

Gifts and treasures

Churches Together in England offers two simple leaflets to help Christians of different denominations to share together:

- ***Sharing our Spiritual Treasures*** is offered to local churches as a way of encouraging their members to share and grow in the faith.
- ***Gifts from the Treasure Trove*** is based on the idea of Receptive Ecumenism. We often think about what our Church might offer to the Christian community. Receptive ecumenism goes further. Instead of looking at what we can bring, our strengths, perhaps, it invites us to look at the gifts and strengths of others, to notice what we can learn or receive. Read more at www.cte.org.uk/receptive-ecumenism

Please contact us if you would like help in using these leaflets, or would like to offer feedback.

Both our leaflets are freely downloadable from www.cte.org.uk/receptive-ecumenism. Printed copies of *Sharing Our Spiritual Treasures* are available from CTE on request. If you want one, just send us a C5 sae. If you want several, ring us. We'll ask for a donation if you want a lot of copies! (Any cheques should be made payable to *Churches Together in England*.)



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Gifts from the Treasure-trove

An opportunity for Christians meeting together to:

- ❖ *Share stories and experience*
- ❖ *Appreciate our different traditions*
- ❖ *Find nourishment for our faith*
- ❖ *Seek God in all things*

Churches Together in England

Gifts from the Treasure Trove

Spend some time before the meeting

Think about the different traditions/Churches/denominations with which you have had some contact. What do you particularly like about them? Is there an aspect of their life or worship which could enrich you or your denomination?

You may find you focus on:

- ❖ A memory of something which was significant for you – maybe an event or a person.
- ❖ An emphasis which another Church gives to something, whether in worship or the way it organizes its life.
- ❖ Something from the other denomination's story.
- ❖ A hymn, a poem, or a piece of music.

Give thanks to God for these gifts and for all the good gifts given to the Church, an Aladdin's cave of many treasures.

After this time of reflection, make a few notes for yourself. They'll help you remember what you want to say at the meeting and will free you to listen to what others are sharing.

At the meeting

Say what you were thinking about before the meeting. What gifts in particular have been given to you from other Churches? How can you or your denomination benefit from the treasures held by other traditions? (Share only what you want to.)

Listen to other people without comment. This is a sharing group, not a discussion.

Reflect on the gifts which others have received from the different Churches. Have any of them chimed with your experiences, or have they been different? Were you surprised by gifts others have received from your own tradition?

Consider, as a group, whether you would like to meet again for other opportunities to share your faith journeys. Some suggestions are given on the back page of the leaflet *Sharing Our Spiritual Treasures*, which is sister to this one.

Note to facilitators

- When inviting people to the group, you may find it helpful to reproduce or adapt the material on this page.
- Look at the guidelines in *Sharing our Spiritual Treasures*. (Download it from www.cte.org.uk/receptive-ecumenism or ring Churches Together in England for a copy. Contact details are on the back page.) As the sharing is of personal experience, it is essential that the group accepts the guidelines.