



EXTRA CTe-News from Churches Together in England August 2014

Our Unifying Prayer

To find words to help us live out the prayer of Jesus that 'all of them may be one' (John 17:21) we need look no further than the prayer Jesus taught us.

Read Matthew 6: 5-15.

We are one when we say the Lord's Prayer.
We are brought together when we say '*Our Father*'.
We acknowledge that we are all sons and daughters of the same heavenly Father.
We are in submission when we acknowledge '*hallowed be your name*'.
We bid God's kingdom not ours.
We ask for God's will to be here on earth as it is in heaven.
We know we depend on God for our daily bread.
We acknowledge our own trespass / sin / debt.
We come to forgive others.
We ask not to be lead in to temptation.
We seek deliverance from the evil one.

This is a prayer as we remember World War 1.
This is a prayer for the Middle East, Ukraine, and parts of Africa.
This is a prayer for our common witness to Christ.
This is the prayer Jesus taught us to pray.

Pray now.

Jim Currin



Churches Together in Lancashire sign Plea for Peace

Churches Together in Lancashire has joined with Blackburn with Darwen Inter Faith Forum (who initiated this idea), Lancashire Council of Mosques and Lancashire Forum of Faiths to sign the attached Plea for Peace, which has been sent to the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, Jack Straw (MP for Blackburn) and Jake Berry (MP for Rossendale and Darwen).

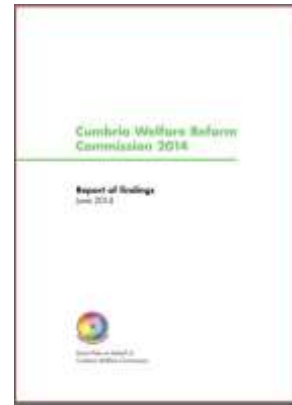
Download to read the Plea for Peace



Cumbria Welfare Reform Commission report

Helen Boothroyd introduces the report:

It has been my privilege to be a member of the support team for a Commission in Cumbria looking at the impact of the welfare reforms. The Commission was chaired by Rt Rev James Newcome, Bishop of Carlisle. It gleaned evidence through personal interviews and written evidence during the first part of 2014 and published its report on 27 June 2014.



Read the rest of Helen's introduction:

http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/410255/Home/News/News_articles/Cumbria_Welfare_Reform.aspx

[Download the Executive Summary](#)

[Download the Full Report](#)

Scottish Independence Referendum Prayers

Action of Churches Together in Scotland have produced prayers and liturgical material for the Sundays leading up to the Referendum on Sept 18th 2014. Various church networks cover England and Scotland and the Referendum is a concern for prayer in England too.



[ACTS prayers and liturgical material](#)

'Earth to Echo' film resources

This is a press release from Damaris - who provide Christian resources for secular films that some groups of churches use in their outreach programme.



Damaris has launched our first ever Film Activity Pack, based on this summer's big family film Earth To Echo which is in cinemas on 25th July. At www.damaris.org/earthtoecho you can order free packs to enable families and organisations working with children to run an Echo Adventure Party with themed food, fun and thought-provoking activities all built around special videos and clips from the film.

These resources are designed for use with children aged 6-12 who will be gripped by the exciting adventure in this film and then inspired to consider what it means to be "friends forever". They're ideal for parents running children's events or parties, for schools doing end-of-term activities and for Cubs and Brownies and other children's groups running events at the beginning of the summer.

Preview and download resources at www.damaris.org/earthtoecho - where you can also pre-order the free Echo adventure pack (consisting of a glossy Leader's Toolkit, ten Echo Adventure Mags and a DVD of video resources).

Celebrating 50 years of Catholic Ecumenism

West Yorkshire Ecumenical Council is working in partnership with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to stage the national celebration of the 50th anniversary of Unitatis Redintegratio, the Vatican II Decree on Ecumenism. On Tuesday 11 November 2014, there will be a service of Ecumenical Vespers at St Anne's Cathedral, Leeds, at 5.30pm. The preacher will be The Most Revd. Sir David Moxon, the Archbishop of Canterbury's representative to the Holy See, and Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome.

Preceding the service, at 2 for 2.30pm, at Wheeler Hall, St Anne's Cathedral, there will be a seminar on Ecumenism: the Past 50 Years and the Next 50 Years. Participants include: David Cornick (General Secretary of Churches Together in England); Cally Hammond (Dean, Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge), Ken Howcroft (President, Methodist Conference, 2014-5) and Paul Murray (ARCIC III and editor: Receptive Ecumenism and the Call to Catholic Learning). The seminar will end in time for the service.

Bookings via clivebarrett@wyec.co.uk
See the poster as webpage or as pdf.

**CELEBRATING
50 YEARS OF CATHOLIC ECUMENISM**

*"The restoration of unity among all Christians
is one of the principal concerns of the Second Vatican Council."*

The Second Vatican Council issued *Unitatis Redintegratio*, its Decree on Ecumenism, in November 1964. Fifty years on,

the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales,
with West Yorkshire Ecumenical Council, invite you to

**Ecumenical Vespers
Leeds Cathedral
5.30pm, Tuesday 11th November 2014**
Preacher: the Most Revd. Sir David Moxon
the Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative to the Holy See
and Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome

Immediately preceding Ecumenical Vespers, you are invited to participate in a

**SEMINAR ON ECUMENISM
The last 50 years; the next 50 years**

Contributors include:


the Revd. Dr. David Cornick
General Secretary of Churches Together in England
the Revd. Dr. Cally Hammond
Dean, Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge
the Revd. Ken Howcroft
President of the Methodist Conference, 2014-2015
Professor Paul Murray
ARCIC III Commission; editor, *Receptive Ecumenism and the Call to Catholic Learning*

**2.00 for 2.30pm, Tuesday 11th November 2014
Wheeler Hall, Leeds Cathedral**

The seminar will finish in time to attend Ecumenical Vespers.
Advance booking for the seminar is essential.

To confirm your seminar place email:
clivebarrett@wyec.co.uk

www.wyec.co.uk



West Yorkshire Churches / Tour de France

The Churches of West Yorkshire and North Yorkshire celebrated Le Tour in style: Community, Hospitality, Velocité!

Involved were St Philip's Birchencliffe, Holy Trinity Skipton, Christ Church Harrogate and Moortown St John, Hall Bower Sunday School, Holy Trinity South Crosland, Newsome South Methodist Church, Netherton Methodist Church, St Paul Armitage Bridge and St John Newsome - working together with amazing effect, from bacon-butties to clearing up.

They handed out over 1500 free 'Water of life' bottles. Local Methodist minister John Hayes said, "as local church communities we are delighted to offer this as a refreshing gift. We are all followers of Jesus, who was once treated to refreshing water when he was tired and thirsty in a strange land."

ALLEZ, ALLELUIA! 



Nominations for Methodist Secretary of the Conference



The Methodist Church is seeking to appoint its next Secretary of the Conference, who will succeed The Revd Dr Martyn Atkins on 1 September 2015. The advertisement inviting nominations can be viewed at

http://www.methodist.org.uk/media/1254734/Secretary%20of%20the%20Conference_advert%20final%202015.07.2014.pdf

The Secretary of the Methodist Conference works closely with the President and Vice-President, and plays a principal part in the care, oversight and leadership of the Methodist Church. The person appointed will be responsible for enabling the strategic development and implementation of the Church's vision of unity, mission, evangelism and worship and for encouraging good governance. The position is open to Presbyters in Full Connexion with the British Methodist Conference.

Break out conference for pioneer ministers



Break out is a gathering of pioneers and those involved in pioneer ministry to be together, learn from each other, find support from those who share the same call and interact with a number of guest speakers.

Dates

Wednesday 24th to Friday 26th September 2014
The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, 2pm to lunchtime

Speakers

Contributors will include George Lings, Martin Daws and Olive Fleming Drane

Cost

The cost of the gathering is £145 per person, including ensuite accommodation and all meals. A day ticket (excluding accommodation and breakfast) is £55.

Partners

Break out is a partnership between Fresh Expressions, the Centre for Pioneer Learning, CMS, VentureFX, Church Army, The Salvation Army and Incarnate Networks.

Further details and booking

For further information or to book, please visit the [Break out website](#). Bookings close on 8th September 2014.

CTE web refresh: almost there ...

When complete in the next few days you will see a fresh looking site with a main menu for all areas at the top and bottom of each page. Latest news updates from twitter will be on the home page, and the whole site will reformat for smart phones and tablets. We hope it will be easier to use and make more information available. We look forward to feedback: jim.currin@cte.org.uk

Women Bishops - Response of other Churches to CofE



On 14th July 2014 the Church of England took a synodical decision that made it possible for women to be Bishops in the Church of England. There has been some debate about the ecumenical implications of this decision taken by one of the member Churches of Churches Together in England, in relation to other member churches. This page is a summary of responses that have been made. Other responses may be added.

Roman Catholic

Church of England women bishops vote is obstacle on the path to unity, say Catholic bishops:

<http://catholic-ew.org.uk/Home/News/Women-Bishops>

<http://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/971/0/church-of-england-s-vote-for-women-bishops-met-with-whoops-and-cheers-at-general-synod>

'Vote for Women bishops does not create 'new reality' for ecumenism, says Vatican official':

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2014/07/15/vote-for-women-bishops-does-not-create-new-reality-for-ecumenism-says-vatican-official/>

Baptists Together:

'Baptists Together welcome the Women Bishops Vote':

http://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/408674/Baptists_Together_Welcome.aspx

Methodist:

'Methodist Churches welcomes 'yes' vote on women bishops:

<http://methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/news-releases/methodist-church-welcomes-yes-vote-on-women-bishops>

World Council of Churches:

'Church of England's vote on women bishops':

http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/wcc-general-secretary-expresses-appreciation-for-church-of-england2019s-vote-on-women-bishops?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

The press release and background to the CofE decision:

Press release re Women Bishops decision @ CofE General Synod 14.07.14

Background to the CofE process with reports and related links

And from Twitter: www.twitter.com

The Prime Minister: 'I warmly welcome today's vote formally approving women bishops - a great day for the Church and for equality' @Number10gov.

The President of Methodist Conference, Revd Ruth Gee: 'Excellent news'. @RuthMGee

Reform magazine of the United Reformed Church: 'Well done, Church of England'. @Reform_Mag:

Letter to ecumenical partners

Letter from Archbishop of Canterbury to ecumenical partners re General Synods decision to allow women to become bishops, emphasising that churches 'need each other'.

WCC Central Committee July 2014

The Revd Dr Donald Norwood is a United Reformed Church Minister living in Oxford and attending a Local Ecumenical Partnership at Blackbird Leys in Oxford. Donald volunteered to join the media team at the World Council of Churches Central Committee in July 2014 - a committee that meets every 2 years.



Here Donald offers a Personal Reflection for Churches Together in England in a 'Feature' paper provided to aid further discussion, prayer and planning for local groups of churches in England. Donald provides an overview of the committee business and activities, with some stories of the people he met.

Download the Personal Reflection by Donald Norwood

Website of the World Council of Churches

Official report of the Central Committee meeting from WCC

CTBI reports and videos of the 10th Assembly in 2013 as background: <http://www.ctbi.org.uk/637>

Assisted Dying Bill: Faith Leaders Statement

This statement from faith leaders was published in The Telegraph on 16.07.14

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/10969783/Religious-leaders-unite-to-condemn-assisted-dying-law.html>

The text reads:

As leaders of faith communities, we wish to state our joint response to Lord Falconer's Assisted Dying Bill. We do so out of deep human concern that if enacted, this bill would have a serious detrimental effect on the wellbeing of individuals and on the nature and shape of our society.

Every human life is of intrinsic value and ought to be affirmed and cherished. This is central to our laws and our social relationships; to undermine this in any way would be a grave error. The Assisted Dying Bill would allow individuals to participate actively in ending others' lives, in effect colluding in the judgment that they are of no further value. This is not the way forward for a compassionate and caring society.

Vulnerable individuals must be cared for and protected even if this calls for sacrifice on the part of others. Each year many thousands of elderly and vulnerable people suffer abuse; sadly, often at the hands of their families or carers. Being perceived as a burden or as a financial drain is a terrible affliction to bear, leading in many cases to passivity, depression and self-loathing. The desire to end one's life may, at any stage of life, be prompted by depression or external pressure; any suggestion of a presumption that such a decision is 'rational' does not do justice to the facts. The Assisted Dying Bill can only add to the pressures that many vulnerable, terminally ill people will feel, placing them at increased risk of distress and coercion at a time when they most require love and support.

A key consideration is whether the Assisted Dying Bill will place more vulnerable people at risk than it seeks to help. We have seen, in recent years that even rigorous regulation and careful monitoring have not prevented the most serious lapses of trust and care in some parts of the NHS and within a number of Care Homes. It is naïve to believe that, if assisted suicide were to be legalised, proposed safeguards would not similarly be breached with the most disastrous of consequences, by their nature irrevocable.



The bill raises the issue of what sort of society we wish to become: one in which life is to be understood primarily in terms of its usefulness and individuals evaluated in terms of their utility or one in which every person is supported, protected and cherished even if, at times, they fail to cherish themselves. While we may have come to the position of opposing this bill from different religious perspectives, we are agreed that the Assisted Dying Bill invites the prospect of an erosion of carefully tuned values and practices that are essential for the future development of a society that respects and cares for all. Better access to high-quality palliative care, greater support for carers and enhanced end of life services will be among the hallmarks of a truly compassionate society and it is to those ends that our energies ought to be harnessed.

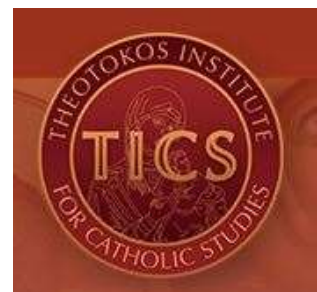
Bhai Sahib Mohinder Singh Ahluwalia, Chairman, Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha
Mr Yousif Al-Khoei, Director Al-Khoei Foundation
Rev Dr Martyn Atkins, General Secretary of the Methodist Church and Secretary of the Conference
Bishop Eric Brown, Administrative Bishop, New Testament Church of God
Mr Malcolm M Deboo, President, Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe
Rev Jonathan Edwards, Deputy Moderator Free Churches Group
Pastor John Glass, General Superintendent, Elim Pentecostal Churches
Revd David Grosch-Miller and Mr John Ellis, Moderators of the United Reformed Church General Assembly
Colonel David Hinton, Chief Secretary, The Salvation Army United Kingdom
Rev Stephen Keyworth, Faith and Society Team Leader, Baptist Union of Great Britain
Ayatollah Fazel Milani, Dean of the International Colleges of Islamic Studies
Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth
Most Rev Dr Barry Morgan, Archbishop of Wales
His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster
Rev John Partington, National Leader, Assemblies of God
Mr Ramesh Pattni, Secretary General, Hindu Forum of Britain
Bishop Wilton Powell, National Overseer, Church of God of Prophecy
Maulana Shahid Raza OBE, Leicester Central Mosque, Leicester
Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala, Chief Sangha Nayake of Great Britain, London Buddhist Vihara
Dr Shuja Shafi, Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain
Dr Natubhai Shah, Chairman/CEO Jain Network
Lord Indarjit Singh, Director Network of Sikh Organisations (UK)
Most Rev and Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

Article by the Archbishop of Canterbury on assisted suicide and compassion from The Times 12.07.14

URC Briefing paper

CofE Briefing paper

Eastern Christian Thought and Practice in 21C Europe - a conference



Fr James Siemens, Chaplain to Eastern Christians at Cardiff University and Director of Theotokos Institute for Catholic Studies writes:

I am writing to inform you about a conference on Eastern Christianity planned for 26, 27, 28 November in Cardiff, entitled 'Eastern Christian Thought and Practice for 21st Century Europe', in the hope that the information might be circulated among your members.

Hosted jointly by the Theotokos Institute for Catholic Studies and the chaplaincies of Cardiff University, its purpose is to serve as a forum for exploring issues relevant to Eastern Christians -

including Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, and Eastern Catholics - living in a post-religious society.

Confirmed speakers at this time are Fr Andrew Louth, Dr Roman Zavyyskyy, Bishop Vahan Hovhannessian, Aidan Hart, Fr Aidan Kimel, Alan Brown, Dr Augustine Casiday, and others. The majority are scholars of the Russian Orthodox Church, with one from the Armenian Orthodox Church and one from the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

More information can be found here: <http://www.tics.org.uk/event/theological-conference/>

Development Officer post - Anglican Centre in Rome



This is a job advert for a Development Officer at the Anglican Centre in Rome

Home-based, part-time appointment
20 hours a week
£20,000 per annum

In order to resource its expanding activity, the Anglican Centre in Rome wishes to appoint as Development Officer an experienced fund-raiser who will plan and implement a significant strengthening of our marketing activities, building upon the work of Revd Bill Snelson who is becoming our Communications Officer.

The Development Officer will spearhead fundraising activities for the Centre in the UK to raise at least £180k per annum and initiate an Endowment fundraising campaign to raise £5 million.

The post holder will be based at their home in the UK.

The Job Description, Person Specification, Terms and Conditions and an application form are available on the Anglican Centre website: www.anglicancentreinrome.org/developmentofficer

Applications should be sent by email to **The Revd Barry Nichols**

All enquiries and applications will be treated in confidence.

The closing date for applications is 8 September 2014
Interviews will be in London on 22 September 2014.

Tweet @acrcentro

Our Mission

The Anglican Centre in Rome promotes Christian unity in a divided world.
It is a permanent Anglican Communion presence in Rome.
Its Director is the Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative to the Holy See.
It exercises a ministry of hospitality and prayer,
and provides educational opportunities and resources.

<http://www.anglicancentreinrome.org/>

Christian Unity since Vatican II - an ecumenical day conference

A one day conference entitled "Christian Unity Since Vatican II: Memory, Present, Where Now?" will take place from 10am – 4.30pm on Saturday, 15 November 2014 at Farm Street Church & Centre, 114 Mount Street, London W1K 3AH. Cost £10 per person to include coffee/tea and biscuits (bring own packed lunch).

The conference is being organised by Churches Together in Westminster in conjunction with The Society for Ecumenical Studies, and is kindly being sponsored by the Catholic League. Places are limited, so advance booking is essential.

The six speakers will approach the impact that Vatican II has had on Christian Unity from different perspectives. The conference will end with Vespers.

[Download a poster](#)

[Download a brochure](#)

For further information, please contact Fr Dominic Robinson SJ
Email dominicrobinson@rcdow.org.uk
Phone 020 7529 4806

Faithful and Free conference - supporting education in your community

The Free Church Education Committee invite everyone to their day conference.

Saturday 20th September 2014. 10-4pm

The church at Carrs lane, Birmingham

More information, details of workshops and booking through the [Free churches website](#)

The poster features a green header with the title "CHRISTIAN UNITY SINCE VATICAN II" in white. Below the header, the subtitle "Memory, Present, Where Now?" is written in a smaller font. The main text of the poster reads: "A Day Conference to be held from 10am – 4.30pm on Saturday 15th November 2014 at FARM STREET CHURCH & CENTRE 114 Mount Street, London W1K 3AH". A small note says "(See brochure for details)". Underneath, the section "The Speakers:" is followed by six small portrait photos of the speakers, each with their name and title below it: Revd Dr David Cornick, Alison Gelder, Revd Canon Prof Nicholas Sagovsky, Revd Archimandrite Nikodimos, Jack Valero, and Revd Canon Lucy Winkett.

The poster features a logo at the top left with a cross and the letters "CEC". The main title "FAITHFUL and FREE" is written in large, bold, serif font. Below the title, the subtitle "supporting education in your community" is written in a smaller font. The text of the poster reads: "The Free Church Education Committee invites you to a day to come together, learn more and take action on SATURDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2014 10 am—4pm THE CHURCH AT CARRS LANE, BIRMINGHAM".

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

NOTE: The Christianity website works on behalf of the churches in England through Churches Together in England and the Churches Group for Evangelisation. All churches, mission projects, websites, magazines, literature – even high visibility vests if you are doing a litter pick – are all possibilities for advertising www.christianity.org.uk . Find out more and see the video: http://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/234783/Home/Resources/Evangelisation/Christianity_website/Christianity_website.aspx

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.



Steven Croft, the Bishop of Sheffield, is a strong supporter of a campaign about climate change and writes in this article:

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.

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. www.hfff.org.uk