



The staff of

Churches Together in England wish you a very happy Christmas and every blessing in 2015

The picture for the CTE Christmas card is the work of Megan Nobes, winner of the [CTE Christmas card competition](#), who writes: this drawing of mother and child was prepared as our church marked the 'World Day of Migrants and Refugees', with the theme, 'Towards a Better World'. A Christmas hope, surely! As we celebrate the Lord's birth, may we remember all who will celebrate the feast in refugee camps this year?



December Reflection: The Joy of Faith - the journey goes on

Celia Blackden (with news of her future)

The joy of faith and friendship was apparent at the public lecture for [Inter Faith Week](#) held at Leeds Trinity University on 20th November. An excellent lecture on "[Jews, Christians and Muslims: Minority Transformations and the Crossing of Boundaries](#)" was given by Dr Ed Kessler Director of the Woolf Institute, Cambridge, with responses by Sister Teresa Brittain of the Sisters of Sion in Manchester and Qari Muhammad Asim from the award winning Makkah Mosque in Headingley. It transpired that the three were already friends or colleagues. Teresa and Ed through long standing connection with the Council of Christians and Jews, and Christian Jewish relations in general; Muhammad and Ed through collaboration with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Advisory Group on Freedom of Religion and Belief and Muhammad's contribution to the Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life convened by the Woolf Institute.



The photo reflects the atmosphere of warmth, honesty, understanding and mutual enrichment that was created and in which all participated. Sister Teresa spoke of inter faith encounter, entering into the world and perspectives of the other, as like falling in love. "*You can't emerge from the experience the same. You are different, you have acquired something of the other, you have grown; you are not what you were before. Your own faith is illuminated and deepened by encountering the faith of the other, and you take this new dimension of faith and life with you as you journey on*".

Earlier in the autumn an event on Christian Mission and Muslim Dawah (invitation to faith) was held in Leeds. Before we started the organisers agreed to ask the Lord that the evening be a joyful one. It was. Far from being a doleful exposition of incompatible truths, it was a reflection on our capacity to be together and understand one another even when doctrines and profoundly held beliefs might in some ways separate us. In fact, that evening the possibility of shared witness by believers to a world so sceptical about God also came to the fore. It was evident too at the Inter Faith Week event through the 'witness' given by our three speakers. Much more was achieved by

the three together than could have been by one alone. Many left the event with a new and deep awareness of the importance of inter faith dialogue and collaboration.

What we actually believe as Christians, the very nature of our faith, means that the commitment to dialogue and not stopping in the face of difficulties are embedded in our spiritual DNA. So it behoves us to recognise and celebrate love for God in all those who seek to live according to the Golden Rule, shared by all religions, "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (cf Luke 6:31). We can recognise that 'God-dimension' when we ourselves are people who love, who believe in love and who are ready to serve and help our neighbours. Then the presence, sometimes hidden, of God, in us or in the other, can suddenly become an experience of the presence of God among his children, true joy.

As an ecumenical officer working for CTE I have experienced great joy in being with and working with Christians of other traditions and perspectives; with the CTE and FCG staff in the same building, and with others in the Churches or ecumenical instruments. There is a naturalness about being together as well as very positive outcomes. My inter faith role has been largely focused on intra-Christian collaboration, considering how much expertise, knowledge and resources could be shared across the churches; and in encouraging more Christians to get involved.



Towards the end of February I will be moving to Italy to work with the Focolare at its Centre south of Rome. I will relinquish my post at CTE with sadness and joy. Sadness at leaving colleagues and a job I love, joy to think that the work will continue with new levels of collaboration among the churches, new ideas and new opportunities.

Celia Blackden

Faith Through A Lens Competition winner

Faith Through A Lens is a competition for photographers and Churches Together in England is a co-sponsor along with the Inter Faith Network and Congregational Insurance.

The CTE General Secretary, David Cornick is a member of the judging panel which selected *Circle of Faith* by Merryn Fawsett as the winner in the recent 2014 competition.



The winning photograph and the runners up are all presented on the *Faith Through A Lens* website, together with photographs and a video of the Awards ceremony - as are all the details about the national annual competition.

[Faith Through A Lens homepage](#)
[2014 Awards ceremony video](#)
[BBC article link](#)

Politics of Hope Conference

Exploring the role and impact of faith-based leadership in local communities

This conference is a unique opportunity for faith and community leaders, faith-based organisations and public policy makers to explore:

- The impact of faith-based organisations
- How they relate to 'secular' authorities
- Emerging models of political leadership and engagement

Tuesday 24th February 2015, 10am - 6.30pm including public lecture from Steve Chalke MBE. 5pm - 6.30pm at [St Bride Foundation](#). Tickets cost £15 per person - [please click here to book your place](#). For further information, please contact info@williamtemplefoundation.org.uk
[A copy of the flyer can be downloaded here](#)

Global faith leaders make historic declaration



The Church of England Communications Office reports:

Vatican City saw a truly historic gathering of global faith leaders on 2nd December 2014. The Pope, the Archbishop of Canterbury and other global faith leaders from the Orthodox, Jewish, Sunni and Shia Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist communities came together to make a joint declaration on ending modern slavery. In the Declaration the leaders committed themselves to an unprecedented joint initiative "to inspire spiritual and practical action by all global faiths and people of good will everywhere to eradicate modern slavery across the world for all time."

The faith leaders pledged "to do all in our power, within our faith communities and beyond, to work together for the freedom of all those who are enslaved and trafficked so that their future may be restored. Today we have the awareness, wisdom, innovation and technology to achieve this human and moral imperative."

Introducing the faith leaders, Pope Francis said: "We are inspired by our faiths and we have joined together here for this historic initiative. We wish to declare that we will work together to eradicate the terrible scourge of modern slavery in all its forms."

Archbishop Justin said: "In Christ we find our liberation restored. God treated humanity with such loving respect by choosing to take human form among us – so we must show that love and respect to all human beings."

[Read the full script from the CofE Communications office](#)

Visit the website: <http://www.globalfreedomnetwork.org/> which includes a video and twitter feed of updates.

CTE Presidents sign a Covenant

The Presidents of Churches Together in England meet on a regular basis and each sign a covenant with the other - the text of which can be read from one of the links.

In recent months Billy Kennedy had been appointed by the new churches, Society of Friends and the Lutheran network of churches, who will rotate their appointment of a President. The previous President from this group of churches was Bishop Jana Jeruma Grinberga.



In addition, the Free Churches Group appointed Hugh Osgood to succeed the Revd Michael Heaney as their Moderator - a role which includes being one of the CTE Presidents. The Covenant was signed by Cardinal Vincent Nichols on another occasion as he was overseas at the time the above photograph was taken.

The Covenant says what the Presidents believe about being Christians together in common pilgrimage, and they sign to say what they commit and undertake to do together.

[The CTE Presidents](#)

[The current 6 Presidents](#)

[Text of the Covenant](#)

Hope, Silent Night Carols and churches remembering the 1914 Christmas Truce



Hundreds of churches are working together in villages, towns and cities to use HOPE's resources and ideas in preparing for Christmas using the initiative 'Silent Night Carols'. Every community will have its own local flavour. Over 350 groups are working in partnership with their local sports stadium to remember the anniversary of World War One and the 1914 Christmas Truce, using resources in partnership with Hope.

Catherine Butcher from Hope says, 'This Christmas there's an opportunity not to be missed. You can bring your community together to sing carols and remember the moment when peace broke out in the First World War. The new Sainsbury's Christmas advert means millions of people are seeing the 1914 Christmas Truce re-enacted on their TV screens. Sainsbury's message is 'Christmas is for sharing'. Let's do just that!'

Already events are booked for major Premier League grounds like Swansea City, Crystal Palace, Stoke City and Manchester City as well as more than 350 other venues nationwide with churches working together in partnership with their local communities.



Also, the celebrity singer Paul Potts has recorded Silent Night (Christ the Saviour is Born) – a special version of the carol commissioned by HOPE and Integrity Music for the centenary of the 1914 Christmas Truce. This special version of the carol is being used by choirs across the country, including Canterbury Cathedral choir which plans to sing it on Christmas Day when the service is broadcast live on television.

[Download the words and music here.](#)

Roy Crowne, HOPE's Director says, 'It's fantastic to hear how sports clubs, cathedrals, schools and churches have taken up the Silent Night Carols theme. It's a tremendous opportunity to point to the peace and reconciliation Jesus makes possible. Let's make the most of this unique season to tell our own stories of why we are followers of Jesus.'



Peace and reconciliation is the theme the Archbishop of Canterbury takes up in his introduction to the Silent Night Carols programme, which also has a message from Prince William, President of the Football Association. The free programmes can be previewed and ordered from Tearfund at www.silentnightcarols.org while stocks last.

Churches in Market Harborough are using their local newspaper to ask residents which is their favourite Christmas carol. The result will be announced when the community gathers to switch on the Christmas lights. Everyone will be given a free copy of the souvenir Silent Night Carols programme then invited to Carols by Candlelight at a local church.

Roy Crowne says, 'the Silent Night events don't need to be in a church or stadium. You could form a flash mob choir to sing outside your local supermarket! The key is be ready to give a reason for the hope we have, and to invite people to find out more about Jesus.'

[More information from Hope](#)

Christianity in the Middle East conference Exploring present challenges and future possibilities



A conference has been jointly convened by the British Trust for Tantor and the Centre for Eastern Christianity, Heythrop College, University of London on Saturday 28th February 2015 at [University of Notre Dame London Centre](#)

A programme for the day is as follows;

10.30 arrivals and coffee and registration

11.00: Bishop Antoine Audo SJ Chaldean Bishop of Aleppo, Syria:

Christianity in the Middle East: Present Challenges and Future Possibilities read through the Experience of Syria

Response by Dr Suha Rassam

11.45: Dr Mariz Tadros University of Sussex: Coptic Christianity in Egypt Today

1.00-1.45 Lunch break (bring your own packed lunch, hot drinks provided)

1.45: Revd Dr Vrej Nersessian (Former Curator of Eastern Christian Collection The British Library): The Armenian Christian Tradition: history, theology and ecclesiology

2.45: Dr Anthony O'Mahony (Heythrop College, University of London):

Christian Ecumenism in the Middle East past, present and future challenges to the Global Church

3.30 Any questions panel with the speakers

If you wish to attend, you will need to complete an [application form](#) and return with £5 cheque made out to 'The British Trust for Tantor' to the address supplied on the booking form.

Further information is available from [John Went](#) Tel: 01494 765586

WCC General Secretary represents faith-based organisations at UNICEF meeting



UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, this week invited 20 of its major partners from the private sector and civil society to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. World Council of Churches (WCC) general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit represented faith based-organizations at a high-level breakfast in New York on November 20 hosted by the UN agency dealing with children's rights and needs.

The meeting was an opportunity for a key group of major UNICEF partners to engage in dialogue with Nobel prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz on the theme of equity and children's rights, explained the WCC in a statement issued from its headquarters in Geneva on November 21.

Tveit said in his presentation: "To believe that God created all of us means also that God wants all children to continue to be sustained and for them all to have the same opportunities." He cautioned, "*To ignore the rights of girls and boys, and to accept inequalities among children, is to ignore the peace and justice of God.*" The WCC general secretary noted, "As churches we offer access to education and health care. We preach the practice of love and attention. But there is much that needs to be done in our faith communities. "Therefore, we also need to commit to the rights of children - and to work with international partners like UNICEF."

At the end of the meeting with UNICEF, Tveit concluded: "When we look at the obstacles to justice and peace we are addressing as WCC today, armed conflicts, climate changes, economic injustice, domestic violence and others, we have to say that they are particularly dramatic for the children of the world today. To address them from the perspective of children and their rights, we get a deeper and even more relevant understanding of why we have to address them as churches and people of faith. If we are called to bring signs of hope, we have to do so for the next generations and their future."

On the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, The State of the World's Children report presented an [agenda for change](#). The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989. Since then, advocacy for advancing child rights has made immense progress. There has been a huge reduction in the numbers of children dying before the age of five, and there is increased access to education and clean water.

Rugby World Cup and Engage 2015

Following on from the work of *More than Gold* which engaged the churches with the 2012 Olympic Games, a network of agencies and denominations are planning to help the churches engage with the Rugby World Cup.



The Rugby World Cup has been described as the world's third largest international sports event. It will be held in these islands in the autumn of 2015. Tickets have already been on sale and more information is on <http://www.rugbyworldcup.com/>.

To support a wide variety of initiatives that churches can work together on, Engage 2015 has been set up. Jim Currin, a staff member at Churches Together in England, is a member of the Advisory Group. Engage 2015 is a cross-denominational campaign to help churches serve the rugby community during the World Cup event next year.

A website for Engage 2015 has just been launched as a 'one-stop shop' for all the inspiration, information and resources that churches may need to get planning in advance. The Engage 2015 team has already been hosting 'Clubhouse' meetings in various locations and they will also be sending out monthly email updates. Now is the time to begin to 'engage' as Churches Together, through partnerships with sports clubs, schools, colleges, and other colleagues serving the local community.

Go to www.engage2015.co.uk to get started...

Induction of new Moderator of the Free Churches Group



The Revd Dr Hugh Osgood was inducted as the new Moderator of the Free Churches Group at an inspirational service in the Great Hall of Methodist Central Hall Westminster on Sunday evening. The induction service, which was attended by a culturally diverse congregation of some three hundred people, formed part of the regular worship at the Church at Methodist Central Hall and focussed on the summons to faithful Christian witness in the public square.

The worship reflected the rich diversity of the congregation, which included representatives from the twenty-four denominations of the Free Churches Group. Music was provided by the Great Hall Organ, together with Maidenhead Salvation Army Band who led the congregation in the singing of some great Wesleyan hymns. There were also contemporary worship songs led by Churches in Communities worship leader, Noel Robinson.

Speaking about the contemporary sensitivities, challenges and opportunities of Christian witness in the public square, Dr Osgood said 'although there are sensitivities within the public square that must be respected, people's needs cannot be overlooked, and the possibility of effective Christian engagement must not be ignored'. He expressed the view that our personal relationship with Christ should work a greater degree of appropriateness within our witness and added that the diversity within the Free Churches Group is surely relevant when meeting the needs of a society that is equally diverse.

Commenting on the service at Methodist Central Hall, and on the appointment, the Superintendent Minister, Revd Martin Turner, said '*Hugh Osgood has a great gift of insight into how the Christian faith engages with contemporary society. His wise and insightful leadership can do nothing but further both the work of the Free Churches and the work of the Kingdom of God in the coming four years.*'

Dr Osgood, who was inducted to the Office of Moderator of the Free Churches Group for a four

year term will also represent the Free Churches within Churches Together in England as the CTE Free Churches President, and is named as the patron, or honorary office-bearer, of over forty organisations.

Note: The Free Churches Group is a network of 24 denominations in the Non-Conformist, Evangelical and Pentecostal traditions providing health care and prison chaplaincy services and education support from a Christian value base in England and Wales. It serves as the operational arm of The Free Church Federal Council Incorporated, established in 1940.

Christian Unity since Vatican II - Memory, Present, Where Now?

Churches Together in Westminster, in conjunction with The [Society for Ecumenical Studies](#), hosted a day conference last Saturday, 15 November 2014 at Farm Street Jesuit Centre, London. The conference was sponsored by the Catholic League. Six speakers explored the impact that Vatican II has had on Christian unity.

Memory

Jack Valero, from Opus Dei in Britain and a founder member of *Catholic Voices*, explained that Vatican II was a very significant milestone in the history of ecumenism for the Catholic Church. Following this, Canon Prof Nicholas Sagovsky, University lecturer and writer on ecumenism, and ARCIC III member, examined the enormous importance of Vatican II not only for Catholics, but for Christians of all traditions.

Present

Revd Dr David Cornick, General Secretary of Churches Together in England, looked at the effects increasing secularisation and successive waves of immigration have had on England's churches and on ecumenism. The picture now is far more complex than it was fifty years ago. Drawing on her considerable experience of Student Cross and church action on housing and homelessness, Alison Gelder, Chief Executive of *Housing Justice*, explored how denominations and individual congregations are working together and some of the ecumenical barriers and challenges they encounter.

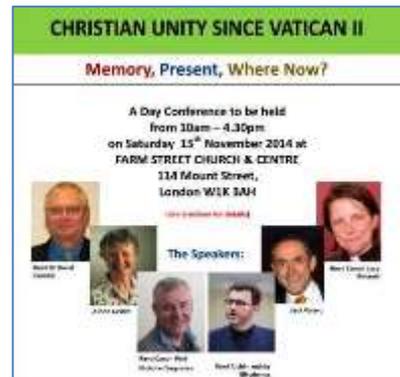
Where now?

Revd Archimandrite Nikodemos Anagnostopoulos, Orthodox priest and lecturer, looked to the future from an Orthodox perspective on Vatican II's ecumenical significance and on the Declarations on Religious Freedom and Ecumenism, stressing the importance of this year's meeting of Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

In conclusion

A closing summary of the day was given by the writer, radio contributor, and former Canon Precentor of St Paul's Cathedral, Revd Lucy Winkett, who is currently Rector of St James's Piccadilly.

The conference ended with Vespers in Farm Street Church. Fr Dominic Robinson sj, the Revd Canon Lucy Winkett and the Revd Dr Elizabeth Welch presided.



Tribute to international leader Dr Myles Munroe

The death of Dr Myles Munroe in a tragic plane crash in Bahamas last Sunday 9 November 2014 has led to an outpouring of grief among the Pentecostal and Charismatic Christian community in Britain and around the world. All nine people on board the Lear 36 Executive Jet died in the crash, including Dr Munroe, his wife Ruth and members of his Bahamas Faith Ministries International leadership team. Munroe was an internationally renowned bestselling author, lecturer, teacher, life coach, government consultant, and leadership mentor. He was a frequent visitor to the UK.

Paying tribute, Dr Eric Brown, Churches Together in England Pentecostal President says, 'It was my distinct privilege to invite Dr Munroe as keynote speaker to several of our Pastors and Key Leaders' Conferences and on every occasion he spoke professionally and prophetically into the lives of our leaders. Indeed he was a frequent keynote speaker to many of the Evangelical, Pentecostal and Charismatic churches in this country. He was a gifted communicator, effective motivator, a man of faith and great courage and full of the Holy Spirit. He was a giant of our time and his unique place in the history of the Christian Church is secured.'

President of CiC International and Free Churches Moderator Dr Hugh Osgood recalls hosting Dr Munroe in London: 'I know that many British church leaders have been deeply impacted by the warmth and encouragement he brought with him every time he visited the UK. Myles and his ministry will be greatly missed.'

And Dr Joel Edwards, International Director of Micah Challenge says: 'Dr Myles touched so many lives on so many issues across so many communities. As comfortable with Prime Ministers as he was the people, he walked with Kings without losing the common touch. The world mourns the loss of a man who revealed the mind and heart of God.'

Dr Munroe's ministry transcended racial, cultural, denominational and national boundaries with a message aimed at empowering others to discover their God-given purpose. In his own words, 'The greatest Tragedy in life is not death, but a life without purpose.'

May he and all who died rest in peace.

New Roman Catholic National Ecumenical Officer appointed



The Dean of St George's Cathedral, Southwark, Rev Canon John O'Toole MA, AKC, Cert.Ed., has been appointed as the National Ecumenical Officer and Secretary to the Department for Dialogue and Unity at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

He replaces Mgr Robert Byrne, CO, who was made Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham whilst serving his term of office at the Bishops' Conference. It is fitting that news of Canon O'Toole's appointment coincides with the fiftieth anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Decree on Ecumenism *Unitatis Redintegratio* celebrated during the Bishops' Conference meeting on the 11 November 2014.

Archbishop Bernard Longley, the Chairman of the Department for Dialogue and Unity said: "I am delighted that Canon John O'Toole has been appointed as the National Ecumenical Officer for the Catholic Church in England and Wales. His long experience of working with other churches and ecclesial communities as a Parish Priest, Director of the Diocesan Christian Education Centre and latterly as a Cathedral Dean qualifies him well for the work of promoting Christian Unity and interreligious dialogue. I am grateful to Archbishop Peter Smith and the Archdiocese of Southwark for releasing him for this important role."

Archbishop Peter Smith added his congratulations: "I congratulate Canon John O'Toole on his appointment as the new Ecumenical Officer of the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales. He will be much missed as Dean of St George's Cathedral, Southwark, and I thank him for the great work he has done there during his term of office. His involvement in the ecumenical movement over many years means he will bring a great deal of experience to his new task in promoting and fostering ecumenical relationships on behalf of the Bishops of England and Wales."

[Link to the full account from the Catholic Church in England and Wales](#)

Photograph used with permission. Photo credit: Mazur/www.catholicnews.org.uk.

Lancashire Church Leaders sign social justice pledge

On 14 October the Lancashire Church Leaders renewed their covenant with each other by signing a pledge of support for social action and social justice:

"We, the leaders of the Churches in Lancashire, renew our covenant together and pledge our support for the many excellent faith-based social action projects around the county.

"We will seek to listen to and prioritise the voices of poor and marginalised people in our communities.

"We call on policymakers to tackle the problems of poverty and hunger, through measures such as a Living Wage and review of zero-hours contracts, and to ensure that the welfare state once again provides a robust defence against destitution."

Church Leaders signing the pledge were Rev Richard Church, Moderator of the North Western Synod of the United Reformed Church; Rev Paul Davis, Chair of the Lancashire District of the Methodist Church; Pat Golding, representative of The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers); Bishop Geoff Pearson, the Anglican Suffragan Bishop of Lancaster and Rev Tim Presswood, Transitional Regional Minister of the North Western Baptist Association. Major Mark Billard, Divisional Director for Evangelism of the North Western Division of the Salvation Army; Fr Peter Hopkinson, Ecumenical Officer for the RC Diocese of Salford and Fr Chris Loughran, Ecumenical Officer for the RC Diocese of Lancaster signed on behalf of their Church Leaders.

The event, attended by guests from [Together Lancashire](#) and [Preston Christian Action Network](#), took place at [The Foxton Centre](#) in Preston, a Christian-based social action project which has been doing cutting-edge work with some of the most marginalised members of the local community for 45 years. The Foxton Centre has recently received the BIBAs Lancashire 2014 award for most inspiring business of the year. CEO Tim Keightley said: *"We are delighted to have been given this recognition of the fantastic and inspiring work of our staff, volunteers and trustees and of the inspiring lives our service users lead in overcoming huge obstacles to their successful living."*

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail, please contact [Helen Boothroyd](#), Social Justice and Inter Faith Development Officer, Churches Together in Lancashire



149 Homeless People Remembered

The names of 149 homeless and formerly homeless people, who have died over the last year in London, were remembered at the annual service of commemoration at St Martin-in-the-Fields on Thursday, 6 November.

'Consider the Lilies' was the theme of this year's service, with a lily to represent every life lost. People attending the service were invited to take a lily and plant it in front of the altar as a tribute to their life.

The service, organised by The Connection at St Martin's, St Martin-in-the-Fields and Housing Justice, brings together everyone who wants to remember those who have died during the year, whether still on the streets, in hostels or people who have moved in to accommodation after being homeless.

Sleeping rough has long term detrimental effects to your health and the average age of death is 47 years, compared to 77 years for the general population*. People who have experienced homelessness die younger than they should, even once they have moved in to accommodation.

Stuart was homeless and with support from The Connection at St Martin's is now housed and volunteering. He has been going to the service for 7 years. *"The purpose of the service is to*



remember the person and not just a number. It's about people with names, not numbers. The names are read out but you also hear some of the stories of what happened to people. It's nice when they talk about a certain person. Nobody in this world should be homeless. That's one of the hardest things about it."

Rev Richard Carter of St Martin in the Fields led the service. Richard said *"The theme this year was "Consider the Lilies" from the gospel of Matthew, which speaks to us about the eternal worth of each human life. I think it is particularly appropriate that this service should be in St Martin's on the edge of Trafalgar Square, in the centre of London in the week of remembrance. It is our prayer that those who may have often felt "outsiders" may be remembered at the heart of this city, and in a church which celebrates the inclusive love of God for all. 100 years ago in 2014 Dick Sheppard opened up St Martin's to those returning from the front line and who had been deeply affected by the events they had been through in the war and were seeking peace and sanctuary and to remember and come to terms with all those who had died so tragically. At this service we remember those who have died in the last year who have been homeless or have known homelessness. Their stories also need to be remembered and heard."*

There were a series of readings, moving musical performances from Streetwise Opera and the Choir with no Name. The names of those who have died were read out by representatives from some of the many services helping homeless people in London and prayers were said to remember and give thanks for each individual's life

[Photos from the service are here](#)

Celebrating Catholic ecumenism

The great and the good came together in Leeds on 11 November to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of [Unitatis Redintegratio](#), Vatican II's Decree on Ecumenism.

An afternoon seminar, hosted by the Rt Revd Tony Robinson, Bishop of Pontefract and Chair of the [West Yorkshire Ecumenical Council](#), heard five significant speakers:



- [David Cornick](#), CTE's General Secretary, put the document in its historical context.
- [Paul Murray](#), a member of ARCIC III and editor of *Receptive Ecumenism and the Call to Catholic Learning*, reminded his audience that continuity and change in the Church go together and spoke about the importance of [Receptive Ecumenism](#), the ecumenism of wounded hands.
- [Cally Hammond](#), Dean of Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge, drawing on her personal experience, stressed the importance of trusting God's providence in the ecumenical journey. (Cally is pictured with Paul Murray in the centre and David Moxon on the right.)
- [Ken Howcroft](#), President of the Methodist Conference 2014-2015 and former Methodist Representative to the Holy See, compared the Vatican II document on the Church, *Lumen Gentium* with *Unitatis Redintegratio*. He also challenged the audience to read *Unitatis Redintegratio* through a mirror, as it were, swapping around 'Roman Catholic Church' with the name of their own denomination and then to notice how they felt then about the document.
- Responding to the speakers, Co-Chair of ARCIC, the Most Revd Sir [David Moxon](#), the Archbishop of Canterbury's representative to the Holy See and Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome, said he had three images in his mind. First, God walks in long strides, perhaps a decade. We need to measure ecumenical progress in decades and then we will be better able to see clearly how much things have changed. Secondly, Christian unity is like an aeroplane. When it takes off there is a lot of noise and experience of power but when it is airborne, it is much quieter and it feels still and suspended, as if not much is happening. Yet it is moving fast and with power -- and there is no reverse gear! Thirdly,

using the image of a flotilla of yachts, he stressed that no one Church has it all together, but together we can have it all.

Following the seminar, the audience joined the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and many others for a service of Ecumenical Vespers at St Anne's Cathedral, Leeds, at 5.30pm. The preacher was David Moxon (see above) who spoke movingly about how ecumenism in New Zealand was inspired by the witness of the Martyrs of Papua New Guinea. He said that in New Zealand Catholics and Anglicans came together for Ash Wednesday services and now could not imagine celebrating Ash Wednesday separately.

Papers and photos from the seminar and vespers can be downloaded from the [West Yorkshire Ecumenical Council](#).

Churches Together in Cornwall Gathering - 16 November 2014

The Right Reverend Mark O'Toole, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Plymouth was presented by Cornwall Churches Together Missioner, Lay Canon David H Smith (far right) to the Right Reverend Tim Thornton, Bishop of Truro, who admitted Bishop Mark as an Ecumenical Canon of the Cathedral Church of Truro. Ecumenical Canon Steven Wild, Chairman designate of the Methodist Conference is pictured on the left of Bishop Tim.



The new Roman Catholic Bishop of Plymouth the Rt. Rev. Mark O'Toole was presented to Bishop Tim by the Churches Together in Cornwall Missioner Canon David Smith, Bishop Mark was admitted as a sign of 'our friendship in Christ' as an Ecumenical Canon of the Cathedral, replacing Bishop Christopher Budd who is now retired.

Bishop Tim also welcomed Sister Jacqueline and Frances and William Barnardo from the Chenin Neuf Community all now resident in Sclerder Abbey. In both cases the congregation responded enthusiastically to the Bishop Tim's request for a round of applause.

In his homily Bishop Mark first thanked the people responsible for the honour and then spoke about ecumenisms both historically and currently reminding us that "*What we share is greater than what divides us*".

We were reminded of the fact that Bishop Benson's son became a Roman Catholic priest and later bequeathed a house as a centre for ecumenical relations where past difficulties were acknowledge but the presence of God recognised and becomes a reality as demonstrated by St. Paul in Eph.6.

We were told that the Pope continues daily to pray for unity. Bishop Mark also referred to the fact that both churches are united in Baptism and a belief in the Trinity. Both churches evangelise where personal conversations are more effective than 'meetings.' He concluded by asking us to persevere on the journey together.

'Treasury of Activities' from South London

Churches Together in South London have produced a 'Treasury of Activities' which is an 'Inventory' of what local groups of churches have listed from their groups.

John Richardson is the Ecumenical Officer and prepared the list with the help of Colin Watson of Churches Together in Balham and Upper Tooting. It's based on responses from local ecumenical groups about what they do/would like to do and we have grouped these in the categories suggested originally by Jenny Carpenter.



John says, 'You will see from the covering note that I hope it will be helpful to our local groups, with the health warning that they shouldn't try to do everything! We intend it to be an organic document that will grow as more ideas are suggested.'

It's prepared with South London information but any group of Churches Together may find it helpful as a list.

[CTSL paper 'Treasury of Activities'](#)

[John Richardson's paper 'A Naïve Theology of Ecumenism'](#)

[Video interview with John Richardson reflecting on 50 years of ecumenism](#)

Tributes to David Goodbourn

Bob Fyffe, General Secretary of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland writes:

It was with great sadness today that the staff at Churches Together in Britain and Ireland learnt of the passing of its former General Secretary and former President of Luther King House, Dr David Goodbourn.



In a tribute to David, we have invited some of his previous colleagues to share with us their memories of having worked alongside him:

Bishop Angaelos, General Bishop, Coptic Orthodox Church, United Kingdom

In having dealt with my dear friend the late Dr David Goodbourn for many years, it was obvious that he had a heart for the life of the Church in Britain and Ireland and was heavily committed to the continued efforts of unifying its life and witness. David was instrumental at a time of restructuring and renewing of vision within CTBI, and his efforts, love and commitment will never be forgotten.

I pray that God grants David well deserved rest after his valiant and gracious struggle with illness for many years. While he will be truly missed, his influence and memory will always be with us.

Bob Fyffe (General Secretary of CTBI)

Having worked with David over a number of years before following him into CTBI, I can testify to the many people at home and abroad whom David has worked with and influenced. I first met him at St. Colm's College when David was running the Scottish Churches Open College. Many people across Scotland, lay and ordained, owe so much of their formation to David's enthusiasm and teaching style. It was no surprise when he was appointed as General Secretary of CTBI in 1999 where his rigorous mind and depth of knowledge across the ecumenical scene was put to best use. Following David into CTBI also allowed me to see the care and attention to detail he gave to organisational strategy and the wide vision for Christian unity that he carried within himself. David's contribution to that wider ecumenical vision was illustrated by his active involvement with the World Council of Churches and beyond. Apart from that he was one of the nicest and most Christian people I have had the privilege to know.

Margaret Swinson (former Moderator of CTBI Trustees and long-time member of the Church Representatives Meeting)

I was fortunate to work with David both at CTBI and, following his retirement, in his new role at Luther King House. His commitment to ecumenical working was exemplary as was his care and attention to all that he did which was enlivened by his gracious manner and humour.

Gillian Kingston (former Moderator of the CTBI CRM)

To have worked alongside David Goodbourn on the Church Representative Meeting was both a privilege and pleasure. David's clarity of vision and sharpness of mind surmounted challenges presented by both situations and personalities. Above all he had an engaging and infectious sense of humour which stayed with him through his illness. Ar dheas De a raibh a h-anam dilis (translated - May his sweet soul be at the right hand of God).

Peter Sulston (former Moderator of Executive Committee of CRM)

When David was General Secretary of CTBI from 1999 to 2006 he brought to the role all his skills as an adult educator, particularly his commitment to encouraging the gifts and insights of others

and playing to the strengths of colleagues. Although his deep affection for Scotland was clear he always sought to be objective and churches in all four nations trusted and respected him. Although not outwardly demonstrative David's commitment to things being done properly, his quiet competence and meticulous attention to detail all inspired respect and confidence. He was not afraid to grasp nettles and managed the changes to the way CTBI worked and the necessary reduction of its activities with great professionalism. In more informal settings staff, trustees and all who worked with David were always aware of his personal warmth and dry humour. His 'parting thoughts' published just over a year ago reflected on what mattered knowing he had only months to live. He was grateful to know that he and his work were valued and that he was loved. His honesty and readiness to go where faith led him was both moving and challenging. The words of Julian of Norwich express, in part at least, the faith by which David lived and died: "Love is not changed by death, and nothing is lost, and all in the end is harvest". I thank God for the privilege of knowing him and working with him.

Reform magazine article

A dedicated page has been included on the CTBI website <http://www.ctbi.org.uk/694> on which we are also privileged to reproduce an article written by David in Reform Magazine, shortly after having been diagnosed with cancer and which we hope you might take the time to read.

Bob Fyffe
10.11.14

Christ's Incarnation with Anglicans & Orthodox

History made, as Anglicans, Oriental Orthodox agree on Christ's incarnation

Report by ACNS staff, October 27, 2014

Senior theologians in Anglican Communion and Oriental Orthodox Churches recently made history by signing an agreement on their mutual understanding of Christ's incarnation.

This was not just a minor point of theology, rather it was a subject that divided the Church following the Council of Chalcedon* in 451 AD, leaving the Oriental Orthodox Churches separated from the Eastern Orthodox Churches and the Church of Rome.

The work to reconcile these branches of the Christian family on the question of how the two natures, human and divine, were united in one human being: Jesus Christ began in earnest in the 1990s.

By 2002 an Agreed Statement on Christology had been prepared by the Anglican-Oriental Orthodox International Commission (AOOIC) and sent to the participating Churches and an updated statement was recirculated in 2013. By the October meeting in Cairo, AOOIC members were able to finalise the document and Bishop Geoffrey Rowell and His Eminence Metropolitan Bishop of Damietta signed on behalf of their Churches.

This statement, which is a significant step of reconciliation, will now be sent to "the responsible authorities of the Oriental Orthodox Churches and the Anglican Communion for their consideration and action".

[Click here to read the Agreed Statement on Christology](#)

[Click here to read the Communique from the meeting of the Anglican-Oriental Orthodox International Commission that met in Cairo, Egypt from 13-17 October, 2014.](#)

Notes

*The Council of Chalcedon was a highly influential church council held from 8 October to 1 November, 451 AD, at Chalcedon (a city of Bithynia in Asia Minor), on the Asian side of the Bosphorus.

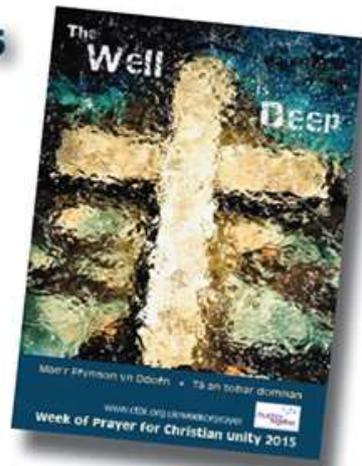


Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2015

Resources adapted by the Britain and Ireland writers group include:

- Pamphlet with order of service and reflections
- Powerpoint of service
- A3/A4 Poster

Order or download from:
WWW.CTBI.ORG.UK/WEEKOFPRAYER



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.



This is an invitation for any artist to submit their work for consideration in the competition. The prize is to have a picture printed on the CTE Christmas card, with the work referenced on the card with thanks, acknowledgement, and a link to the artist's blog or web site if there is one. The picture will also be used on the CTE website for Christmas too, 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.

All details: www.cte.org.uk/christmaspicture

And finally ... CTE 2014 Annual Report

A popular Annual Report of Churches Together in England for 2014.

[This PDF version is a summary report prepared as a readable document for general use.](#)



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