



Reflection: Holy Week Cross is front page news in Stoke-on-Trent

It was Good Friday morning in McDonald's. A dozen of us sat inside with a warm coffee while two of the team had volunteered to miss the drink and stand outside holding up the 11ft tall cross facing the drive-through customers.

The two men hadn't met each other until today. While the rest of us sipped away I noticed through the window that they seemed to be hitting it off. Break over I went out to them "You two seem to be getting along well out here". "Yes," they said, "we have something in common.... we were both in the same prison – at different times." One was a local church member, and the other had become a Christian in prison and only released three weeks earlier. They both smiled and quipped "Look at us.... the two thieves either side of the cross!" This was the power of the cross drawing people together which we saw in a new way on a daily basis in our city this Easter time.



The city of Stoke-on-Trent comprises 6 historic towns. We don't have an official Churches Together for the city though there are smaller gatherings of local leaders spread around the towns. But this Easter time for 6 days from Palm Sunday to Good Friday, a unique cross brought our city churches together in public witness at Easter for the first time for many years. The cross made up of sad front page stories over the past 12 months from our local newspaper, appropriately called "The Sentinel", was walked each morning from one town to another until the whole City had been circled. Each day it was passed from one group of Christians to another, like a baton in a relay - and like a magnet drawing iron filings, it drew together Christians of different ages, backgrounds and denominations – Roman Catholic, Anglican, Methodist, Baptist, Pentecostal. Together we felt bold and strong, and proud to be seen as followers of Christ.

The cross was walked, stood, and prayed beside, outside shops, schools, homes and business parks and then stood in each town for a short noon service followed by afternoon witness. People were invited to cover up the sad stories of violence and crime with daffodils representing the love, prayers, hopes and dreams of the people, for the people, of our city and symbolising the transformative power of the resurrected Jesus who took all our bad news stories upon himself and covered them with his love. Three years ago the cross stood in one town. Two years ago it stood in three towns and was walked by 6 people. This year it stood in all 6 towns on 6 days and was walked and carried the 20 or so miles between all 6 towns by 60 people. Next year is already being advertised and it won't surprise me if 600 are involved in the walking never mind the gatherings.



This year we walked in heavy rain at some stage most days! Like Gene Kelly we found ourselves singing and dancing in it; it seemed the rain was prophetic of the spiritual soaking that Christians have been praying for over our city for many years. Could it be that God is preparing to answer those prayers sooner rather than later? Are we ready?

See the walk on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tbTX-tvuY2M&feature=youtu.be>

Captain Frank McGregor, Church Army, is the Parish Creative Missioner with the Hanley Team Ministry, Stoke-on-Trent.



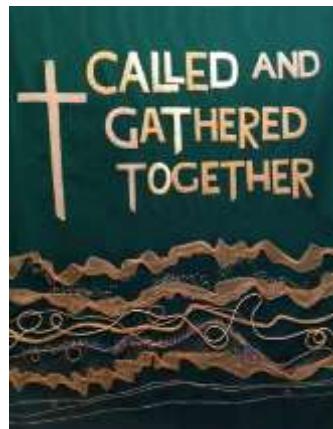
The 2015 Forum

The Forum is a delegate conference, bringing together over three hundred representatives of Churches Together in England's Member Churches, Intermediate Bodies, Co-ordinating Groups and Bodies in Association.

The next Forum takes place from teatime on Monday 28 to lunchtime on Wednesday 30 September 2015 at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. You can download a draft programme.

If you wish to attend, contact the national office of your Church or your Intermediate Body to see if you can be one of the delegates. Nearer the time, if we have spare spaces at the Forum, we will open it out to others.

Information link: www.cte.org.uk/forum2015



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'One Friday': A new resource for Good Friday 2016

On Good Friday 25th March 2016 the story of The Passion will be told in hundreds of new and challenging ways in the streets and communities of the UK. There will be music, drama and commissioned art. We will resource churches to stage public events and exhibitions that will engage their local communities in retelling and responding to the events of the final day of Jesus' life.

The last few years have seen a dramatic decline in knowledge of the Bible. Good Friday remains a Bank Holiday, though increasingly shops are open and many people wonder why they've been given a day off work. To keep the story of Jesus alive we need to find new ways of telling it in public places.

Throughout the ages Christians have responded to the Good Friday story by commissioning public art or music, or by performing Passion plays. Churches of many denominations still meet together ecumenically through Lent, or mark Good Friday with a combined service, or a Walk of Witness.

ONE FRIDAY is encouraging local inter-church and community groups to do something different in 2016; something unique and public that is specific to their location; something that will engage their community in retelling and reflecting on the story of the Passion of Jesus.

ONE FRIDAY will take many different forms. It might be an event in the open-air on Good Friday, or an exhibition in a community venue, or a procession that retells the story in a series of locations. We will be providing a host of downloadable ideas and resources that can be adapted to any setting. The common thread will be the Scriptural Stations of the Cross. At the beginning of Lent each "station" will be assigned to an individual or community group, who will be asked to respond to it through art, music or other forms of creativity. These contributions will be woven together into a unique offering from and for the community.

Every community expression will be different, but they will be linked by the title ONE FRIDAY in... eg Buxton / Lambeth / Aberdeen. Common branding will enable us to generate national and local media interest. We are seeking endorsement from national church leaders and organisations to make this a truly national and ecumenical event.

Andrew Graystone, the contact/co-ordinator for ONE FRIDAY says, 'What we are aiming at is as many



people as possible hearing the Good Friday account, in as many creative ways as possible, and in as many communities as local churches can co-ordinate community groups to engage with the narrative'.

'In one northern ex-mining area local community groups were given shopping trolleys to become Stations of the Cross, at which part of the Good Friday account was explored and presented. Other towns and villages could choose their own creative way - remember the churches in one seaside town that used beach huts as Stations of the Cross?!"

'Do start planning now for 2016 and think of churches and community groups that could be involved. We have a website, resources and stories to tell where this has been successfully piloted - we want to capture the community and even media interest in the life of Jesus and its relevance today'.



Download a PDF to discuss and start planning from the website www.onefriday.info.

Act Now for Climate Justice launched on 22 April – Earth Day.



**World Council
of Churches**

The [campaign](#) initiated by the ACT Alliance runs in collaboration with several ecumenical partners, including the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Lutheran World Federation.

The campaign involves churches, religious organizations and civil society around the world in raising awareness on climate change effects, especially in their effects on the most poor and vulnerable people. The initiative calls on world leaders to cut carbon emissions drastically, and to help the world's poorest to cope with the impacts of climate change while engaging in development in a sustainable way.

Act Now for Climate Justice has also been launched in many different places, including the ACT General Assembly in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic in October last year. The campaign launch in Geneva used the significance of the Earth Day celebration to broaden, diversify and activate the environmental movement worldwide. The campaign is particularly significant given the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris this year, where governments will strive to agree on a comprehensive climate agreement.

The ecumenical organizations involved with this campaign have been working tirelessly together in advocacy and campaigning, as well as in prayer and solidarity, to support the millions affected by the impacts of climate change. Rev. Dr Ioan Sauca, WCC associate general secretary and director of the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, Switzerland shared theological reflections at the launch. "Humans are partners and co-workers with God and should act responsibly towards creation," he said.

"From a theological perspective the message of Earth Day is to recognize how God is the creator of a good and beautiful creation. God creates human beings so that they can 'till and care' for the garden of creation according to the biblical story in Genesis 2," Sauca added. "Earth Day is an appropriate time to re-launch the Act Now for Climate Justice campaign in the Ecumenical Centre," said Dr Guillermo Kerber, WCC programme executive for Care for Creation and Climate Justice. He went on to say that "caring for the earth and striving for climate justice have been at the core of the work of the WCC, the ACT Alliance and other ecumenical organizations. Various pilgrimages to COP21 in Paris are being organized by the churches and faith communities to join in prayer and action for an effective response to the climate crisis," he added.

[Website of the Act Now for Climate Justice campaign](#)

[WCC member churches pursue climate justice](#) (WCC news release of 1 April 2015)

[WCC's work on climate justice and care for creation](#)

Church leaders commit to joining forces for UK mission

Church leaders from across denominations committed to renewed unity in evangelism and mission in March. This is a copy of an article from Hope Together with thanks for the text and pictures:

During an historic event bringing together 40 church leaders in the Lake District, Anglican leader, the Archbishop of York, and the leader of Britain's Baptists planted an oak tree together to symbolise church unity in evangelism. The tree was planted during the gathering that took place on 10-11 March which included 24 hours of prayer and discussion about evangelism and mission.



The Archbishop, the Most Revd John Sentamu, and Revd Lynn Green, General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain were among the leaders brought together by HOPE, the Evangelical Alliance and the Church of England to consider how to help more people across the UK become followers of Jesus.

Dr Rachel Jordan, national mission and evangelism adviser for the Church of England, said: "The aim was to gather key Christian leaders to focus on evangelism; to understand the current trends in our population with regard to Christian faith and to commit to prayer and action together to help many more people become followers of Jesus."

Steve Clifford, general director of the Evangelical Alliance UK, who also chairs HOPE, added: "We want to raise the bar in the UK population's understanding of who Jesus is, and increase the percentage of people in the UK who know a follower of Jesus who has positively shared life and faith with them."

During the event the leaders held a prayer meeting on a boat on Lake Windermere and discussed how churches of different traditions and styles could learn and act together in response to Jesus' Great Commission to "Go and make disciples of all nations".

As well as including leaders from across the spectrum of denominations, there were also leaders from across ethnicities. Yemi Adedeji, associate director for HOPE and director of the Evangelical Alliance's One People Commission, said: "The presence and contribution of black and other ethnic church leaders during the summit was refreshing and invaluable in fostering unity in relationship, spirituality and common purpose." Roy Crowne, HOPE's director, said: "One of my prayers for this event is that friendships will have grown. Out of fellowship the kingdom of God is expressed. Our dream is that the Good News of Jesus will take root in our villages, towns and cities as churches and leaders build new bonds of friendship and the kind of unity that Jesus said would show the world what God is like."

[Refreshed Hope Together website and this article link](#)

[Download the THEOS report on Hope 2014](#)

[Video re Hope 2015-2020](#)

[Hope resources](#)

[Roy Crowne video for Churches Together re Hope 2014 \(to be updated\)](#)

Rural Mission Sunday

Join us on 19th July 2015 for the launch of Rural Mission Sunday, an annual event celebrating the work of small rural churches.[Haddenham Jubilee Party] Sometimes we can feel overshadowed in the rural church by larger urban churches. Sometimes we don't always think that small churches 'do mission'. At the ARC we think differently. We feel passionately about the importance of small churches; we know



they do mission and want to celebrate that fact.

This July we are launching Rural Mission Sunday and we invite you to get involved by holding a special service on the theme of bread. We have dozens of resources to help.

The day we suggest for this celebration is Sunday 19th July 2015, but the materials could be used anytime in July - or indeed another time of year altogether.

[Link to the website and resources for Rural Mission Sunday](#)

HG Bishop Angaelos represents HH Pope Tawadros II at Italy conference re Christians in the Middle East

His Grace Bishop Angaelos, General Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church in the United Kingdom, took part in an international conference entitled 'Christians in the Middle East: What Future?' officially representing His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St Mark.



The conference, which was held on 29-30 April 2015 in Bari Italy, was attended by patriarchs and heads of the Catholic, Oriental Orthodox and Eastern Orthodox Churches of the Middle East, along with international political and governmental representatives, journalists, academics and lay members of communities.

Speaking of the need for collaborative efforts in responding to the extreme challenges that face Christians in the Middle East, Bishop Angaelos said: *"It is time for greater collaboration between our Churches, governments, organisations, and initiatives like this, which will lead to greater results for all. If we do not take ownership in responding to this situation and the needs of those suffering in the Middle East now, opportunists will take our place and use this tragedy and its victims for their own agenda. A lack of coordination will lead to a fragmentation of what should be a very powerful voice of advocacy, as well as duplication and the wastage of resources that are already limited in light of the immense need."*

On the final day of the conference Bishop Angaelos spoke about safeguarding the rights and freedoms of Christians in the Middle East, and the importance of classifying them as indigenous people, saying: *"This must be transformed from an issue of minorities to one of indigenous people who have had their roots in these lands for not only decades or centuries but millennia. They are an intrinsic part of, and a stabilising force in, the region, and losing them would be a loss to the whole world as they are, through their continuous presence, part of the history, institution and constitution of the Middle East."*

Speaking of the continued need for voicing the issue and for advocacy efforts, Bishop Angaelos said: *"There has been such an immense bravery and witness from so many in the region, including the Ethiopian and Coptic martyrs who recently paid the ultimate price, the two Syrian archbishops who remain missing, and so many more in Iraq and Syria. As Christian leaders we must continue to speak with a voice that is nuanced, no longer referring to Christians of the East and West, but speaking as the one Body of Christ that suffers and witnesses equally and is unified in proclaiming the Gospel."*

As part of the programme, attendees gathered for a service of prayer dedicated to Christians of the Middle East in the Basilica of San Nicola on Wednesday evening. The conference was hosted collaboratively by the Community of Sant'Egidio and the Catholic Archdiocese of Bari-Bitonto in response to an open plea by His Holiness Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome and Supreme Pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church, for 'an appropriate response from the international community to the challenges facing Christians in the Middle East.'

Pope Tawadros visited Pope Francis at the [Vatican in May 2013](#), marking 40 years since the late Pope Shenouda III and the late Pope Paul VI signed the historic Christological agreement between their respective Churches at the Vatican in 1973. Bishop Angaelos, who was also part of the delegation accompanying Pope Tawadros, said 'during this visit, Their Holiness spoke of the shared heritage of

martyrdom in their Churches, which now seems almost prophetic in light of this and similar meetings that attempt to respond to atrocities that continue to be faced by members of their Churches today in the Middle East.'

View this Press Release online via www.CopticMediaUK.com

Visit www.Santegidio.org for more information about the conference.

'Living Stones' Ecumenical pilgrimage to the Holy land



A group of 14 pilgrims from various Christian congregations in Britain, including five from Farm Street Jesuit Church in London, have just returned from a Living Stones Pilgrimage to Jordan. The pilgrimage provided the opportunity to show solidarity with the Christian churches of the Middle East through meeting and worshipping with the Christian communities in Jordan as they celebrated Holy Week and Easter together.

In Jordan Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox Christians celebrate Easter on the same date as a way of showing the unity of the Christian population at this extremely threatening time in the region.

The pilgrims worshipped together with the Greek Orthodox, Syrian Orthodox and Anglican communities, as well as celebrating Holy Thursday at the Latin Cathedral and Easter Vigil at the Melkite Cathedral in Amman.

Good Friday saw an ecumenical Way of the Cross in the wholly Christian town of Fuheis, led by the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, and attracting 2,000 Christians.

Then on the final day there was a meeting with the Middle Eastern Council of Churches who spoke of the serious situation of Christians in Jordan as they welcome tens of thousands of their sisters and brothers expelled often violently from Iraq and Syria.

In addition there were visits to places of biblical interest, the site of Our Lord's baptism and Mount Nebo where Moses settled and died.

But the aim of the pilgrimage was not to learn of the past but to encounter the 'living stones', the real people in the region today who need our support so badly as they struggle to keep Christianity as part of the mosaic of the Middle East.

To read the whole report visit:

http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=27212#.VS_3Jtvb1Ic.facebook

Poverty Sunday - 21st June 2015 Help Transform Lives with a Frugal Lunch



Poverty Sunday is a national initiative encouraging local churches and community groups to reflect, raise funds and respond to issues of poverty affecting communities in England.

We are inviting you to take part in a Poverty Sunday Service followed by a Frugal Lunch on Sunday 21st June, or a day or time that suits you. The Frugal Lunch is a great way to encourage people to share, identify and pray together about issues affecting deprived local communities. It is also a way to encourage and motivate others in your community to respond in a practical way to the issues of poverty in England by donating the cost of their normal Sunday lunch to the work of the Together Network and Church Urban Fund.

The programme of activities and resources is available to download for free on the [website](#) and include:

- **Church Resources:** we have produced sermon notes, worship reflections and prayers.
- **Frugal Lunch Resources:** Poverty Sunday placemat and poster
- **Video Resources:** Mel's animation story, explaining the work of the Together Network and CUF, and Dave's story of healing through a church project in Southwark Diocese
- **General CUF Presentation:** briefly outlining the work of CUF and the Together Network

- **Children's Resources:** Placemat for Frugal lunch (to come) and KS1,2,3 Lesson Plans, Youth Group Session and Form Reflections that concentrate on explaining the Web of Poverty to different age groups.

Spread the word! We are excited about the potential that Poverty Sunday has to get Christians around England reflecting on and acting to tackle issues of poverty in our country.

[Find out more and register to download your FREE resource pack](#)

Meeting of Minds

Susanna Morris writes:

We are holding a national event called, 'A meeting of minds: A day of vision, strategy and commitment for the local church and mental health'. This is an opportunity to network with others who have a desire to increase awareness and excellence in the area of mental health, pastoral care, church life, and community outreach. It is also an opportunity to learn from those who are already leading the way in this important aspect of development.



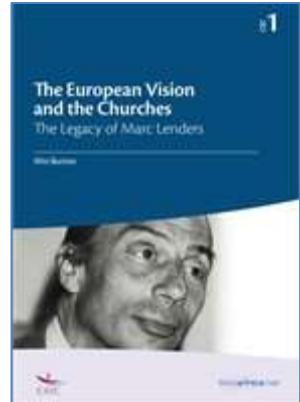
One of our headline speakers is Dr Michele Hampson (Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist) who will be showcasing the work of 'Opening Minds' in the Nottingham and Southwell Diocese. We have many other exciting speakers who are leaders in fields of psychology, church leadership and community based ministries, who will be covering topics to help us face many of the challenges we encounter in local church ministry. More information about the event, including speakers and topics can be found at

<http://www.cmhconsultancy.org.uk/a-meeting-of-minds>

[Download flyer for Meeting of Minds day conference PDF](#)

The European Vision and the Churches: The Legacy of Marc Lenders

The Conference of European Churches is pleased to announce its first publication in collaboration with Globethics.net. [The European Vision and the Churches: The Legacy of Marc Lenders](#) is now available online.



The short volume offers a detailed and accessible account of Marc Lenders's significant contributions to ecumenical life in Europe. From 1966 through 1999, Pastor Lenders established a growing legacy dialogue and engagement between the churches of Europe and the political institutions that represent its people.

The book was compiled by long-time EECCS* staff member Win Burton in collaboration with Marc Lenders himself. It is an essential read for anyone interested in the churches' relationship with European political institutions and the growth of the ecumenical movement.

* European Ecumenical Commission for Church and Society, which was a predecessor to the Church and Society Commission that has now merged with the Conference of European Churches.

For more information, please contact [Erin Green, Communication Coordinator](#), Conference of European Churches. [The Conference of European Churches \(CEC\)](#) is a fellowship of some 114 Orthodox, Protestant, Anglican and Old Catholic Churches from all countries of Europe, plus 40 national council of churches and organisations in partnership. CEC was founded in 1959. It has offices in Brussels and Strasbourg.

Churches play vital part in tackling homelessness and housing need

More than 70 people from churches, homeless charities, and others working with people at risk of homelessness met yesterday in Manchester at the Housing Justice Roadshow. The event, Your Church and the Housing Crisis, was held at Salford Cathedral Centre, in partnership with CARITAS Salford and The Booth Centre.



Bishop John Arnold in welcoming everyone to the event said: "The gulf between the richest and poorest of our communities becomes ever more evident. This speaks loudly and clearly of a fundamental injustice which needs to be addressed. Housing and the security of having a home must be among our priorities. It is an urgent need." Alison Gelder, CEO of Housing Justice, said: "Homelessness is increasing and, as a country, we are not building enough new homes to meet our needs. Whatever the outcome of the general election next month, Churches have resources of buildings, land and volunteers – and a Christian duty to bring them to bear to tackle the problems in their communities. Today has been about letting people know what can be achieved and firing them up to go out and make a difference."

As well as people from churches of all denominations from Manchester and other parts of the country there were representatives from local and statutory authorities as well as national Christian charities including Church Action on Poverty, Green Pastures, Hope into Action and the National No Accommodation Network.

Housing Justice is the national voice of Christian action on homelessness and housing need. The Manchester Roadshow is one of a series of events Housing Justice is organizing around the country to encourage and support churches to be part of the housing solution and to work in partnership with others.

The next Housing Justice Roadshow will take place in Exeter on 18th June.

<http://www.housingjustice.org.uk/events.php/119/housing-justice-roadshow-exeter>

Changing Landscape of Ecumenism

This is a copy of a paper presented by Revd Dr David Cornick, General Secretary of CTE to the Cambridge Ecumenical Council on 16th April 2015.



Sample text:

Thank you for your invitation to explore the changing ecumenical landscape. I want to begin by describing some of the changes that my colleagues and I are observing in our work, and then I want to do a little bit of theological reflection and then open up a conversation with you – because that's always the most interesting part of this kind of gathering.

I joined CTE in 2008, which in retrospect was not a good time to start a new job! I began in May, and in the October the economy collapsed. I don't detect a causal link, but it was not an auspicious time to be joining an umbrella organisation which was dependent on the giving of over 30 charitable organisations. CTE's vision was then about supporting ecumenism in two main ways. The first was horizontally, gathering the denominations together through a series of co-ordinating groups which were intended to allow them to share their work and co-operate in areas like mission, new housing, training, unity and theology. The second was vertical, supporting the ecumenical infrastructure of Intermediate Bodies stretching across England which in its turn was supporting a whole ecology of 'churches together' groups locally and various expressions of ecumenical co-operation locally, particularly but not exclusively LEPs. In other words, we were focused on what I've grown to call 'historic ecumenism'. I say that with affection and respect because, like most of you (I suspect) I was shaped and moulded spiritually by that movement which was the most exciting and dynamic force in the twentieth century church, and which only just, by the smallest of margins, failed to change the shape of English Christianity decisively. Let me say just a little about that heritage which we share.

[Download PDF of the whole paper: Changing Landscape of Ecumenism](#)

Standing ovation as Justin Welby and Vincent Nichols declare unity

Carey Lodge writes on **Christian Today** with the following text for which we are grateful:



Cardinal Vincent Nichols, together with Justin Welby, spoke with great respect for Pope Francis' commitment to unity. The heads of the Anglican and Catholic churches in the UK received a standing ovation at the Royal Albert Hall after praying for Christian unity and talking openly about the challenges of achieving it.

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and the Archbishop of Westminster Cardinal Vincent Nichols were interviewed on stage at the HTB Leadership Conference by Nicky Gumbel, in what Gumbel called a "historic" moment. The two leaders discussed their friendship, and spoke about initiatives around which they've united, such as working against human trafficking. "What joins us together is that sense that is the Lord Jesus Christ who reaches out to us and calls us together," Welby said. "The call of the Church [is] to repent of our divisions and seek unity in Christ so that the world may know Jesus."

Nichols and Welby are both credited with establishing warmer relations between the Anglican and Catholic Churches. It is the disunity of the Church that destroys peace, Welby said. "We destroy the peace of the Church and the Church's capacity to be a peacemaker, to bring the peace of Christ to this world, when we are not peaceful with each other – when we fight, destroy and tear each other, as Paul said to the Galatians."

Nichols said he and Welby have "an implicit trust in each other", which has not always been the case with Anglican and Catholic leaders. "It is not something that is heavy, that we work at because it's an uphill struggle, but it's much more like a breeze coming from behind us that catches our sails and helps us to go forward," he said.

They both spoke with great respect about Pope Francis, and of his commitment to unity. Francis emanates a "profound sense of global authority, a profound sense of global wisdom... a deep commitment to human relations and above all relations both with the core and those on the edge," Welby said. When we've met we've talked principally about prayer, the Lord Jesus Christ and the poor. I've come away from each meeting with a renewed determination and inspiration...[to be] drawn back to the face of Christ."

Nichols thanked the Pope for helping people to see the Christian gospel in a new way, and the Catholic Church "through fresh eyes". He praised Francis' humility and rootedness, sharing that the Pontiff had told him that he had never once lost his sense of deep peace since taking on the role. "We need people to see our unity," Welby added. "If invisible symbols were effective, Jesus need never have been born as a human being. But visible symbols reach out and break into the hearts of human beings [and] demonstrate the reality of the love of God in Jesus Christ."

"When we are visibly united, it speaks more powerfully to the world...than we can ever begin to imagine, and we cripple our witness when we are not united," he added. "We release a power of witness in the world of who Jesus is, of hope, [and of] life."

There was strong sense of the personal importance of unity to the three leaders on stage. They also appeared to be in agreement about how to bring it about – a combination of human endeavour, God's leading and love for one another. Reconciliation is "not something we negotiate and construct," Nichols said, "but something we receive in two places: on our knees and in the service of the poor."

Article link:

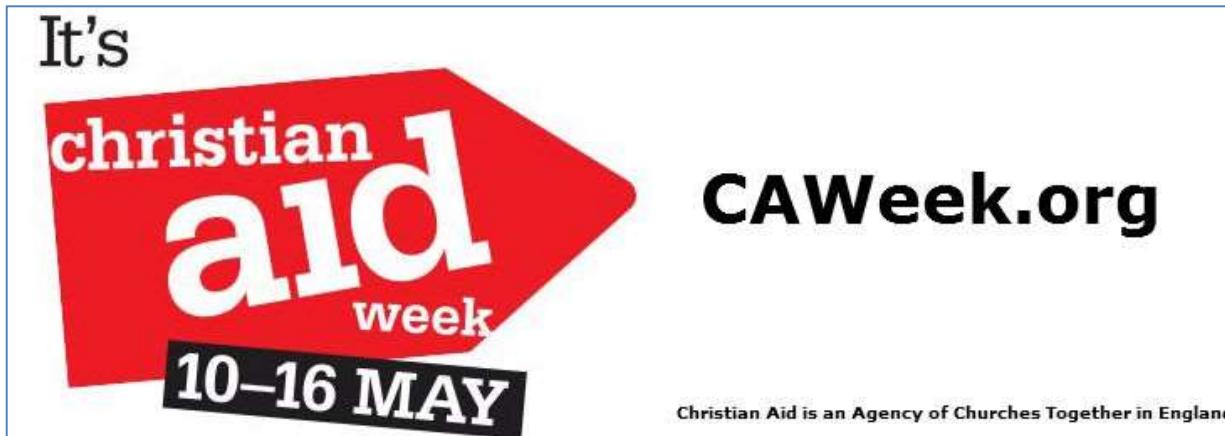
<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/standing.ovation.as.justin.welby.and.cardinal.vincent.nichols.declare.unity/53362.htm>

Farewell to Celia Blackden

Directors, Inter Faith and Staff colleagues, friends and previous members of staff joined Revd Dr David Cornick, General Secretary of Churches Together in England in thanking Celia Blackden for her work as Inter Faith for Churches Together in England. David presented Celia with a book of memories and comments from



colleagues and friends. In thanking the 30-40 people able to attend, Celia quoted Maria Voce, the President of Focalare, who had spoken about the 'extremism of dialogue' at the United Nations. Celia, who has joined the international Focolare staff in the communications and translation office in Rome, stressed the importance of Inter Faith dialogue – and how necessary and much hard work it is – in the ecumenical context today.



And finally, a recommended video re General Election

'Just Show Up' campaign supported by several denominations and agencies in partnership with Christians in Politics:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aa4canKcoYo>



And a call to prayer in 40 towns and cities:

<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?ca=b7f022a1-fd7d-419e-8ef0-422850e7aded&c=61e9fee0-a3b5-11e3-a5e9-d4ae52a4597c&ch=628fdbd0-a3b5-11e3-a64a-d4ae52a4597c>

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