



CTe-News from Churches Together in England

January 2014

Behold, I make all things new ...

Rev Dr David Cornick, Gen Sec of CTE, provides a Reflection for the New Year:



In the dark days of exile in Babylon, the prophet Isaiah heard the word of God – ‘...I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?’ (Is 43:19). They had lost everything. Jerusalem had been laid waste, the Temple destroyed. Their homes had gone, along with the wealth and future they had worked for. Yet it was worse than that, for the Temple, the very footstool of God on earth was gone, and with it all the certainties and securities of a faith that stretched back in time to the journeyings of Abraham and Sarai. Every contour on their intellectual and spiritual map had been obliterated.

As they gathered weeping by the waters of Babylon (Psalm 137) the exiled people of God slowly realised that although everything they treasured had gone, been rendered ‘old’ by the brutalities of defeat and exile, God was still God, and ‘doing a new thing’, marking out paths in the wilderness, blessing the barren desert with the fertility of rivers. God was doing it, but they could not see it. That is why the prophet hears God ask, ‘Do you not perceive it?’

The Babylonians thought they had destroyed the God of Israel along with the Temple, but soon he was making ‘ways’ in the desert beyond their understanding. Centuries later human beings thought they had forced God out of his creation on a hill called Golgotha, but to their astonishment three days later a young man at a tomb announced, ‘He is not here...he is going ahead of you to Galilee, there you will see him..’ (Mark 16:7)

Our God is a God who makes all things new, who does new things, and asks us to open our eyes, see them, and join in.

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Changes at CTE - ‘Behold I make all things new ...’ as we start 2014, various organisational changes take effect which you can see detailed at ‘**Changes in English Christianity, Changes at CTE**’ .
Coming soon re CTE website – new look and navigation of the website www.cte.org.uk

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Archbishop Nichols to be a Cardinal, welcomed by Archbishop of Canterbury

A statement from the Catholic Bishops conference:
<http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/Home/News/New-Cardinal>

His Holiness Pope Francis, announced that Archbishop Nichols will be made a Cardinal at the next consistory on 22 February 2014.

Archbishop Vincent issued the following statement: "Today, I am deeply moved by the honour conferred upon the Catholic Church in England and Wales and on the Diocese of Westminster in my appointment as Cardinal by His Holiness Pope Francis.

"The Catholic Church in our countries has always had a profound and loving loyalty to the Holy Father, the Successor of St Peter. This appointment enables me, on behalf of all, to serve the Pope in a direct and prolonged way.

"Personally, this is a humbling moment when I am asked to take a place in this service of the Holy See and in the line of much loved Cardinal Archbishops of Westminster. I seek the blessing of Almighty God for these new responsibilities and I ask for the prayers of all people of faith that I may fulfil them with energy and devotion."

Archbishop Nichols predecessor, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, expressed his joy at the announcement: "I am delighted that my successor as Archbishop of Westminster, Archbishop Vincent Nichols, has been named a Cardinal. "Many people in this country have been looking forward to this day. It is an honour, not only for Archbishop Nichols, but for all Catholics in England and Wales."

Welcome by the Archbishop of Canterbury:

The Archbishop of Canterbury has welcomed the announcement by Pope Francis that the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, the Most Revd Vincent Nichols, will be made a Cardinal. Archbishop Justin said: 'I am absolutely delighted by this well-deserved appointment. Archbishop Nichols has demonstrated clear leadership, personal holiness and immense generosity. This strengthens the church in this country.' - See more at:

<http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5224/archbishop-justin-delighted-archbishop-vincent-nichols-to-become-cardinal#sthash.6ipL50dM.dpuf>

Ecumenist knighted in New Year Honours list

Archbishop David Moxon. Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome and the Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative to the Holy See, has been appointed a Knight Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in HM The Queen's 2014 New Year Honours in recognition of his services to the Anglican Church. Archbishop Moxon (62) served as a bishop in Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and the Pacific from 1993, and became one of the three New Zealand archbishops in 2006.



David Moxon is the Anglican chair of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC III) the world body responsible for developing understanding and collaboration between the two Churches. Taking up his post at the Anglican Centre in May 2013, he attended the first meeting between the new Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby, and Pope Francis in June.

Anglicans in New Zealand having named him "archbishop emeritus" on his move to Rome, in accordance with commonwealth usage, he will be styled "Archbishop Sir David Moxon".

Read more of this article from the website of the Anglican Centre in Rome

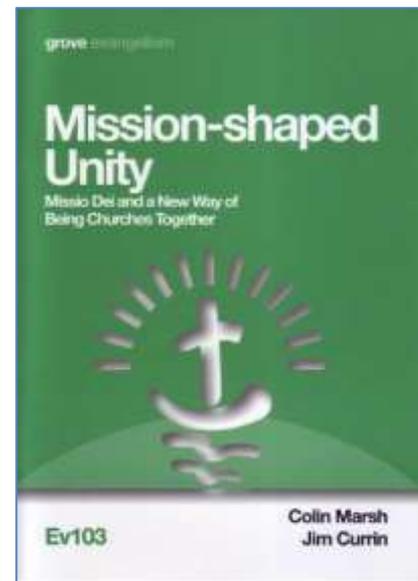
Photo courtesy of the Anglican Centre in Rome website

Mission-shaped Unity, by Colin Marsh and Jim Currin

This booklet has been written to give a theological and practical exploration of Missio Dei and how it is currently shaping changes taking place in Churches Together at national, regional and local levels.

Colin Marsh is the Ecumenical Development Officer for Birmingham Churches Together, and provides the background and analysis to Missio Dei with an exploration of its relation to mission and unity. Colin has a research doctorate from Edinburgh and has ministered in Liverpool and Zambia. He taught mission at the United College of the Ascension, Birmingham

Jim Currin is a Church Army evangelist and currently serves as Secretary for Evangelisation at Churches Together in England. Jim has written several books for Grove including Paradox in the Gospel? and The 360 Gospel of Jesus. Here Jim responds to Colin's invitation to comment on Missio Dei with practical and biblical observations.



Colin and Jim write to raise questions that will inspire readers to bring about new ways of being churches together.

Order via www.grovebooks.co.uk

Read more at:

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/387677/Churches_Together_in/Resources/News/News/Mission_shaped_Unity.asp
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EDUCATION SUNDAY 2014 16 February

RESOURCES: Going above and beyond ...

Matthew 5.21-37

/Publisher/File.aspx?ID=119970 <DOWNLOAD

MORE RESOURCES AVAILABLE SOON:

Sermon/homily notes

Prayers

Hymn and song suggestions

Primary school collective worship resource

Secondary school collective worship resource

Ideas for all-age worship

Resources for Higher Education



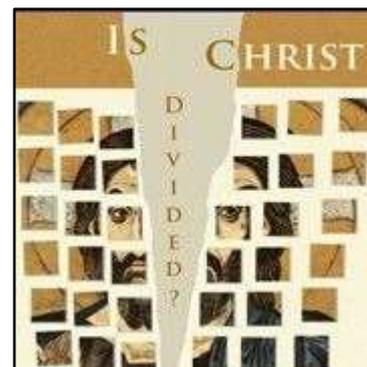
About Education Sunday:

Education Sunday is a national day of prayer and celebration for everyone involved in the world of education. For more than 100 years there has been an annual recognition of Education Sunday in England and Wales (traditionally on the ninth Sunday before Easter). The resources are designed to help you prepare for your own celebration on or around Education Sunday, or on any other day during the year, such as the start or end of the academic year. You can use these resources in your church, in local schools, colleges and universities and in other places of learning. www.educationsunday.org.uk

Is Christ Divided? CTBI Week of prayer resources for 2014

Is Christian disunity a scandal before God? Or is it something we have grown accustomed to, as though it were a creaky door that we never seem to get around to fixing? St Paul's words challenge us as we reflect upon this question. To suggest that disunity is something acceptable is declaring that Christ himself is divided - and that really is a scandal!

2013 was the year in which churches from all inhabited continents of the world gathered in Korea for the 10th General Assembly of the World Council of Churches. We gathered for no other reason than to declare to the world that our disunity is a scandal and that we will go on praying for and working for that unity which is God's gift to the church and to the world.



The Churches of French Canada have chosen for us a key biblical text of the ecumenical movement and have invited us to think about what our divisions say to the world and to each other about the Christian faith. They have also suggested that we use the Millennium Goals as a focus for our prayers for the world.

Dates

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January - the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul. However, some areas observe it at Pentecost or some other time. To allow for local decision making, the material has only the year on it and the days are denoted by the numbers one to eight, so you can use it at any time of year.

For more information visit the website of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

CTE Christmas card picture competition - an invitation to all

Each year the staff at Churches Together in England have a Christmas card printed with a copyright free picture on the front. Several hundred cards are sent to a wide variety of people in the national, county and local networks of Churches Together.

For 2014 we thought we would invite any artist to submit their work for consideration in a competition. The prize is to have the picture printed on our Christmas card for Christmas 2014, with the work referenced on the card with thanks, acknowledgement, together with a link to the artists blog or web site (if they have one). The picture will also be used on the CTE website for Christmas 2014, so be seen by all our web visitors.



This invitation would be an opportunity to profile the work of a new or amateur artist who has not had a picture in print before - or it may be an opportunity for a professional to add to their portfolio. We would like to consider work from people of all ages, backgrounds, and theological persuasions.

For more information go to:

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/381285/Churches_Together_in/Resources/News/News/CTE_Christmas_card.aspx

**Suggestions for material in CTe-News should be sent to [jim.currin \(AT\) cte.org.uk](mailto:jim.currin@cte.org.uk)
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