



From Churches Together in England

For November 2013

Reflection: 'Disagreement and Grace'

The Archbishop of Canterbury

This month's reflection is taken from a 'Feature' paper from www.cte.org.uk

This is a paper from the Archbishop of Canterbury for Churches Together in England.

It is an edited transcript from the National Church Leaders meeting at Lambeth Palace 7/10/13

It is provided to aid discussion, prayer and planning for local groups of churches.

I want to say four things about graciousness and respect in disagreement. The first one is that disagreement is a reality; and when we deny that, ignore it, avoid it, pretend it's not true, everything goes badly wrong. We all know that in a household or a community or a marriage if someone is looking sulky or saying very little, and you know there's something wrong and they won't tell you, it doesn't help. When we look at the New Testament we see division and disagreement at every possible opportunity. Look at the beginning of both of Paul's letters to the Corinthians, the first chapter of each of them. In 1 Corinthians he talks about a church entirely divided by people following one person or another; and in 2 Corinthians he talks about being in despair because things were so bad. In Philippians, he calls for reconciliation between two members of the Church – and remember this was in the days when there was no good communication, and yet from a great distance he'd heard the row, and he knew there was something wrong and he had to deal with it. In the Gospels, we see the apostles and the disciples arguing about who is the most important, right up to almost immediately before the crucifixion. They waste all their energy on disagreements.



The Church has historically always found it easy to divide, and we still do. And the issues which cause division are sometimes represented as principled issues, issues of theology – which is true; or they may be issues around discrimination against one group of the Church or another. I often think about the fact that in the 1960s when Afro-Caribbean people first came to this country they were not made welcome in our churches. It's the reality; it was a sin, a very bad sin.

Division is a reality. Most of our divisions come down to issues of power and prestige. We dress them up in smart clothes around dogma and disagreement over doctrine; but at the very heart of them is very often a failure to be able to talk to each other, to communicate with humility that enables us to hear what the other one is saying.

Read the whole reflection and download a PDF version for discussion in groups: www.cte.org.uk/ABC

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RC Archbishop re Eucharistic sharing

Following a recent meeting of ARCIC 111, reports have been widely quoted - and sometimes mis-quoted in the press - about Vatican rules which may be relaxed in time about sharing bread and wine.

Hear the podcast from Archbishop Bernard Longley:

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/375233/Churches_Together_in/Resources/News/News/RC_Archbishops_hopes.aspx

Churches Together in England Elects first Pentecostal President

History was made on Monday 7 October 2013 at the Annual National Church Leaders Meeting, held at Lambeth Palace, when Jamaican born Bishop Eric Brown was installed as the first Pentecostal President of Churches Together in England (CTE). Rev Brown is the Presiding Bishop of the New Testament Church of God, a black majority Pentecostal church celebrating its 60th anniversary in the UK since being planted here by Caribbean migrants during the 1950s.



CTE Presidents provide spiritual leadership to the national ecumenical movement that facilitates closer working together by the churches in England. Bishop Brown's appointment brings the total number of CTE presidents to six. He joins existing presidents - (see below l-r) Archbishop Vincent Nichols, Archbishop Justin Welby, Bishop Jana Jeruma-Grinberga and the Revd Michael Heaney. (Unfortunately HE Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira and Great Britain could not be in attendance).

At the annual meeting the presidents signed a covenant committing them to 'pray to God to lead us, with all our sisters and brothers in Christ, towards communion in faith, life and witness; so that, united in one body by the one Spirit, we may together witness to the perfect unity of his love'.

Read more:

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/374569/Churches_Together_in/Resources/News/News/CTE_Elects_first.aspx

The CTE presidents Covenant:

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/61449/Churches_Together_in/About/Presidents_Covenant.aspx

Bishop Brown interview on video:

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/374856/Churches_Together_in/Resources/News/News/Bishop_Eric_Brown.aspx

New WCC Presidents appointed

Press Release 04.11.13

The 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches elected eight new presidents today during a closed session at its proceedings in Busan, Republic of Korea.

According to the WCC constitution the role of the WCC presidents is to promote ecumenism and interpret the work of the WCC, especially in their respective regions. The presidents are ex-officio members of Central Committee.

The Central Committee will also be elected during the assembly, but after the presidents are elected.

The eight WCC presidents are:

Africa: Rev. Dr Mary Anne Plaatjies van Huffel, Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa

Asia: Rev. Prof. Dr Sang Chang, Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea

Europe: Archbishop Anders Wejryd, Church of Sweden

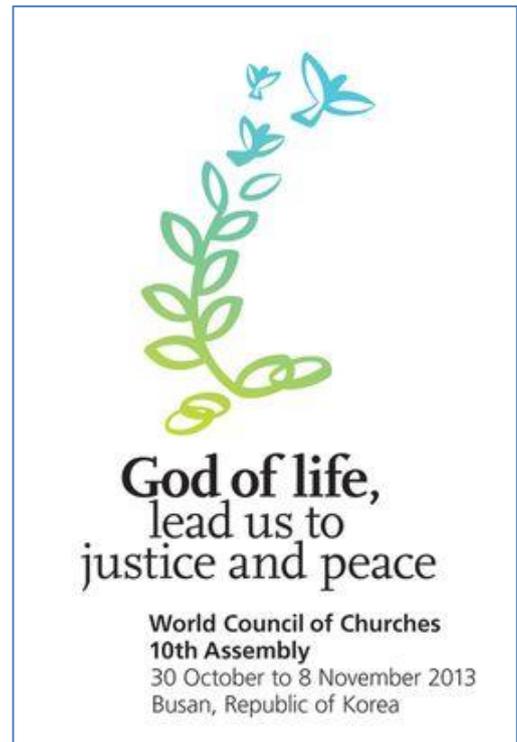
Latin America and Caribbean: Rev. Gloria Nohemy Ulloa Alvarado, Presbyterian Church in Colombia

North America: Bishop Mark MacDonald, Anglican Church of Canada

Pacific: Rev. Dr Mele'ana Puloka, Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga

Eastern Orthodox: H.B. John X Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch and All the East

Oriental Orthodox: H.H. Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians



<http://wcc2013.info/en/news-media/all-news/assembly-elects-new-wcc-presidents>

'Christian Unity is alive and well'

A report from national ecumenical officers visit to Rome

'The great warmth and kindness of the welcome we received in Rome speaks eloquently of the state of the relationship between the Catholic Church and their ecumenical partners', commented David Cornick, General Secretary of Churches Together in England. He was speaking after a visit to Rome by the National Ecumenical Officers of the Church of England, the Methodist Church, the Salvation Army, and the Baptist Union of Great Britain between September 30th and October 3rd 2013.



The trip was organised jointly by Churches Together in England (CTE) and the Catholic Bishops'

Conference of England and Wales. The National Ecumenical Officers were accompanied by the Convenor of CTE, the Rt Revd Christopher Foster, the Bishop of Portsmouth, and the Rt Revd Paul Hendricks who has responsibility for ecumenism within the Bishops' Conference. Fr Robert Bryne CO, the Conference's Ecumenical Officer, the Revd Dr David Cornick, General Secretary of CTE and Jenny Bond, Field Officer for the North and Midlands, made up the rest of the group.

The intention of the visit was to forge relationships with key ecumenical institutions in Rome and deepen understanding of the Catholic Church. Staff at the Venerable English College, the Pontifical Beda College, the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, the Anglican Centre and the Centro Pro Unione welcomed the group generously and shared their perceptions of the journey towards unity. Archbishop David Moxon of the Anglican Centre described the ecumenical movement as a 'flotilla of yachts blown in the same direction by the Spirit'.

The British Ambassador to the Holy See, HE Nigel Baker hosted a reception for the group. They prayed together in the Methodist Church in Rome, attended a Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul in one of the crypt chapels in St Peter's, near the tomb of Peter, and visited the church of San Gregorio, where Augustine of Canterbury was Prior before Pope Gregory sent him to England in 597, and where Pope Benedict and Archbishop Rowan Williams joined in prayer in 2012. The group also visited St Paul's outside the Walls, paying particular attention to the tomb of Paul and to the exhibition celebrating the Second Vatican Council.

Further information from Rev Dr David Cornick @ CTE

Ecumenical new start @ Ruxley, Epsom

This September a brand new church was officially dedicated and opened in Ruxley Lane, Ewell. The service at the new Ruxley church was led by the Revd Michaela Youngson, Chair of the London District, and the Rt Revd Christopher Hill, Bishop of Guildford. A congregation of more than 220 people attended the service, enjoying songs and hymns by the worship band Emmaus.

The Revd Michaela Youngson and Bishop Christopher Hill began the proceedings by cutting a ribbon at each door into the worship space.

"We had a veritable feast of clergy involved in the dedication service," said Jenny Meineck, press officer for the church. "The Ven Stuart Beake, Archdeacon of Surrey; the Revd Margaret Adams, Superintendent of Wimbledon Circuit; the Revd Canon Stuart Thomas (Anglican) and the Revd Dr Martine Stemerick (Methodist) all participated in the proceedings. A special visitor, the Revd Jeanne Bryan, priest of Emmanuel Church, Ignace, Ontario, flew 5,000 miles from a tiny community in Canada, bringing greetings from her congregation along with a specially carved cross and peace candle."

Ruxley Church has been an ecumenical partnership since 2002. The congregations of Ruxley Methodist Church and the congregation of St Francis of Assisi (Anglican) joined together when the Methodists welcomed in the Anglicans after their church had to be demolished due to subsidence. Ruxley Church is now building links between Epsom Deanery and the Keewatin District.

Text and Picture: The Buzz (123) news, The Methodist Church with thanks.



The Practice of the Presence of God - Theology as a way of life



The Department of Theology
Heythrop College of the University of London
Saturday, January 11th, 2014

Rowan Williams (Cambridge), Sebastian Brock (Oxford), Luigi Gioia (Rome, Italy), Martin Laird (Philadelphia, USA), Andrew Louth (Durham), Margaret R Miles (Berkley, USA)
Nikolai Sakharov (Essex), Frances Young (Birmingham)

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/376827/Churches_Together_in/Resources/News/News/The_Practice_of.aspx

Homelessness, Hospitality and Hope

An opportunity for Christians to gather from the Shelter network, to pray, worship and be inspired.

St Martins in the Fields Saturday 16th November
<http://hcubed.eventbrite.co.uk>



Your Faith Your Finance, PR re new website

Churches challenged over money and ethics as new website launches.

With church investments in the national spotlight, a website being launched today will provide church groups and individual believers with a host of new resources to make ethical and spiritual decisions about their use of money.

The 'your faith your finance' website – www.yourfaithyourfinance.org - contains facts, links and case-studies covering issues ranging from banking and shopping to biblical parables about money. The new website provides quotes and explains a range of different views on the subjects in question and includes resources for personal reflection and group discussion.



The site is being launched at an Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility (ECCR) debate on church investment. It has been developed jointly by ECCR and Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW). They aim to meet the growing demand from faith groups for help with the complex ethical and practical questions around the use of money.

Examples and case-studies on the site involve people and groups from a range of church backgrounds and denominations.

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/376833/Churches_Together_in/Resources/News/News/Your_Faith_Your.aspx

Fresh Expressions new team leader

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are delighted to announce that Canon Phil Potter will be the next Archbishops' Missioner and leader of the Fresh Expressions team.

Canon Potter, who is Director of Pioneer Ministry for the Diocese of Liverpool, will succeed Bishop Graham Cray, who has held the posts since 2009. Canon Potter will take up the role at the beginning of April 2014. His appointment has been warmly welcomed by the board of Fresh Expressions and its partners.



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: 'I am delighted that Canon Potter has agreed to take up the post of Archbishops' Missioner and Team Leader of Fresh Expressions. Phil is a skilled and imaginative practitioner whose achievements as a pioneer minister and church builder have been extraordinary. At the same time, I would like to express my deep thanks to Bishop Graham for his five years of distinguished service.'

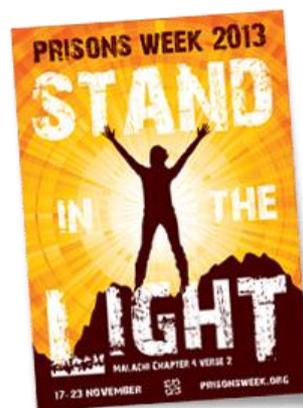
'I am also excited that the Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, General Secretary of the Methodist Church, will be chairman of the Board of Fresh Expressions. I am grateful to God for the growth we have already seen through Fresh Expressions and for the other denominations with whom this ministry is shared. Working together provides the oxygen of mission and evangelism. I am convinced that the combination of Canon Potter as team leader and Dr Atkins as chairman will be an ideal partnership as we serve God in his mission in this way.'

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/376834/Churches_Together_in/Resources/News/News/Fresh_Expressions_new.aspx

Prisons Week 2013 - Stand in the Light

Prisons Week 17th-23rd November 2013
Theme = Stand In The Light

The light of the Lord touches all those who call upon his name and turn towards him. Sometimes that's all we manage to find the will to do - to turn, to lift our eyes to his light in love and longing. This Prisons Week we pray for all those affected by prison and who carry heavy burdens of responsibility or loss, that they might turn to the Lord and find restoration and wholeness in him.



**DOWNLOAD
STAND IN THE LIGHT
PDF HERE**

More resources
coming soon...

Go straight to the website for information and resources: <http://www.prisonswweek.org/>

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/376836/Churches_Together_in/Resources/News/News/Prisons_Week_2013.aspx

Hope 2014 @ launch with 40,000 RCCG members

'We should never be guilty of being without hope. We have been entrusted with the greatest hope of all!' That was the message from the Bishop of Chelmsford, Rt Rev Stephen Cottrell, to the 40,000 gathered for a 12-hour night of prayer at the launch of HOPE's season of prayer in London's Excel Centre.

Speaking at the Redeemed Christian Church of God's Festival of Life on Friday 18 October, the Bishop launched the season of prayer asking God to transform lives and communities during HOPE 2014. The Bishop is also backing HOPE in his own diocese which celebrates its centenary in 2014 with a year of mission. Host for the evening, the General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God, Pastor Enoch Adeboye, added his endorsement to HOPE 2014 and prayed: 'In the United Kingdom, let there be light; let there be revival and may the revival begin in 2014.'



HOPE's Director, Roy Crowne, explained: 'HOPE's season of prayer starts tonight in this place because we recognise that what the Redeemed churches do best is pray. Hundreds of thousands of people are longing to see our nation changed by the love of Christ. HOPE is a catalyst supporting churches to do more together in mission – in words and action.'

RCCG UK leader, Pastor Agu Irukwu, said: 'Imagine what it would be like if thousands of churches worked together, going out into our communities, touching lives in practical ways as carriers of the love of Christ.'

'Any initiative of that magnitude must be birthed in prayer. We want to do good works so lives are touched, but we want our communities to experience the love of God like never before. So, for the next 12 weeks we are going to be praying into HOPE 2014. We are praying that this will be a significant part of God's plan for revival in our nation.'

Web page includes video of Roy Crowne speaking for Churches Together:

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/376839/Churches_Together_in/Resources/News/News/Hope_2014_launch.aspx

The Bible - coming to Channel 5

Nick and Carol Pollard from Damaris Trust write:

We are delighted to announce the launch of the official resources website (www.thebibleuk.org) for the forthcoming TV series THE BIBLE which will be broadcast on Channel 5 in December followed by a release on Blu-ray/DVD by Fox.

Please pass on this message by tweet, facebook, email...

THE BIBLE series is coming to @channel5_tv & @20CenturyFoxUK
For downloadable clips and resources go to
www.thebibleuk.org @thebibleuk



THE BIBLE is an epic 10-hour mini-series that brings to life the dramatic tales of faith and courage in the most widely-read book of all time. Breathtaking in scope and scale it features powerful

performances, exotic locations and cutting-edge visual effects to create a spectacular television event that will entertain and inspire the whole family.

From Genesis to Revelation, THE BIBLE series features some of the most famous stories ever written and some of the most iconic characters.

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/376877/Churches_Together_in/Resources/News/News/The_Bible_on.aspx

Get in the Picture - for Christmas

Last year 200 towns got involved and hosted 'Get in the Picture' and ecumenical outreach initiative hosted by Baptists Together, Hope and the Light Project. Local groups of churches can set up a nativity scene and invite people to take part and experience something of the story - while having their picture taken. Since it started in 2008, more and more places are hosting 'Get in the Picture'.
More information: www.getinthepicture.org.uk



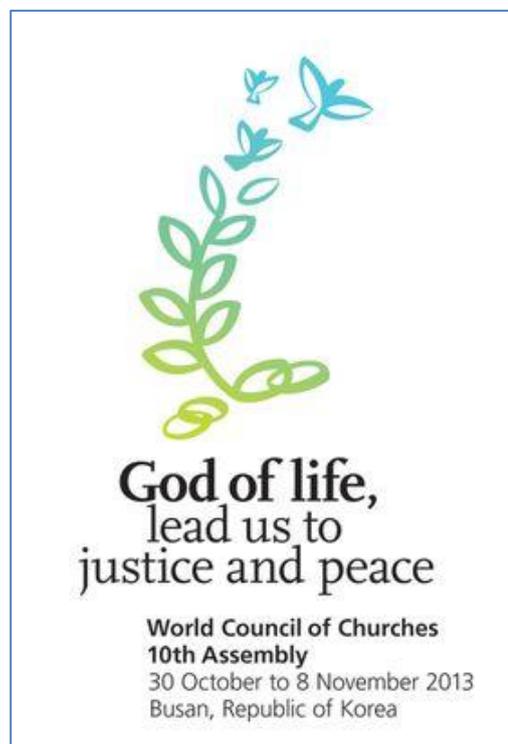
http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/376878/Churches_Together_in/Resources/News/News/Get_in_the_picture.aspx

WCC: Mission - a call to life giving witness

Press Release 04 November 2013

Today the World Council of Churches (WCC) 10th Assembly featured a mission plenary. The plenary session presented an action-oriented reflection based on the new WCC mission statement: Together Towards Life: Mission and Evangelism in Changing Landscapes. The plenary sought to highlight the common challenges and opportunities for mission in the current global context.

The new WCC mission statement, Together towards Life: Mission and Evangelism in Changing Landscapes, was unanimously approved as an official statement of the WCC by its Central Committee at its meeting in Greece in September 2012. The WCC Commission on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME) has prepared A Practical Guide on the new statement, which includes Bible study, prayers and songs. The guide also includes a DVD that contains video clips on the history and activities of the CWME, the eight preparatory study reports leading to the new statement and the centenary issue of the WCC journal International Review of Mission (IRM).



Moderator of the plenary Prof. Kirsteen Kim, in her introductory remarks, acknowledged the growth and strength of the missionary movement of the Korean churches. The presentations included an engaging theological reflection by the Rev. Dr Stephan Bevans, a priest in the Catholic missionary congregation of the Society of Divine Word (SVD) United States, on the WCC mission statement. Bevans recalled the words of Rowan Williams, "Mission is finding out where the Spirit at work, and joining in." He said, "It is with the same conviction and same faith in the Holy Spirit that this document proposes a fresh, dynamic approach to engaging in the work of mission and evangelism in today's changing landscapes".

<http://wcc2013.info/en/news-media/all-news/mission-a-call-to-life-giving-witness>

Focolare celebrates 50 years in England - at Liverpool Hope

On Saturday, 26 October, Liverpool Hope University welcomed a 400-strong gathering to mark the 50th anniversary of the Focolare Movement's arrival in Britain in November 1963. Liverpool was the Focolare's first centre and from there spread to other parts of the country. It was a very different ecumenical context that welcomed the first group to a city which had known its share of sectarian differences. Three local Anglican clergy were instrumental in the Focolare's arrival alongside Canon Bernard Pawley, the Anglican Observer at the Second Vatican Council.

It was Canon Pawley who suggested to the Dean of the Anglican Cathedral in Liverpool that he invite Focolare founder, Chiara Lubich, to speak in the Cathedral to a group of Anglican Clergy. At the same time he also mentioned the idea to Pope Paul VI in a private audience and gained papal approval for this event which took place in November 1965.

Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe, recent Moderator of the United Reformed Church, reminded those present, 'It is easy for us, 50 years later and living in such a different climate for inter-church relations, to underestimate just how radically unusual this event was. For a woman to address a gathering of men was relatively rare in those days, wherever it happened ... and in early 1960s, clergy were not known to sit and listen to a lay person as a main speaker ...'.

In her diary for that day, 17 November, Chiara Lubich remarked on the poignancy of the name, Hope Street, which connects the Anglican Cathedral to the Catholic Cathedral (still under construction at that time) and expressed a heartfelt prayer that, with faith, the 'mountains' of lack of understanding between the churches might be moved (cf Mt 17:20).

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/378007/Churches_Together_in/National/Common_Cause/Focolare_Movement/Focolare_50_years.aspx

Jobs

Please see the CTE website 'Latest Updates' or www.cte.org.uk/jobs

2 Posts in Lancashire, closing date 7th November

County Ecumenical Officer for Devon

County Ecumenical Officer for Buckinghamshire

Free Churches Prison Chaplain for HMP Wealstun