All organisations need to provide evidence of their accountability and so Trustees will need to have a Data Protection policy in place and ensure that an annual review of the policy is undertaken.

All organisations will need to review the security of their data, whether kept electronically or manually.

Further help

A great deal of information is available from the Office of the Information Commissioner and some of the major English denominations to help churches and religious organisations and charities comply with these new regulations. As you set about the business of compliance, you may find the following material helpful:

- [The Office of the Information Commissioner – guidance for charities](#)
- [Methodist Trustees for Church Purposes](#)
- [Church of England parish resources](#)
- [Baptist Union of Great Britain](#)

County Ecumenical Officer for Cambridgeshire

Cambridgeshire Ecumenical Council are seeking a part-time County Ecumenical Officer, (15 hours a week). Much of the work involves travelling in the county and beyond. The work involves flexible hours, which may vary from week to week, including some evenings and weekends.

If you would like to know more about this post, please contact the Chair of the Council, the Rt Revd Dr David Thomson (Bishop of Huntingdon) bishop.huntingdon@elydiocese.org

Applications are invited by **11th February** and it is hoped to hold interviews on **27th February** with a start to the new appointment on **1st April**.

[Further information, including the role description and person specification, can be viewed here.](#)



Walking Together Mapping Anglican-Roman Catholic Relations 2018

Published in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 2018



Quoting from an Introductory letter from the Co-Chairs of the English Anglican Roman Catholic Committee (English ARC), the Rt Revd Timothy Thornton (Anglican) and Most Revd Bernard Longley (Roman Catholic) write:

The English Anglican Roman Catholic Committee (English ARC), now at the end of its current Quinquennium, has been seeking to establish an overview of how Anglicans and Roman Catholics are working together in various contexts at diocesan and parish levels. Diocesan ecumenical officers have been an invaluable source of information about this.

This information has helped us to produce Walking Together: Mapping Anglican – Roman Catholic Relations. This report has now been released and, in this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2018, we are very pleased to attach a [copy of the report](#) to this message, together with a [summary](#).

We realise the report represents a snapshot in time and is in no way exhaustive. Nonetheless, it provides a very helpful picture of what is happening on the ground in terms of partnership between these two churches, as well as highlighting possible areas of work for the future.

We have been much heartened by the encouragement given by Pope Francis and Archbishop Justin to the Bishops of IARCCUM in 2016 at the 50th Anniversary celebrations in Rome of the visit of Archbishop Ramsey to Blessed Pope Paul VI. As Pope Francis and Archbishop Justin were commissioning bishops to go out in pairs their closing words were:

We are impatient for progress that we might be fully united in proclaiming, in word and deed, the saving and healing gospel of Christ to all people. For this reason we take great encouragement from the meeting during these days of so many Catholic and Anglican bishops of the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission (IARCCUM) who, on the basis of all that they have in common, which generations of ARCIC scholars have painstakingly unveiled, are eager to go forward in collaborative mission and witness to the "ends of the earth". Today we rejoice to commission them and send them forth in pairs as the Lord sent out the seventy-two disciples. Let their ecumenical mission to those on the margins of society be a witness to all of us, and let the message go out from this holy place, as the Good News was sent out so many centuries ago, that Catholics and Anglicans will work together to give voice to our common faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, to bring relief to the suffering, to bring peace where there is conflict, to bring dignity where it is denied and trampled upon.

[Walking Together Summary \(Word\)](#)
[Walking Together FULL Report \(PDF\)](#)



Faith in Politics monthly podcast launched By the Joint Public Issues Team



Rosie Winn from the Methodist Church writes:

Faith in Politics, an exciting new podcast series that features guests discussing topics from current affairs that link in with faith, has been launched by the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT). JPIT is a joint venture of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church and the Church of Scotland. The team works on issues of justice and inequality by influencing those in power and energising local congregations. The podcast was created by Helen Byrne and Rachel Allison who are working for the church as Parliamentary interns. Each monthly episode will be presented by Helen and Rachel - both avid podcast listeners - and will feature lively discussions from the world of politics from a faith viewpoint, interviews and a 'musing slot', inspired by Thought for the Day. Topics such as poverty, inequality, peace-making and the environment plan to be covered.

Those taking part are people who are living out a faith of some kind in public and political life. Some of the guests who will feature include the Co-Leader of the Green Party, Jonathan Bartley, Labour politicians, the Rt Hon Stephen Timms and Alan Milburn, and the Conservative politician and member of the House of Lords Baroness Sayeeda Warsi.

Each 30-minute podcast will be released on the last Thursday of every month and can be downloaded from <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/podcast>. You can also subscribe to it from Google Play for Android devices and iTunes or Podcast for Apple devices. Faith in Politics is aimed at JPIT's existing supporters and activists but will also appeal to a younger audience thanks to increased engagement with current affairs and politics, and the accessibility of social media and podcasts. Helen Bryne explains: "Christians have a civic duty to engage with the world around them, because our Lord is a God of justice and whether we like it or not, faith in its many manifestations shape our political landscape."

Image: JPIT's Helen Bryne with Co-Leader of the Green Party, Jonathan Bartley

Senior church leaders gather in South London Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2018



Claire Crowley writes:

Meeting together at the invitation of Churches Together in South London (CTSL), these leaders witness to the friendship and shared purposes of South London's churches.

Roger and Faith Forster offered a reflection at the invitation of Reverend Michaela Youngson, Chair of CTSL, and spoke about building bridges not walls, inspired by Pope Francis. Drawing on the theme of liberation for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Roger and Faith reflected on Exodus 15 and Ephesians 2, reading Luci Shaw's poem "Step on it" that finishes:

"You built
one Bridge to us
Solid enough, long
enough, strong enough
to stand all tides for all time,
linking
the unlinkable."

Bishop Christopher invited the leaders to share plans for 2018 and many common areas emerged, including CTSL's upcoming Forum on 22 March at Livability in North Greenwich, which will take forward initiatives to tackle knife crime in the capital. It is a powerful witness to fellowship between denominations to see this large group of Christian leaders joining together to pray, reflect, discuss and eat together at a time when unity and partnership is crucial for our city and world.

Churches Together in South London (CTSL) represents over 50 local ecumenical networks across 10 London boroughs south of the River Thames, and is one of 49 intermediary bodies around the country for Churches Together in England. You can find your nearest local network on www.ctslondon.org.uk.

[Further information of the Leaders Meeting in a Media Release PDF](#)

Council of Lutheran Churches General Secretary



The Council of Lutheran churches represents and co-ordinates the common work of ten Lutheran churches comprising 180,000 Lutherans living in Britain, as well as within the wider Christian community.

After nearly six excellent years in post our current General Secretary has decided to take on a new role elsewhere and we are now looking for a creative facilitator to take over this critical role. You will need to have a track record in leadership, together with the ability to influence and communicate at all levels internally, ecumenically, and in the public arena. With a background which includes theological insight, financial literacy and experience of management and governance in a church, charity or in public service, the General Secretary will also play a key role in continuing to build the profile of the Council and Lutheran churches, as well as developing our ecumenical links. This is no ordinary leadership role. We are looking for somebody who will share our values and whilst not necessarily a Lutheran, is a practising Christian (this post is subject to an occupational requirement that the holder be a practising Christian under Part 1 of Schedule 9 to the Equality Act 2010).

If you have the passion and commitment to continue the good work of the Council, then we would like to hear from you.

[Click here for further details and to view the job description and person specification.](#)

Closing date for applications: Friday 2nd March 2018

Churches Rural Group Meeting 10.01.18 Summary Notes

Representatives of Christian denominations with a significant rural presence and other organisations concerned with rural life and ministry meet as a Co-ordinating Group of Churches Together in England to discuss issues of common interest. At the meeting in January 2018, new members from New Wine, the Roman Catholic Church and Salvation Army were welcomed. Topics discussed included:

Review of the 'Listening Event' conference
Urban/Rural Issues Forum meeting
News from Germinate/Arthur Rank Centre
Discussion of Theos review of CTE
Dates and Planning
Information about International Conference

[**Download Word doc for the Summary Notes of the above.**](#)

CT group hosts a dance company

Naomi Cook writes:

Rigging theatrical lighting and sound and laying down a stage floor might sound like unusual tools for an ecumenical initiative, yet this is exactly what happened in Stamford Methodist Church on the 24th November. Organised by, and for, Churches Together, this event was the first night of Springs Dance Company's Advent tour of *Journey of the Magi*.

On that wintry evening in Stamford audience members from different churches and communities came together to see a story brought to life through dance and theatre; a festive production that celebrates a birth long ago and points the show's modern day characters towards hope and reconciliation. From the chaotic Christmas Shopping scene to the joyful celebration at the birth of Jesus, worshippers from many church traditions were given the chance to be united in laughter and reflection.

For the cast and crew that evening it was witness to Churches Together's strength to



see different denominations come together in a new way: to welcome Springs to Stamford, share the organisation of the event and warmly host the dancers and technician in their homes. Rev Andy Fyall, Minister of Stamford Methodist Church who hosted the evening, said: "The production was full of the joy of Christian faith in an amazingly accessible way, using dance, music and humour. People spoke of the wonder of the birth of Jesus as expressed through the talents of the dancers, and were especially moved by the portrayal of the Manger scene using props which had become familiar throughout the story."

Springs Artistic Director Ruth Hughes says 'What excites me about our work is that our productions are intrinsically inclusive; communicating through a common language and telling stories through movement, theatre and music'.

Springs Dance Company will be touring *Bread of Life* during Lent and Easter 2018, and *Journey of the Magi* leading up to Christmas 2018.

To find out more about how a production could bring your churches together, contact Springs Dance Company: <https://springsdancecompany.org.uk/productions/>

And finally ...

Women's World Day of Prayer March 2nd

Many Churches Together groups host a meeting as part of the Women's World day of Prayer. Elizabeth Burroughs writes: By now I guess we are all in rehearsal for the service on March 2nd or searching for a service to go to. So, for the organisers, I thought a few reminders might be helpful ...

To find out visit <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/>!

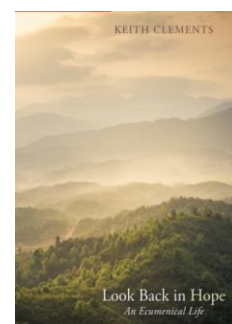
To find out more about the ecumenical committee visit: <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/about-us/>



Look Back in Hope: An Ecumenical Life. Book by Keith Clements.

A child of China missionary parents, Keith Clements looks back on a life rich in diverse experiences in many parts of the world as pastor, theologian, writer, and servant of the ecumenical movement. In so doing he finds hope "for the creation of true community in the world, of people among themselves, with God, and with creation. That is what the gospel of Christ is all about, what the church is about, and indeed what God who lives and loves as three-in-one is all about." He recalls instances of grace in which--even amid conflict and tragedy--people, churches, and communities discover the possibilities of new life together. It is both a very human story of personal faith, and an insider's account of ecumenical Christianity's quest for a more visibly united church and a world of peace and justice.

<https://wipfandstock.com/look-back-in-hope.html>



Thy Kingdom Come launched with 150 'Champions'.

The Archbishops of York and Canterbury each held a launch event for Thy Kingdom Come: 10 days of intentional prayer between Ascension and Pentecost for Christians individually, in churches and Churches Together groups to pray for new disciples of Jesus Christ.

Alongside the Church of England this year are Roman Catholic and Methodist resources and interviewed was Pastor Agu, the Pentecostal President of Churches Together in England. The website is in its final stage of preparation but for more information see the video at: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>



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