

**THE STORY OF THE BCC • FOLLOW THE PILGRIM ROAD**

# 40's



GENERAL SECRETARY  
ARCHIE CRAIG  
1942-46

R.E. BURLINGHAM  
ACTING SECRETARY  
1946-47



GENERAL SECRETARY  
DAVID SAY  
1947-55

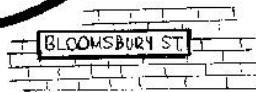
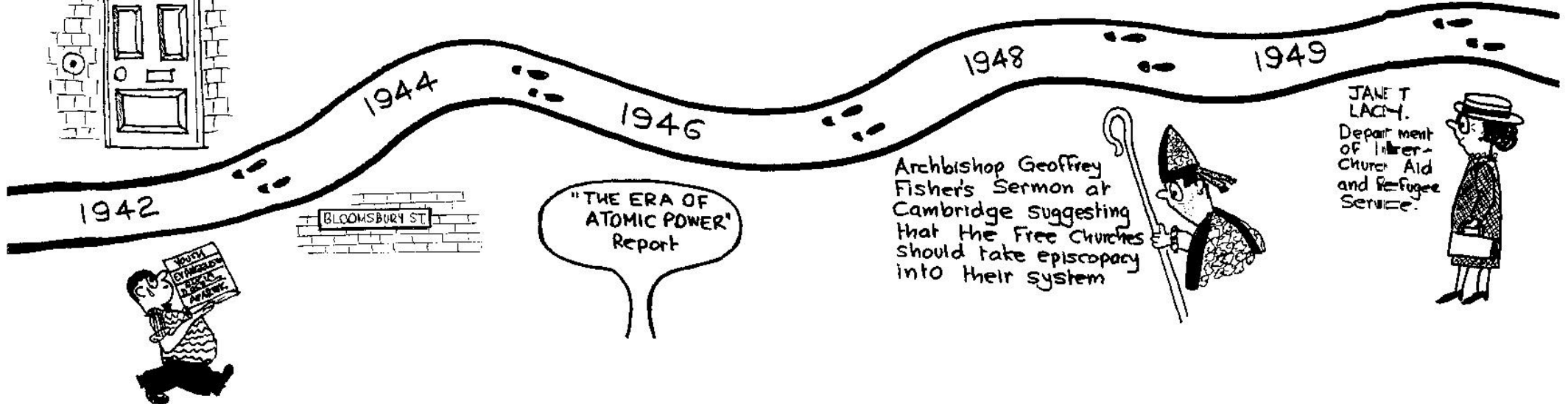
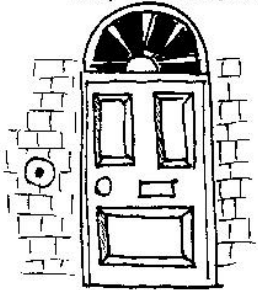


WORLD COUNCIL  
OF CHURCHES  
INAUGURATED.  
AMSTERDAM  
1948

- Increased attention given to African problems with the adoption of APARTHEID in South Africa.

First Headquarters -  
20, Balcombe Street.  
Because of bomb  
damage the BCC moved  
to 56, Bloomsbury Street.

- J.H. Oldham spoke at the Autumn Meeting of the BCC's need to preserve its Church character
- Bishop George Bell took the lead in mobilising the British Churches to help with post-war reconstruction.

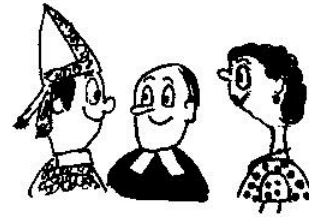


Archbishop Geoffrey Fisher's Sermon at Cambridge suggesting that the Free Churches should take episcopacy into their system



# 50's

**LUND FAITH AND ORDER CONFERENCE 1952**  
 "Act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately"



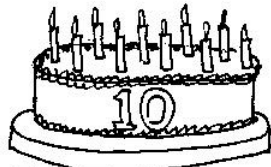
**GENERAL SECRETARY  
 KENNETH SLACK  
 1955-65**

Said to have left the BCC "an absolutely established feature of the ecclesiastical landscape"



○ Scottish Churches Ecumenical Committee as ASSOCIATION.

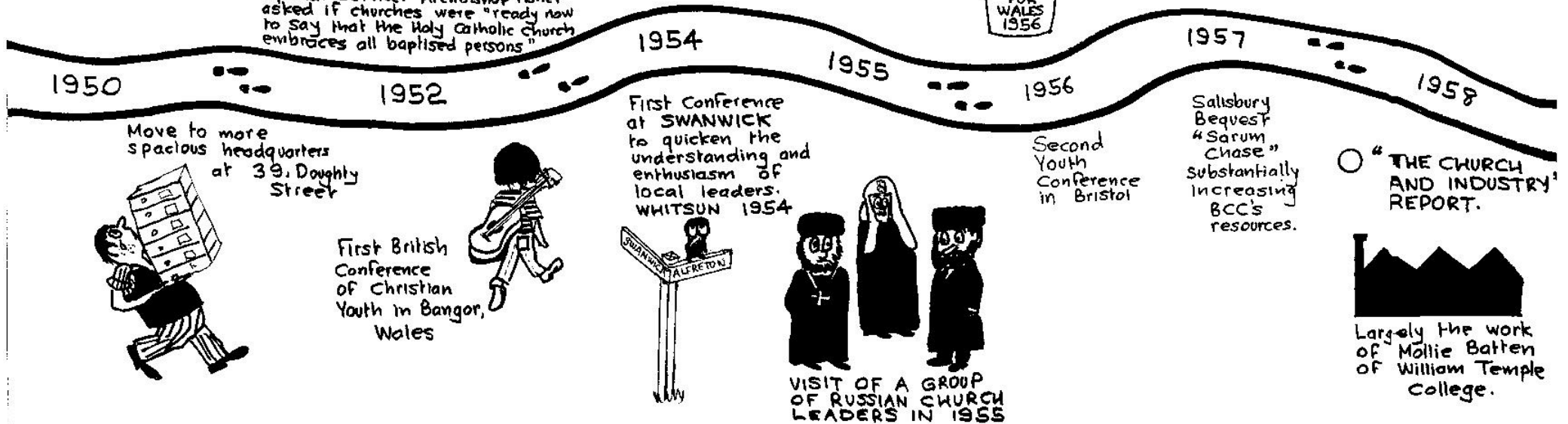
○ BCC begins to hold Council Meetings in Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Midlands and the North as well as London.



**TENTH ANNIVERSARY** of the BCC marked by a special service. Archbishop Fisher asked if churches were "ready now to say that the Holy Catholic Church embraces all baptised persons"

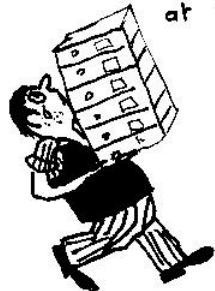


**Growth of Christian Aid and FIRST CHRISTIAN AID WEEK**



1950

Move to more spacious headquarters at 39, Doughty Street



1952

First British Conference of Christian Youth in Bangor, Wales



1954

First Conference at SWANWICK to quicken the understanding and enthusiasm of local leaders. WHITSUN 1954



1955

VISIT OF A GROUP OF RUSSIAN CHURCH LEADERS IN 1955



1956

Second Youth Conference in Bristol

1957

Salisbury Bequest "Sarum Chase" substantially increasing BCC's resources.

1958

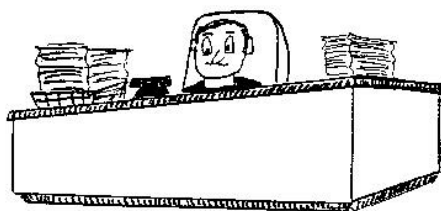
○ "THE CHURCH AND INDUSTRY" REPORT.



Largely the work of Mollie Batten of William Temple College.

# 60's

## PEOPLE NEXT DOOR GROUP DISCUSSIONS 1966-7



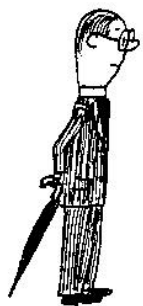
GENERAL SECRETARY  
KENNETH SANBURY  
1966 - 1973



### CACLB

Churches  
Advisory  
Committee  
for Local  
Broadcasting.  
Formed 1968.

### GROWTH OF NATIONAL COUNCILS



JOHN WELLER  
ACTING SECRETARY 1965-66



ANGLICAN -  
METHODIST  
UNITY  
COMMISSION 1965



### WALES

Call to Covenant  
Committee on Covenants.

"LIFE OF THE  
SPIRIT TODAY"  
Report.



### IRELAND

Irish Council  
of Churches



Churches  
Action for  
World  
Development

○ "World Poverty  
and British"  
Responsibility"  
BCC/CA Report 1963-4

○ "Human  
Reproduction"  
Report.

Centred on hope  
that by Easter 1980  
the British Churches  
would have found the  
path to Unity

Multi-Lateral  
Church Conversations  
in Scotland



1962

Third Youth  
Conference in  
Leicester



SCOTLAND.  
Scottish Churches  
Council Re-constituted

- Roman Catholic 'Observers'  
invited to BCC  
following Vatican II.
- Greek Orthodox joined
- "THE FUTURE OF SOUTH  
AFRICA" Report.

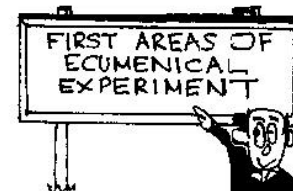
○ Lutheran Council joined



○ Joint BCC and  
RC Working Group

○ Education Department  
Active.

○ "CHRISTIANS AND  
THE COMMON  
MARKET" Report.



Irish Tri-partite  
Conversations

1968

1969

# 70's

GENERAL SECRETARY  
HARRY MORTON  
1973-1980



THE 5 C's WHERE ARE WE NOW?

1978 MOVING INTO UNITY	
1	COMPETITION
2	CO-EXISTENCE
3	CO-OPERATION
4	COMMITMENT
5	COMMUNION



1978  
CENTRE FOR  
BLACK AND WHITE  
CHRISTIAN  
PARTNERSHIP

Christian Aid move to Brixton.

○ Joint Pastoral care of Inter-Church Marriages

○ Ecumenical Experiments Handbook

○ Common Certificate of Christian Baptism 1972

CCLEPE FORMED IN 1973  
Consultative Committee for Local Ecumenical Projects in England  
Areas of Ecumenical Experiment become Local Ecumenical Projects - LEP's

○ CWRU 1976

○ "NEW BLACK PRESENCE" Joint Working Party.

○ "GROWING TOGETHER LOCALLY"

○ "CHILD IN THE CHURCH."

CHURCHES COUNCIL FOR COVENANTING IN ENGLAND



UNITED REFORMED CHURCH ESTABLISHED



COVENANT FOR CHURCH IN WALES



○ ONE WORLD WEEK begins.

○ Dayspring Youth Conference at St. David's

○ Collaborative Ministry Group Formed. 1977

Standing Committee on Theological Education

Overseas Students

CRRU  
COMMUNITY AND RACE RELATIONS UNIT

TALKS ABOUT TALKS IN ENGLAND

○ "Discretion & Valour"

1970

1971

1972

1973

1974

1975

1976

1977

1978

1979

Local Councils of Churches now risen to 650

○ "Local Councils of Churches Today" Report.

FAILURE OF ANGLICAN-METHODIST UNITY PROPOSALS

Church Leaders' Conference at Birmingham.

THE BALLYMASCANLON IRISH INTER-CHURCH MEETING 1973

○ "ADVENTURES IN UNITY"

Taize Council of Youth

○ BCC/ICC meetings.

○ Churches Consortium on Industrial Mission.

Standing Conference on Unity in Prayer formed in 1975

○ Nuclear Energy Hearings.

TEN PROPOSITIONS FOR UNITY IN ENGLAND



○ CRPOF Committee for Relations with People of Other Faiths. 1977

CBMS becomes CFWM Conference for World Mission 1978

○ Human Rights Forum.

○ Consultation on Ecumenical Renewal and the church  
○ Political Change in South Africa. Britain's responsibility.

NIE Nationwide Initiative in Evangelism 1977 - 1982



# 80's



1984 BEGINNING OF INTER-CHURCH PROCESS  
'Not Strangers but Pilgrims'

## WHAT ON EARTH IS THE CHURCH FOR?

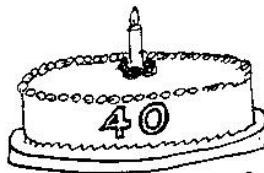
In 1986 60,000-70,000 Groups listened in to 57 Radio Stations. One million people shared in this.

CONFERENCE FOR BLACK AND WHITE CHRISTIAN PARTNERSHIP



ECUMENICAL MEETING WITH POPE JOHN PAUL II AT CANTERBURY.

SEPTEMBER 1984  
British and Irish Church Leaders met at Friends' House to explore possible ways forward.



40th Anniversary of BCC in St. Paul's Cathedral

- Delegation to Rome
- Top level delegation to China.
- "Peace-making in a Nuclear World"
- Peace Forum.

FEBRUARY 1985  
INTER-CHURCH PROCESS SET UP....

1980

- "God's Yes to Spirituality" Report.
- "Stewardship in the 1980's"
- "UNITY - Why not yet?"
- Pocket Praise.

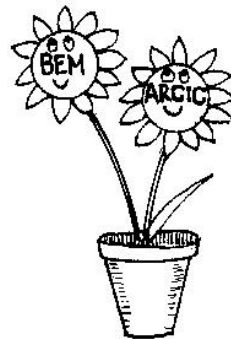
"YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE CHURCH" Report.

- "Relations with people of other Faiths - Guidelines for Dialogue"
- "Community of Women and Men"
- "Understanding the Arab-Israeli Conflict"
- Manifest Youth Conference in Lincoln

LIMA REPORT  
BAPTISM EUCHARIST AND MINISTRY

ARCIC I FINAL REPORT  
EUCHARIST MINISTRY AND AUTHORITY

FAILURE OF COVENANT IN ENGLAND



- Kaleidoscope Youth Conference at Carmel.
- "A Pattern for Local Ecumenism"
- Evangelism Committee
- Equality and Gender Project (1983-6)

1983

1984

- JANUARY 1984  
New Hall Meeting
- MARCH 1984  
BCC Assembly
- APRIL 1984  
Church Leaders' met at Canterbury
- MAY 1984  
Roman Catholic Bishops' Meeting.

- "The Closed Door" concerning Immigration Policy.
- "The Gospel and our Culture"
- Association of Centres of Adult Theological Education.

1985

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF YOUTH



- Church Computer Project.
- Christian Enquiry Agency (Scotland)
- National Youth Conference at Liverpool
- "Whose Rubicon?" Report on South Africa

1986

'REFLECTIONS'

How 26 churches understood the nature and purpose of the Church.

'VIEWS FROM THE PEWS'

100,000 Questionnaires analysed as a result of 'WHAT ON EARTH IS THE CHURCH FOR?'



# 80's

CONTINUED



"Co-operation to Commitment"

### CONFERENCES

- NOTTINGHAM
- BANGOR
- ST. ANDREWS

● SWANWICK

Lent '88  
"WHO ON EARTH ARE YOU?"

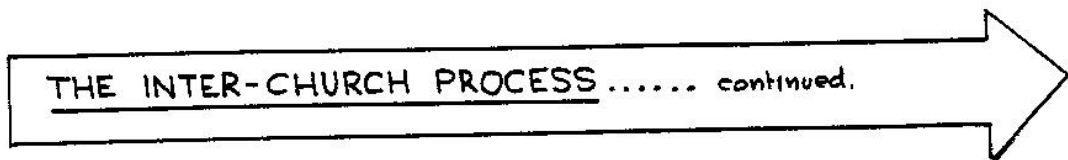
○ "THE FORGOTTEN TRINITY"  
BCC Study Commission on Trinitarian Doctrine today.

Lent '90  
'TURNING POINTS'

1988

1989

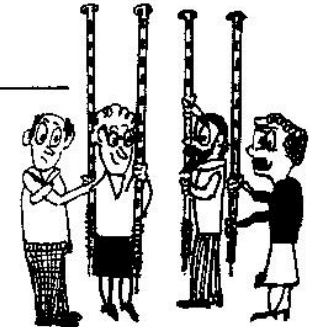
1990



# 90's



AUGUST 31st  
Ring out the old!  
SEPTEMBER 1st  
Ring in the NEW!



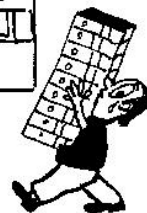
### 'OBSERVATIONS' on the Church from Britain and abroad.

- Equal Opportunities Policy.
- "Partners in Practice - Theological Educators"
- Women's Resource Unit
- "Stewards of God's House"
- All Saints Declaration on Racism.

- Christian Enquiry Agency (England)
- "Christian Initiation & Church Membership"
- "AIDS: A Challenge to the Churches"
- British & Irish Churches respond to BEM.



CHRISTIAN AID  
Statement of Commitment  
"TO STRENGTHEN THE POOR"



○ ECUMENICAL YOUTH COUNCIL IN EUROPE  
Youth Gathering at Bath  
EYCE Secretariat move to Belfast.

○ SPECTRUM.  
Inter-Church Youth Work Training Scheme

### NEW STRUCTURES FROM SEPTEMBER

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ENGLAND

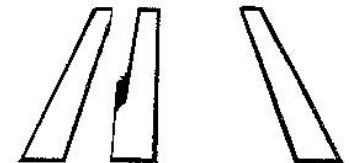
CYTUN CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WALES

COUNCIL OF CHURCHES FOR BRITAIN AND IRELAND

ACTS  
ACTION OF CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SCOTLAND

IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES  
IRISH INTER-CHURCH MEETING

- Southern Africa Coalition Mass Lobby of Parliament.
- Poland on the move.
- Arms Talks.
- "An Open House The European Community looking to 1992"
- Support for Namibian Independence Process.



## NOT STRANGERS BUT PILGRIMS

Alan Dawkins, March 1990