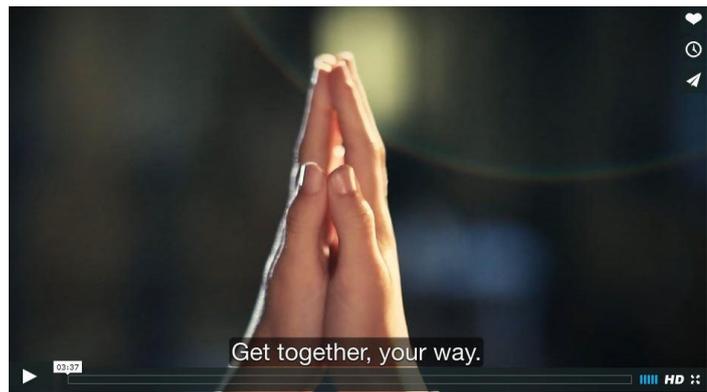




Reflection of the Month: Praying Together

The Archbishop of Canterbury speaks about praying together in this video which introduces *Thy Kingdom Come*. Archbishop Justin reflects on prayer and evangelisation.

Local churches and Churches Together groups are beginning to prepare in a wide variety of ways, and in all traditions, for praying together in 2017.



Click the picture or the link <https://vimeo.com/181913904>

Extended video including the 6 CTE Presidents: <https://vimeo.com/183026876>

[Latest news re Thy Kingdom Come, including an ecumenical group of churches in Basingstoke and Orthodox Prayer for the Conversion of England.](#)

Sign up for more information about Thy Kingdom Come: www.thykingdom.co.uk

Pentecost Symposium Invitation letter

Bishop Joe Aldred writes:

On behalf of Bishop Eric Brown, CTE Pentecostal President, I am writing to invite you to register for the first ever National Pentecostal and Charismatic Symposium and Celebration which is due to take place on Saturday 26 November 2016, from 9.30am – 8.30pm at Kensington Temple, Kensington Park Road, London W11 3BY (Close to Notting Hill Gate Tube Station). It promises to be a land-mark event!



Booking on a first-come-first-serve basis has already begun and we anticipate attendees from all walks of British church and society, not exclusively Pentecostals and Charismatics.

Entrance will be exclusively by prior booking via Eventbrite, for which there is a link [here](#) at £9.99 per person. Block-booking is possible also.

The momentous event will profile Pentecostalism in England (and the wider United Kingdom) including British/African/Caribbean, Black and White, Charismatics, Classical and Neo-Pentecostals as a dynamic multi-ethnic, multi-denominational ecclesial stream that is part of the whole church in its spiritual, social, economic, political and missional life in this country. It will feature Pentecostals while welcoming Christians from all parts of the Church, people of other and of no faith.

More information and to book visit:

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/481117/Home/News/Latest_news_articles/National_Pentecostal_Symposium.aspx

Bishop Joe Aldred, Pentecostal and Multicultural Relations, Churches Together in England.

Young people come to Taizé in Birmingham

Taizé is coming to Birmingham. Young people are invited to come for the whole weekend (Friday 28 April to Monday 1 May 2017) or for the one-day programme on the Saturday. Everyone, young and not-so-young are invited to join in with city-wide prayers. The local community is rallying round to provide accommodation.



As well as the prayer in city-centre churches, there will be workshops on questions of faith and social commitment, space for biblical reflection and silence and meetings in small groups with people of different backgrounds. Visit the [Taizé Birmingham](#) website for more information.

Remembering our story

Cardinal Vincent Nichols reminisces about the beginning of Churches Together in England in a video interview published today on CTE's website.

[Watch the video here](#)



Recalling his involvement in the *Not Strangers But Pilgrims* Inter-Church Process which navigated the shift from Councils of Churches to the *Churches Together* model, the Cardinal stressed the importance of recognising our different understandings of Church. 'How is the Church understood?' he asked. 'And how is that understanding reflected in structures?' Those were the fundamental questions underpinning the process of change. They had led to questions about authority and to a consensus that the new ecumenical instruments, like CTE, should be enabling bodies, not bodies which attempted to speak for the Churches.

Remembering the tensions of the early days, he recognised the way relationships had shifted and changed. The ecumenical instruments, he said, had been very effective in bringing people together and had created a shared space for strengthening relationships which had now developed to 'allow a more serious conversation'. Shared space included the January Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the Pentecost week of prayer for Christian mission which complemented each other, he said, though there is more energy for mission these days.

Asked about the lessons for today, the Cardinal suggested:

- We need to be patient with each other.
- Don't be afraid of making longer-term plans towards something organic and structural.
- Learn to be flexible and don't allow institutions or patterns created together to dominate the desire to move forward.

Finally, he acknowledged the way in which the *Not Strangers But Pilgrims* process gave 'an equality of status to participating Churches', adding 'we still have a great deal to learn from that'.

The video is located in the revamped [CTE story](#) area of the website.

'Tell a new story': rural Christians at national Germinate conference

On Saturday 15 October, two hundred Christians gathered together in Coventry to explore how best to support people to grow as disciples of Jesus in their rural churches and how to more effectively reach out into their local communities. The Germinate Conference took place at The Welcome Centre in Coventry and brought together speakers and facilitators from across the Christian denominations, alongside representatives and resources from key para-church organisations, including Fresh Expressions, Messy Church and HOPE.



Designed to equip and encourage all those involved in rural ministry, the conference heard from a range of contributors, including key-note addresses from Revd Dr Roger Walton, 2016-17 President of the Methodist Conference, and Pete Atkins, Team Co-ordinator for Fresh Expressions.

In his closing remarks the Rt. Revd. James Bell, Bishop of Ripon, reminded the conference of the responsibility and privilege of rural Christians to challenge negative preconceptions of rural life and church and to celebrate the role of the rural church in bringing new life and hope to the countryside.

'It's time to tell a new story,' said Bishop James in response to the reflection of a Church of England vicar-in-training who said, 'All I ever hear is how hard rural ministry is but today I've heard inspirational stories and I'll go back to college with a new sense of purpose.'

Jerry Marshall, CEO of Germinate: The Arthur Rank Centre, who put the conference together, said, 'There is no organisation on earth like the church when it's working well, and growing disciples is key to building the church in local rural communities.'

Germinate: The Arthur Rank Centre provides a wide range of resources for rural churches including [Country Way](#) magazine, [Germinate Groups](#) learning communities, [Germinate Enterprise](#) and the [Germinate Leadership](#) programme. A new website will launch in January 2017 which will offer access to a large, easy-to-use database of additional resources. Keep up to date with news and new developments via [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

Inter Faith Week 13 - 20 November 2016

**Inter Faith
Week**



This year, Inter Faith Week runs across 8 days. It begins on Remembrance Sunday, and many will wish to hold events linked to that. The additional Sunday enables other weekend events to take place.

If you are holding an event, project or other activity for the Week, please take a few minutes to register it. The event submission form for Inter Faith Week 2016 is now live at www.interfaithweek.org/submit

Why register?

If you are planning an activity to mark Inter Faith Week 2016, we hope you will take a moment and tell us about it using our [Event Registration Form](#). Filling out this form ensures your event will be displayed on our interactive Inter Faith Week map, which showcases the geographical and content diversity of each year's Week.

The more detail you are able to complete, the more helpful it is to people interested in attending events and the more effectively IFN can give events profile, tell the story of the Week and help grow its impact for future years.

Marketing and promotion

When sending out social media updates, flyers, posters, emails etc. about your Inter Faith Week activities, please do include the Inter Faith Network office in the mailing. There are many ways to contact us, all listed below.



Any group with commitment to the aims of the Week and organising activities linked to it is welcome to use the Inter Faith Week logo, which can be downloaded from www.interfaithweek.org/downloads.

Website: www.interfaithweek.org

Common Declaration of Pope Francis and Archbishop Justin

This text is from the website of the Archbishop of Canterbury: <http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5786/common-declaration-of-pope-francis-and-archbishop-justin>

On Wednesday 5th October 2016, Archbishop Justin and Pope Francis issued a Common Declaration today. The Archbishop is in Rome to join in celebrations to mark 50 years of closer and deeper relationships between the Anglican Communion and the Roman Catholic Church.

Common Declaration of His Holiness Pope Francis and His Grace Justin Welby Archbishop of Canterbury

Fifty years ago our predecessors, Pope Paul VI and Archbishop Michael Ramsey met in this city hallowed by the ministry and blood of the Apostles Peter and Paul. Subsequently, Pope John Paul II with Archbishop Robert Runcie, and later with Archbishop George Carey, and Pope Benedict XVI with Archbishop Rowan Williams, prayed together here in this Church of Saint Gregory on the Caelian Hill from where Pope Gregory sent Augustine to evangelise the Anglo-Saxon people. On pilgrimage to the tombs of these apostles and holy forebears, Catholics and Anglicans recognize that we are heirs of the treasure of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the call to share that treasure with the whole world. We have received the Good News of Jesus Christ through the holy lives of men and women who preached the Gospel in word and deed and we have been commissioned, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, to be Christ's witnesses "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1: 8). We are united in the conviction that "the ends of the earth" today, is not only a geographical term, but a summons to take the saving message of the Gospel particularly to those on the margins and the peripheries of our societies.

In their historic meeting in 1966, Pope Paul VI and Archbishop Ramsey established the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission to pursue a serious theological dialogue which, "founded on the Gospels and on the ancient common traditions, may lead to that unity in truth, for which Christ prayed". Fifty years later we give thanks for the achievements of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission, which has examined historically divisive doctrines from a fresh perspective of mutual respect and charity. Today we give thanks in particular for the documents of ARCIC II which will be appraised by us, and we await the findings of ARCIC III as it navigates new contexts and new challenges to our unity.

Fifty years ago our predecessors recognized the "serious obstacles" that stood in the

way of a restoration of complete faith and sacramental life between us. Nevertheless, they set out undeterred, not knowing what steps could be taken along the way, but in fidelity to the Lord's prayer that his disciples be one. Much progress has been made concerning many areas that have kept us apart. Yet new circumstances have presented new disagreements among us, particularly regarding the ordination of women and more recent questions regarding human sexuality. Behind these differences lies a perennial question about how authority is exercised in the Christian community. These are today some of the concerns that constitute serious obstacles to our full unity. While, like our predecessors, we ourselves do not yet see solutions to the obstacles before us, we are undeterred. In our trust and joy in the Holy Spirit we are confident that dialogue and engagement with one another will deepen our understanding and help us to discern the mind of Christ for his Church. We trust in God's grace and providence, knowing that the Holy Spirit will open new doors and lead us into all truth (cf. John 16: 13).

These differences we have named cannot prevent us from recognizing one another as brothers and sisters in Christ by reason of our common baptism. Nor should they ever hold us back from discovering and rejoicing in the deep Christian faith and holiness we find within each other's traditions. These differences must not lead to a lessening of our ecumenical endeavours. Christ's prayer at the Last Supper that all might be one (cf. John 17: 20-23) is as imperative for his disciples today as it was at that moment of his impending passion, death and resurrection, and consequent birth of his Church. Nor should our differences come in the way of our common prayer: not only can we pray together, we must pray together, giving voice to our shared faith and joy in the Gospel of Christ, the ancient Creeds, and the power of God's love, made present in the Holy Spirit, to overcome all sin and division. And so, with our predecessors, we urge our clergy and faithful not to neglect or undervalue that certain yet imperfect communion that we already share.

Wider and deeper than our differences are the faith that we share and our common joy in the Gospel. Christ prayed that his disciples may all be one, "so that the world might believe" (John 17: 21). The longing for unity that we express in this Common Declaration is closely tied to the desire we share that men and women come to believe that God sent his Son, Jesus, into the world to save the world from the evil that oppresses and diminishes the entire creation. Jesus gave his life in love, and rising from the dead overcame even death itself. Christians who have come to this faith, have encountered Jesus and the victory of his love in their own lives, and are impelled to share the joy of this Good News with others. Our ability to come together in praise and prayer to God and witness to the world rests on the confidence that we share a common faith and a substantial measure of agreement in faith.

The world must see us witnessing to this common faith in Jesus by acting together. We can, and must, work together to protect and preserve our common home: living, teaching and acting in ways that favour a speedy end to the environmental destruction that offends the Creator and degrades his creatures, and building individual and collective patterns of behaviour that foster a sustainable and integral development for the good of all. We can, and must, be united in a common cause to uphold and defend the dignity of all people. The human person is demeaned by personal and societal sin. In a culture of indifference, walls of estrangement isolate us from others, their struggles and their suffering, which also many of our brothers and sisters in Christ today endure. In a culture of waste, the lives of the most vulnerable in society are often marginalised and discarded. In a culture of hate we see unspeakable acts of

violence, often justified by a distorted understanding of religious belief. Our Christian faith leads us to recognise the inestimable worth of every human life, and to honour it in acts of mercy by bringing education, healthcare, food, clean water and shelter and always seeking to resolve conflict and build peace. As disciples of Christ we hold human persons to be sacred, and as apostles of Christ we must be their advocates.

Fifty years ago Pope Paul VI and Archbishop Ramsey took as their inspiration the words of the apostle: "Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3: 13-14). Today, "those things which are behind" – the painful centuries of separation – have been partially healed by fifty years of friendship. We give thanks for the fifty years of the Anglican Centre in Rome dedicated to being a place of encounter and friendship. We have become partners and companions on our pilgrim journey, facing the same difficulties, and strengthening each other by learning to value the gifts which God has given to the other, and to receive them as our own in humility and gratitude.

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.

In this Church of Saint Gregory the Great, we earnestly invoke the blessings of the Most Holy Trinity on the continuing work of ARCIC and IARCCUM, and on all those who pray for and contribute to the restoration of unity between us.

Rome, 5 October 2016 His Grace Justin Welby His Holiness Francis

Related articles

[Archbishop gives a Coventry Cross of Nails to Pope Francis](#)

[Archbishop's address to Pope Francis](#)

[19 pairs of Catholic and Anglican Bishops sent home to work for unity](#)

[Article in the Telegraph](#)

[Item from ITV](#)

And finally ...

1) Cracking the Unity Code

The website for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has an article about a group of churches in Bletchley in an evangelistic mission event using the DVD *The Cross*. As set in Bletchley the website article uses a play on words:

<https://billygraham.org.uk/p/cracking-unity-code/>

2) Following the Quanglican Way

Inventing a word, during Quaker Week the Anglican Church Times ran a piece exploring the relationship between the Society of Friends and the Church of England, especially church leaders who shared both traditions:

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2016/7-october/features/features/following-the-quanglican-way>

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

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