



CTe-News from Churches Together in England July 2014

Reflection on Receptive Ecumenism by David Cornick

This Reflection is taken from a report by David Cornick of the international conference on Receptive Ecumenism, June 2014.

As we worshipped daily in the Egan Chapel during the Third International Receptive Ecumenism conference at the Jesuit's Fairfield University in Connecticut we couldn't escape the influence and inspiration of St Ignatius. The chapel windows traced his spiritual journey, and outside is a remarkable sculpture of the man, by two young sculptors from New York, Joel Benefiel and Jeremy Leichman. The title of the piece is 'examen', the daily prayer exercise that Ignatius taught, an examination of life to discover the presence of God in its warp and weft. Ignatius, as it were looks long and hard at himself.



We were there to look long and hard at our life as churches at this particular phase in history. As Professor Paul Murray suggested in his opening words, we have reached a stage in our ecumenical journey where all the 'soft wood' of theological misunderstanding and misperception has been cleared away, leaving the 'hard wood' of long term differences like the place of women in ministry and the episcopate, and understandings of human sexuality. Those are issues that will not be solved overnight, so we need a way of ecumenical living which respects God's faithfulness. We have not journeyed thus far in vain. God will give us sustenance for the remainder of the way. We are all on pilgrimage together, growing more completely into Christ. Because we are together, and because God is with each of us, we can discover the gifts of God in each other. Receptive ecumenism asks us to have the courage to share our woundedness with each other, and to have the humility to receive healing balm from the gifts that God has given to our partners. It is about asking, 'What do I need to receive?' rather than 'What can I give that they so obviously need?'.

Receptive ecumenism is now a strapping teenager, ready to leave its university home and take on a mature life in the churches. John Gibaut of the World Council of Churches introduced us early on, with tongue only just slightly in cheek, to the 'NATO' ecumenism of the northern world where theological reception is well practised, and contrasted that with the experience of the global south. Leaving home, it seems, means taking your context seriously. This was to be a significant theme.

And so it was. In Canada the work of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission (ARC) has flourished through warm friendships between church leaders and the production of guidelines on the transfer of clergy between the two churches as well as on interchurch marriage. When asked to reflect on why that should be so, Bishops Don Boden and Linda Nicholls noted that Catholics and Anglicans didn't have a history of division, so their experience was profoundly different to that of (say) Lutherans and Catholics in Germany. In South Australia, Receptive Ecumenism has been a

bracing tonic which has completely re-invigorated the life of churches over the past five years. They rejoice in what they understand to be a movement of the Spirit.

Remaining in 'NATO' for the moment, the most far-reaching academic research which has been undertaken was by the Durham group with nine participating denominations in the North East of England. That too is a very specific context - post-industrial, economically deprived, far less ethnically mixed than other areas of England. The five year project (which is continuing) seeks to help churches reflect on three areas of their life - governance and finance, learning and formation, and ministry and leadership - and then to ask whether the giftedness of other churches has something to offer their areas of weakness and woundedness. Examples from the project included the suggestions that Catholicism could benefit from the experience of lay participation at Synodical level of the Methodist and United Reformed Churches, and that the United Reformed Church might find value in the diaconal ministry as experience in the Catholic, Methodist and Anglican churches as it develops new patterns of local church life in the North East. As the work continues, the possibilities of developing resources for local churches expand, and CTE will be working on that.

Full report of the text and PDF

'Redemption' discussed by Rabbis and Black clergy

A day of learning about each other's' scriptural takes on 'redemption' brought rabbis and Black clergy closer together this week.



The most recent in CCJ's series of Rabbis and Black Clergy Conversations was a text study on the subject of 'Redemption'. Rabbi Natan Levy started the day's proceedings by opening up a lively discussion on ideas of redemption, based on Isaiah chapter 58, and looking at the personal and corporate aspects of redemption, the difference between redemption and salvation, and drawing out points of agreement and controversy between Jewish and Christian visions of a future redemptive world. An interesting discussion point was the relationship between Yom Kippur - the Jewish Day of Atonement - and redemption and feeding the hungry, and whether religious ritual or social deed was of the higher value. After lunch, Dr Joe Aldred presented a paper on behalf of Revd Dr Rosalyn Murphy - the planned speaker who was sadly unable to be present - on Christological understandings of redemption, based on the first chapter of Paul's letter to the Ephesians, in the New Testament, and focussing on the themes of adoption, ransom and substitution in redemption.

As well as interfaith discussion, there was lively intra-faith discussion: amongst the rabbis about the role of ritual and ethics in redemption, and among the Christian clergy about the relation between faith and grace.

In total 20 people were in attendance, and we are grateful to Churches Together in England for hosting the event in July 2014.

Article from website of Council of Christians and Jews

CTE bids farewell to one of its Presidents

At a recent meeting of the CTE Presidents, bids farewell to one of its Presidents, the Rt Revd Jana Jeruma-Grinberga.



Jana's ministry as a President of CTE from 2011-14 has been notable. At a time when English Christianity's attention has been focused on the question of women bishops, Jana has modelled episcopal care and oversight in her own compassionate way. Although not the first woman, or even the first ordained woman, to be a President, Jana was the first woman bishop to take on that role. She has brought to us the wisdom and insights of the Lutheran church, which although small and vibrant in England, is one of the largest Christian communions worldwide.

David Cornick, CTE's General Secretary, was able to express the thanks of Jana's fellow Presidents, and of all the member churches, at a meeting of the Lutheran Council on June 24th at the Augustana Centre of the Council of Lutheran Churches. Jana's passionate love of music was the inspiration behind the presentation of a copy of John Eliot Gardiner's Music in the Castle of Heaven: a portrait of Johann Sebastian Bach, which had been signed by her fellow Presidents. We wish Jana and her husband every blessing at they return to their native Latvia.

Methodists step up commitment to covenant with CoFE

Note for prayer; the Church of England discuss this at General Synod this week

News July 1st 2014

The Methodist Church has made a commitment to taking a major step forward in its relationship with the Church of England.

The two Churches are committed to making their unity more visible through the Anglican-Methodist Covenant signed in 2003.

Today the Conference received a report, entitled The Challenge of the Covenant, which recommends that both Churches take action to enhance unity between them, with the work being fully embedded in Church structures.

Professor Peter Howdle, Co-Chair of the Joint Implementation Commission, which produced the report, said: "I think that now is an auspicious time in ecumenical relationships and that the Methodist Conference has taken a courageous and historic step in endorsing our recommendations. A similar bold step by the Church of England will completely change the relationship between our two Churches and make our joint mission much more credible and deepen our communion together."

[Read the whole article on Methodist Conference website](#)
[Anglican-Methodist Covenant website](#)



Black Church Political Mobilisation

The National Church Leaders Forum, which includes several CTE members, has released 'Black Church Political Mobilisation – A Manifesto for Action' which is aimed at encouraging greater political activism among Britain's Black Christian communities. Its authors welcome comments on this consultation draft before 25 July 2014, to be followed by the launch of the official manifesto in the autumn of 2014. **[Covering letter to go with the Manifesto](#)** **[NCLF Manifesto consultation document](#)**



Hope for the Future climate campaign



This is a Press Release from 'Hope for the Future' which involves churches and partners from across the country:

Here is something we can do about climate change! We are always being told that it's urgent and that the time to take action is short. There is so much doom and gloom that it's only natural to wonder if it's worth even trying.

But it is, and what we can do is simple, and can make a big difference. It's about churches acting together in letting our MPs know that we really care about climate change; that we want our children and grandchildren to inherit a planet on which they can live and flourish.

The Hope for the Future campaign is encouraging churches to hold a Climate Write In – a simple and effective way to let MPs know our concerns. The website (www.hfff.org.uk) has all you'll need to run the Write In. On the news section you'll see that some parishes have already done this – and proved it really does work.

Rather than the MPs or Parliamentary candidates getting just one or two letters, they get a stack (or one joint letter signed by a whole congregation) – much more difficult for them to dismiss.

If churches can take this further by meeting with their MP (either at their office or in the church), to discuss the issues, that is even better. This will leave MPs in no doubt that there are lots of people who do care about climate change, and who want real action.

We urge all churches to take part in this simple and effective campaign. The 2015 General Election marks a decisive moment in the battle against Climate Change, and we believe that Christians have a vital role to play. We want to cover every constituency in the UK.

Harvest festivals in the coming autumn offer an excellent opportunity to take action, so does St Francis Day (October 4th) and the Christian Aid 'Hunger for Justice' campaign (18-19th October). The Hope for the Future website has plenty of resources for churches to use.

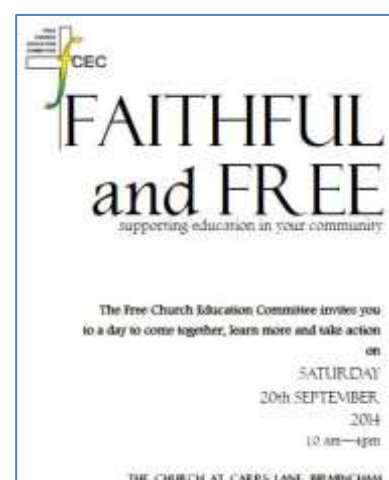
Michael Bayley, who is the Environmental Officer for the Diocese of Sheffield, will be glad to offer help and advice. (Phone: 0114 258 5248: E-mail: michael.hopeftf@gmail.com).

www.hfff.org.uk

Faithful and Free conference - supporting education in your community

The Free Church Education Committee invites everyone to their day conference in September

There are 6 workshops in the morning and 6 in the afternoon on a wide range of topics about education, Christian faith and the local community.



Keynote address Dr Ann Limb

Endnote address Revd Dr David Cornick

More information, details of workshops and booking through the Free churches website

North East Churches Acting Together



'North East Churches Acting Together' is a new arrangement for the churches of the North East. Here, Andy Lie, the Ecumenical Officer for the Northern Synod of the United Reformed Church, speaks about how it has come about and what work it seeks to do for the region.

See Andy speak on the short video:

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/406714/Home/News/News_articles/North_East_Churches.aspx

Anita Nancollas speaks about her new appointment



Anita Nancollas speaks about her appointment as the new County Ecumenical Development Officer for Bedfordshire. Here she speaks about how she came to the role and what the first meetings have been like.

Website for Churches Together in Bedfordshire

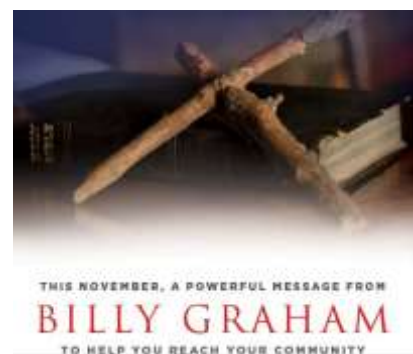
See Anita's short video:

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/407778/Home/News/News_articles/Anita_Nancollas_speaks.aspx

My Hope / Bill Graham video: 'The Cross'

Press Release: Monday 30th June 2014:

The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) announced today that a special, new video message from Billy Graham is set to be released for the first time in the UK on Nov. 7, 2014, in celebration of his 96th birthday. It also marks the 60 year anniversary of Haringay Arena in London, which saw Billy Graham share the message of the gospel to a total of 1,750,000 people who attended these evangelistic meetings during its twelve-week period.



The programme, called "The Cross," is being provided to churches and church leaders as a free evangelistic tool as part of the My Hope UK with Billy Graham campaign. My Hope UK puts the focus on partnering with local churches to support them as they influence their communities and present the Gospel in a compelling, personal and clear way to those around them.

Steve Rhoads, Vice President for My Hope UK says, "We want to come alongside pastors and church leaders across Britain and help them as they equip and encourage their congregations to reach out in love and share their faith. The local church holds a unique position of influence in our communities."

Trailer and more information: <http://www.myhopewithbillygraham.org.uk/>

Press Release:

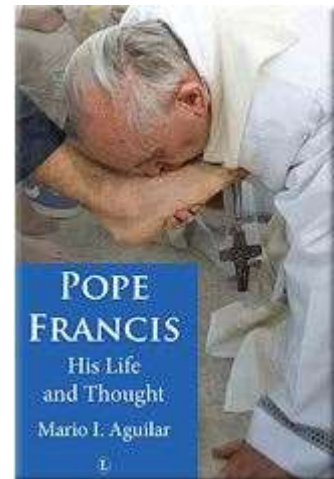
http://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/242240/Home/Resources/Evangelisation/My_Hope_Billy/My_Hope_Billy.aspx

Aguilar, Mario I. Pope Francis: His Life and Thought.

**Obtainable here from Lutterworth Press
2014, ISBN 978 0 7188 9342 2.**

This is a book review by David Carter:

This book, by a Chilean theologian teaching at Aberdeen, is a biography of the Pope up to the point of his election to the papacy. It gives considerable background information on the state of the Catholic Church in Latin America and its development since the 1950's. It deals with the question of whether, in his earlier days in the Jesuit Order, Fr. Bergoglio stood up sufficiently for those priests and lay activists suffering from oppression by the then Argentinian regime.



Aguilar shows clearly that the Pope was never on the Marxist, revolutionary side. He did not favour the Christian socialism of some Chilean Catholics. Nevertheless, his career in campaigning for social justice and a church 'of the poor for the poor' took off from the point at which, in 1992, he was elected an auxiliary bishop, a position he was not initially enthusiastic to accept, following the long term general Jesuit reluctance to be part of the hierarchy. John Paul II had to remind him of the Jesuit oath of obedience and service to the Pope and he was freed from his vow of poverty and his obedience to his Jesuit superiors. Henceforth, he would be under the authority solely of the Congregation of Bishops and the Pope himself.

Full book review:

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/407910/Home/Resources/Theology/Book_Reviews/_Aguilar_Mario.aspx

Recent trends in local Churches Together Groups

Chris Ruddle is the County Ecumenical officer for Kent. He has been in post 9 months and has spent time visiting local groups of Churches Together in the county. Here, Chris speaks to Churches Together in England about some of the recent trends he has observed in his new appointment.



See short video of Chris Ruddle:

http://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/242241/Home/Resources/Local_Ecumenism/Local_relationships/Recent_trends_in/Recent_trends_in.aspx

Inter Faith Week 2014

Inter Faith Week is from 16th - 22nd November 2014. This year there is also a special encouragement to organisers to include an 'inter-generational' dimension to their event.

Inter Faith
Week



The Inter Faith Network **press release of 25th June** gives further information.

The three ongoing aims of the Week are:

Strengthening good inter faith relations at all levels

Increasing awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society

Increasing understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs

This year the CTE event is being arranged in conjunction with Leeds Trinity University, Horsforth.

Information about Inter Faith Week 2014

Ecumenical Society of the Blessed Virgin Mary



The following is from the Ecumenical Society of the Blessed Virgin Mary about an International Congress in September at which the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams is a key note speaker.

The following is from the ESBVM website: Please note the dates in your diary now, and if at all possible advise the Hon General Secretary e-mail: gensec@esbvm.org.uk if you are interested in attending to help with planning. The Master of Magdalene, The Rt Revd & Rt Hon Baron Williams of Oystermouth, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, has generously made himself available as a keynote speaker. In this he fulfils a promise he made to play a fuller part for the ESBVM when he had relinquished office as Archbishop. His willingness to play such a part along with that of other distinguished contributors indicates the privilege the society enjoys in the interest shown by those who recognise the continuing importance of the ESBVM's efforts in this area of ecumenical exchange.

Event: 19th International Congress

Date: 22nd - 25th September 2014

Venue: Magdalene College, Cambridge

Theme: Christian Perfection, The Immaculate Conception and Contemporary Thinking on Holiness in Christian Traditions

Further Details and Booking: <http://www.esbvm.org.uk/category/conferences-congresses/>

www.christianity.org.uk - double the visitors in 12 months

The June newsletter of the Christian Enquiry Agency (CEA) - which works on behalf of the churches in England through Churches Together in England - reports that the visitor numbers to www.christianity.org.uk doubled in the month before Easter 2014 compared to 2013.



12,135 visitors clicked on www.christianity.org.uk in the month before Easter 2013.

25,942 visitors clicked on www.christianity.org.uk in the month before Easter 2014.

The website is for anyone who wants to find out about Christianity and visitors come for a wide variety of reasons. As an enquiry agency, visitors have the option to contact the office and ask for literature. Peter Graystone, the CEA Director, reports that 131 people made personal contact in the month. In the newsletter, Peter describes some of the issues and outcomes.

[Download the PDF of CEA June 2014 newsletter](#)

[Churches Together, Christian Enquiry Agency, and advertising the Christianity website](#)

Blessing on the Beach – a joyful celebration of loaves and fishes: 9 June 2014

On the day after Pentecost Sunday, about 250 people from schools and churches around Morecambe Bay gathered in St James, Arnside to celebrate the gifts of God's Spirit, which animates the whole of Creation, and the wonders of Morecambe Bay.



Church Leaders from Lancashire and Cumbria blessed freshly-caught fish and locally baked bread. Local schoolchildren and church members participated in the service. Afterwards many stayed to picnic together.

Schools, churches and community groups around the Bay have hosted local Loaves and Fishes meals and events throughout the week.

From **Churches Together in Lancashire**.

John Richardson reflects on 50 ecumenical years

John Richardson is currently the County Ecumenical Officer for South London, but has an experience of the ecumenical life of the churches in England - and across the world - stretching back to the 60s and 70s.



Here John speaks to Alison Evans, County Ecumenical Officer for Gloucestershire, about the 50 ecumenical years. The reflection includes comment on key moments in the past, observations about the present life of 'Churches Together' and offers pointers for the future.

See the short video:

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/406715/Home/News/News_articles/John_Richadson_reflects.aspx

100 groups of churches are planning a Silent Night Community Carol Service

Churches Together groups are working with Hope in organising Silent Night Carol Services for 2014, as part of the commemoration of World War I remembering the Christmas truce around a game of football.



Hope 2014, through the initiative **Greater Love**, are resourcing groups of churches holding a community carol service in a football stadium or equivalent sports venue.

This information is from the website of Hope 2014:

HOPE is working with Sports Chaplaincy UK to equip local clubs, community groups and churches to stage the events. Pilot events have been held in several stadia - indoors and out in the stands. In 2011 Bournemouth, Portsmouth, Aldershot Town and Shrewsbury Town football clubs held carol events at their stadiums with the help of sports chaplains, local school choirs and Salvation Army bands. In 2012 the idea spread to 15 clubs, and in 2013 more than 50 sports stadiums around the country hosted a carol event for fans and other members of the community.

Full article and resources:

http://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/242301/Home/Resources/Mission/Hope_2014/Silent_Night_Carol/Silent_Night_Carol.aspx

The Ethical Money Churches Project launched



The Ethical Money Churches Project helps worshipping communities to explore challenging issues relating to Christian stewardship of financial resources and assets. It provides opportunities for sharing and learning about the ethical use of money and what it means to be an "Ethical Money Church" through the use of interactive study resources.

- Do your Christian beliefs influence how you invest your money?
- Where does your church keep its money?
- What do you do when big companies you are invested in award big bonuses to senior managers?
- Is your money being used to exploit people in developing countries?
- What does the Christian faith have to teach us about how we, and our churches, use our money?

These and many other questions have to be considered by Christians wanting to apply their faith to their money.

The Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility has been at the heart of these debates for 25 years, campaigning to make companies aware of their corporate responsibilities and Christians aware of their role and responsibility with their money. The Ethical Money Churches Project provides an opportunity for you to join us in learning more!

More information on the Ethical Money Churches Project website: <http://www.ethicalmoneychurches.org/>

Germinate!

A day conference 11/10/14

This is from the website for the Arthur Rank Centre, who are organising the day conference in Coventry on Saturday 11th October.



Germinate! is supported, including the **Churches Rural Group** of Churches Together in England.

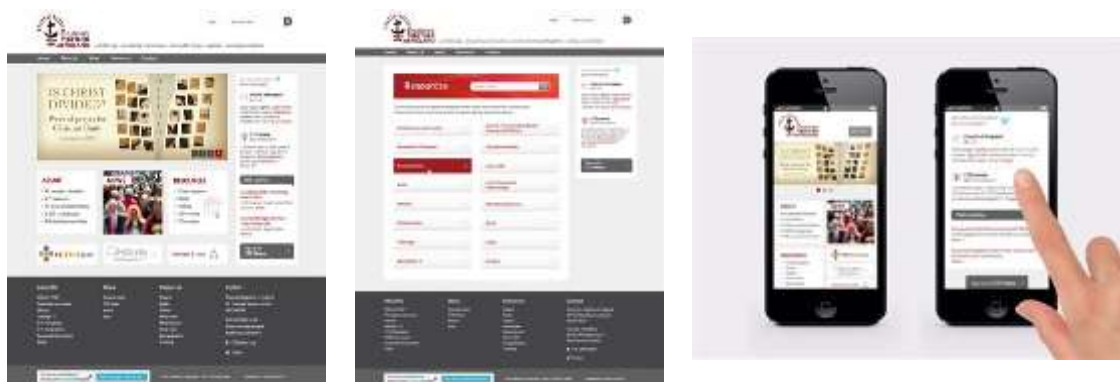
Be inspired, encouraged and equipped by people who understand the challenges and opportunities of rural church mission and ministry at this major national day conference. It is for lay people, clergy and regional church leaders, and is supported by the main churches and organisations that resource rural churches. Included in the programme are keynote addresses, workshops, case studies, sharing of resources and creative ideas by delegates, the launch of a new learning & training initiative, opportunities for networking, and a marketplace for exhibitors & contributors.

Booking is £72 per person.

>>> **Germinate! - all the details on the ARC website** <<<
Download PDF flyer to advertise and pass on to colleagues

CTE website redesign

The website of Churches Together in England is about 10 years old and has been through various stages of development. Recently, we have overhauled the site to make the content easier to find, and next we will be making the site look fresher and easier to navigate. It will also reconfigure automatically for mobile devices and show the latest news provided through our twitter feed on the home page. These are mock up pictures of what the home page, navigation page and mobile version might look like in the next few weeks:



And finally a reminder ...

Alert - Photo and image copyright compliance



We would like to alert anyone using photographs or images, especially on a website, of the need to obtain copyright permission before use.

One of the largest photo and image agencies in the world, Getty Images, now have software that can automatically detect the use of unauthorised images on any website, and they are acting to protect the rights of the photographers and artists involved. If the image / photo used is not covered by a copyright license, it is possible that you will be faced with an invoice for hundreds of pounds per picture.

At CTE we have collated experience of this and discussed the invoicing with Getty Images, License Compliance Department, 101 Bayham Street, London NW1 0AG (08002799258)

Inevitably there are some scams around, but Getty Images have the software and can detect and contact anyone managing a website which contains unauthorised images of theirs. Letters may be addressed to 'Legal Department' even if the recipient is a church or charity. Alternatively, you may get an email directing you to their online payment system.

To find the links and discussion thread search, 'Licence compliance Getty Images' in your web browser.

At CTE we have become self-sufficient and removed all pictures whose source is not known. We strongly advise colleagues everywhere to do the same. As a service we are making our pictures available on www.cte.org.uk/photos

We believe that churches need to be as copyright aware in their use of pictures as they are in their use of music. We have discussed this alert with Getty Images, and we include their details with their permission so that you are assured this is an authentic issue and an important message.

Getty Images point us to 'Stock Photo Rights': <http://www.stockphotorights.com>

A major copyright distribution mechanism that covers social photo sharing is called 'Creative Commons'. This mechanism includes photographs which can be used free with a simple protocol: <http://creativecommons.org>. Photo sharing sites like Flickr use the 'Creative Commons' mechanism and make the it clear on each photograph what the copyright status is: <http://www.flickr.com>

Always be careful to check the license / copyright arrangement for each photograph you may wish to use. Please note this alert and notify colleagues to make sure all photographs are copyright compliant. Thank you.

Jim Currin

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CTe-News collates information from the website of Churches Together in England: www.cte.org.uk

Articles for consideration can be sent to jim.currin@cte.org.uk

Subscribe and visit the archive: www.cte.org.uk/news