



Reflection of the Month: Abide with us



Do you enjoy meetings? I do. I know it's a bit odd, but I enjoy sitting around a table, talking to other people, thinking about what they've said. As the words and ideas fill the air I sit and draw mind maps, fill the margins with doodles, make notes to myself on things to follow up or think about. Belbin's Team Roles define this as a 'Resource Investigator', I think this roughly translates as 'ideas stealer'.

One recent meeting that I'm still mulling over is last month's CTE Forum. It was full of nuggets of wisdom to bury and store like autumn acorns, to be dug up and re-discovered sometime in the depths of winter. There are three things in particular that have stayed with me.

The first is an image. The Rose Window in Westminster Abbey. Vincent Nichols described it like this during the Monday evening conversation about the transforming presence of Christ;

"Look at a rose window; it has Jesus at its centre. When that focus is there, the window has its coherence. Without that focus, the window could just be a splattering of disjointed images. When your life is centred on Christ, it's transformed."

For me, this is a beautiful image of the ecumenical movement – all of us, despite our differences, seeking to live the way of Jesus in the world.

The second is words, from Janet Scott reflecting on the Road to Emmaus story. We can all be guilty at times of talking about faith without living it. For Quakers, most of what faith is about is living it. 'Remember Christianity is not a notion but a way' we are reminded in Quaker Faith and Practice. The story reminds us that Christianity is about community; 'Abide with US, with all of us'. That sense of community, and of Jesus being with us always, becomes important when we think about the challenges we face in our world;

"For all of us, we are living in particularly dark times (...) The lies, the violence, the rampant inequality - we should be outraged. The consumerism and the debt. We are killing ourselves off and we are stealing the future. We are doing it too. What we need is spiritual warfare, the lamb's war has to be undertaken. We have to be able to be counter-cultural, to stand against. To stand against lies with truth, to stand against violence with peace, to stand against inequality with justice, to stand against consumerism with simplicity. We have to take on that darkness and we cannot do it in our own power, only if Jesus abides with us."

The third is an image and words. Over the course of Forum we were invited to weave a piece of thread into a frame, as a symbol of our journey together. Reflecting on the finished weaving, Rachel Parkinson challenged us to think about what we might do with the weaving; what, in the end, is the point of this ecumenical enterprise?

"What would we do with it now? Is it a welcome mat that we will spread for refugees and asylum seekers? Or would it be a shawl to give dignity to migrants who have drowned on the journey? Is it a safety net that together we will hold below those who have been pushed to the very edge of despair? Or a shawl we will wrap around the shoulders of the bereaved? Is it a table cloth upon which we will lay out a feast for the hungry? Or a blanket we will offer to those who are out in the cold? Is it the banner under which we will gather as we protest for justice and all those things together? Is it the coat we will spread on the ground as we welcome the Christ we share."

I hope we can dig up these acorns, and all the things we have learnt from each other, to provide food in the depths of winter.

Hilary Topp

Hilary is National Coordinator of the Student Christian Movement and was Deputy Moderator of CTE's 2018 Forum.

CTE Forum 2018 Press Release

20th September 2018 for immediate use

Only by working together

'Only by working together can we alleviate the pain suffered by so many', said one of the six Presidents of Churches Together in England this week. His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos, the Orthodox CTE President, was referring to Orthodox, Anglican and Salvation Army churches responding to refugees.

He was speaking alongside his co-Presidents at the Forum of Churches Together in England which took place at Swanwick in Derbyshire on the theme: 'I am with you always – together in God's mission'.

With 270 delegates present, including many under 35yrs, the six Presidents had a conversation together about the 'Presence of Christ'. Questions were posed from six young adults who were present as Forum delegates and each President reflected on the ecumenical journey which we all share in response to the prayer of Jesus for mission and unity.

Pentecostal President, Pastor Agu Irukwu, said that our witness to Christ continues despite what we are going through. 'Whether on the mountains or in the valleys, we tell the story of his presence with us just the same'. Archbishop Justin Welby, the President for the Church of England, added, 'people will see the presence of Christ in



us when we stop holding on to things and we start letting God put a cross in our hands’.

Referring to Jesus, one of the young adults asked the Presidents, ‘What tables would you overturn?’ Cardinal Nichols for the Roman Catholic Church said, ‘we are being given a consistent lead by Pope Francis on clericalism and the assumptions on a position of superiority and privilege that are sometimes present. He wants that table clearly and vigorously turned over’.

Revd Dr Hugh Osgood, the Free Churches President, agreed, suggesting we needed new ways of measuring success, ‘We need to come away from the competitiveness we’ve had between the Churches. Why not measure what impact we are having on society?’

All the Presidents spoke of the need for divine encounter. Revd Canon Billy Kennedy, representing the New Churches, the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and the Lutheran and German-speaking Churches, said that in a ‘very fragmented world .. the Church needs to rediscover its confidence,’ and whilst language and culture change, ‘the need in human hearts hasn’t changed.’

Cardinal Nichols used the image of a rose window as a picture of the Church, ‘which always has Jesus at the centre’ he added, referring to the Churches working together in England.

The Forum marked the change of CTE General Secretary from the Revd Dr David Cornick, who retires, to the Revd Dr Paul Goodliff, recently appointed.

Notes

Churches Together in England is the ‘national ecumenical instrument’ of the member churches: www.cte.org.uk/memberchurches

The Forum is the broadest ecumenical gathering of Christians in England, bringing together the 47 national member churches, regional Intermediate Bodies, and 51 ecumenical Bodies in Association. It last met in 2015. Background information: www.cte.org.uk/forum

Information specific to this Forum: www.cte.org.uk/forum2018

Reports, photographs, session videos etc will be placed on: www.cte.org.uk/Forum2018/afterwards

The Forum met at The Hayes conference centre, where in 1987 the then Presidents signed the Swanwick Declaration which proclaimed, We are strangers no longer but pilgrims together on the way to God’s kingdom. www.cte.org.uk/swanwickdeclaration

Photo credit: Chris Dobson © Churches Together in England. We apologise that we do not have a group photograph that includes The Archbishop of Canterbury but see more: www.cte.org.uk/Forum2018/afterwards

Forum 2018 texts, videos, photos and reports

Welcome to this summary page which contains all texts and downloadable material from the [2018 Forum: 'I am with you always – Together in God's Mission'](#). [What is the Forum? It's the broadest ecumenical representative gathering of Christians in England.](#)



Photos

All [Forum photos](#) can be downloaded from [Flickr](#). Please credit '© Churches Together in England; Photo: Chris Dobson' – except on the rare occasion that someone else has taken the photograph. Clicking the photo in Flickr and scrolling down gives you all the information you require.

Texts and reports

Downloadable files will appear below. All texts are © Churches Together in England unless otherwise stated. Please ensure you credit as appropriate. Send your report to [Lorraine Shannon](#) to be included below and read [the Forum evaluations](#) by participants.

Videos

All CTE videos are [on Vimeo](#) and were shot and edited by Jim Cooke at [Centreline Films](#), including a [short overview of the 2018 Forum and the importance of Swanwick in the ecumenical journey](#) (1:55 mins).

Monday 17 September

- [Welcome to Forum](#) (4:39 mins)
- [Why we are here](#) (8:12 mins)
- [Unpacking the theme](#) (12:41 mins)
- [David Cornick's General Secretary's report and reflection](#) (22:23 mins)
- [The transforming presence of Christ: Archbishop Anjaelos, Cardinal Vincent Nichols and Archbishop Justin Welby](#) (28:02 mins)
- [Questions from young adults to the Presidents](#) – follow-on from previous session. (26:54 mins)

Tuesday 18 September








- [The transforming presence of Christ: Pastor Agu Irukwu, The Revd Canon Billy Kennedy and The Revd Dr Hugh Osgood](#) (23:04 mins)
- [Questions from young adults to the Presidents](#) – follow-on from previous session. (26:54 mins)
- [Questions from small groups to the Presidents](#) (34:44 mins)

Tuesday afternoon was spent in the marketplace and in workshops and the evening was in small groups.






Wednesday 19 September

- Multi-voice bible study, [Emmaus reading and William Kay](#) (16:13 mins)
- Multi-voice bible study, [Patsy McDonald SHCJ](#) (11:50 mins)
- Multi-voice bible study, [Janet Scott](#) (19:53 mins)
- Multi-voice bible study, [panel in conversation](#) (10:54)
- [Ruth Bottoms thanks David Cornick and Rachel Parkinson reflects on the weaving](#) (13:07 mins)
- [Ruth Bottoms interviews and commissions Paul Goodliff, CTE's new General Secretary](#) (15:45 mins)

Papers

-  [01 Press Release](#) (155.9KB)
-  [02 Ruth Gee introduction to Forum theme](#) (158.0KB)
-  [03 General Secretary's report](#) (178.5KB)
-  [Bible study Emmaus Patsy McDonald](#) (208.8KB)
-  **new!** [Noel Robinson's civic hymn](#) (366.2KB)
-  [Paul Goodliff interview notes](#) (167.3KB)
-  [The music at Forum](#) (158.8KB)

Reports following Forum 2018

-  **new!** [Beverley Hollins \(Church of England\)](#) (87.3KB)
-  **new!** [#cteforum2018 - Twitter feed](#) (8.1MB)
-  **new!** [Andrew Dodd \(Cumbria Baptist\)](#) (62.9KB)
-  **new!** [Chris Webb \(Dorset Quaker\)](#) (90.0KB)
-  [Annika Mathews \(Church of England\)](#) (88.7KB)

Forum report from musician in residence

Teresa Brown writes:

"As Musician in Residence at the CTE Forum I was asked to write a piece of music for the closing worship session. The Lord's Prayer was my choice of text, because it is said in various ways in our different churches, but we come together here as brothers and sisters, and as sons and daughters, to pray to our Father. By using the traditional words for the first part, and ending with a modern version of the Doxology, I planned to use two very different styles of music for the two distinct parts of the prayer.

The Lord's Prayer we sang at the Forum began with a setting of the Pater Noster by the Russian composer Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov, sung in English by a wonderful choir made up of participants at the Forum. Two volunteers demonstrated simple sign language to everyone, and the worship group accompanied the final part of the prayer, using the music I had composed. To link the music together after the words "deliver us from



evil”, the sound of the harp emerged from the depths with long glissandos, sounding quite dramatic. The 4-part choir then sang in unison in the style of a worship song with the words “For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen.” As with many worship songs, this was repeated so that more people could sing along, crescendo-ing up to the final Amen with the harp, stringed instruments and clashing cymbals. Thank you CTE, the Forum was the perfect situation for the first performance of this piece of music. See the video: <https://vimeo.com/291083747>

Musical highlights:

The singers in the choir, together with Steven Cooper who was an excellent cantor, sang a beautiful Taizé Night Prayer at the end of the first day. This included a Latin chant, Mane Nobiscum (Stay with us, Lord) which was new to many of us, but was so appropriate to the theme of the Forum.

My workshop on The Presence of Christ in Music gave people time to share their own experiences of Christ in music, and then to be creative in making up short songs. Inspired by watching the YouTube video of One Day by Koolulam, everyone was then asked to work together in 2s and 3s, to create one line of a song, beginning with the words “One day...” With the help of accompanist John Bowman, we ended the session by listening to some amazing lyrics, melodies and harmonies, covering a wide range of musical styles, as new songwriting talents came to light here for the first time.

This is the third Forum I have been involved in musically, and leading again with Noel Robinson has been a great joy, every time. In this year’s Worship Group, we were joined by harpist Rowena Bass, jazz pianist John Bowman, singer Diana Stanbridge and drummer Chris Beckett. The diversity of our instruments and our church backgrounds (Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Pentecostal and Pioneer Church) just goes to show how music can unite us together in praise of God. In the words of one of the songs that emerged from our workshop, we pray that “One day Christ will be seen in our oneness”.

Embracing the Other Introduction

Embracing the Other is a resource for Receptive Ecumenism produced by a team served by Churches Together in England. It is free for anyone to use. It is intended for groups of people, perhaps from different church traditions. It can be run as five sessions or a standalone conference.



This is the homepage for the course with information for enquirers, facilitators and participants.

Here is a short promotional video by Ruth Bottoms which introduces this course for enquirers. Click the picture above or use the link: <https://vimeo.com/284488924>

Here is a further introductory video by Callan Slipper, with two reasons why you might consider doing the course.

Click the picture or use the link: <https://vimeo.com/284487489>



Two ways to run the course

This course is very flexible. There are two main ways in which it could be run.

Stand-alone Session

The Stand-alone Session gives an introduction to Receptive Ecumenism and an opportunity to practise it. There are activities, discussion and prayer elements and it may be run as a day, or half-day conference. Alternatively, the course can be spread over five sessions as below. Material is provided for both options.

Five-Session course

Session 1: 'Presenting Receptive Ecumenism' is an introduction that includes a welcome, 'getting to know you', setting the scene, some images to discuss.

Session 2: 'Giving an account of the hope that is in us' includes prayer, reading, a video and discussion about the hope we have as Christians and churches in the quest for unity.

Session 3: 'Learning to Listen' helps us to hear one another deeply. It includes a video about when we are not listened to well, a discussion, readings, another video about times when Christians have been listened to well, an exercise and prayer.

Session 4: 'Listening to Learn' offers a chance to use our listening skills to understand each other's traditions and experiences. It includes prayer, sharing, a video, reading and discussion groups.

Session 5: 'Being the Branches of the Vine' concludes the course. It is a multimedia approach and looks to how we can use the insights gained by Receptive Ecumenism in the future.

For more information about Receptive Ecumenism use the [link here](#).

<https://www.cte.org.uk/Group/Group.aspx?ID=306183>

www.cte.org.uk/embracingtheother

Please note this is a work in progress, hence ...

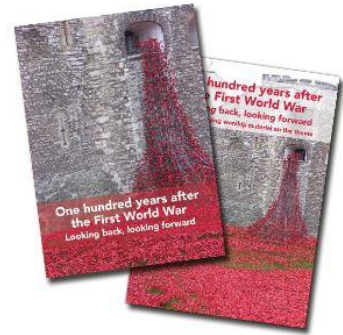
Road testing request

This resource draws on material that has been previously tested but not in the format here presented with the videos and downloads. If anyone from a group of churches was interested to road testing the material, we would be pleased to hear. You can email jim.currin@cte.org.uk with any suggestions. Thank you

British and German authors worship material re WW1

Reporting on joint church co-operation, Philip Brookes writes:

The United Reformed Church have just launched a pair of booklets to commemorate 100 years since the 1918 Armistice. We believe this is a unique initiative as it is a compilation of stories, reflections, poems and worship material (including a new hymn) especially written by German and British authors.



For over 60 years the URC has had a Covenant of Pulpit and Table Fellowship with the Protestant Churches in the Palatinate region of Germany, the 'Evangelische Kirche der Pfalz'. Entitled 'One hundred years after the First World War: Looking back, looking forward', the first booklet contains personal stories, reflections and poems written by British and German contributors. It includes a pilgrimage to the Somme this year undertaken by Pfarrer Martin Henninger from the Pfalz and the Revd David Pickering, Moderator of the Synod in Scotland. Their grandparents served on opposing sides during World War One. An accompanying booklet provides worship material: meditation, prayers, newly written hymns and biblical reflections. It closes with a commitment to peace building.

The publication of the resource is timed so that the material can be used in preparation for remembrance services. We hope this combined British/German initiative will bring a thought provoking dimension to the 100 year commemoration of the end of World War One.

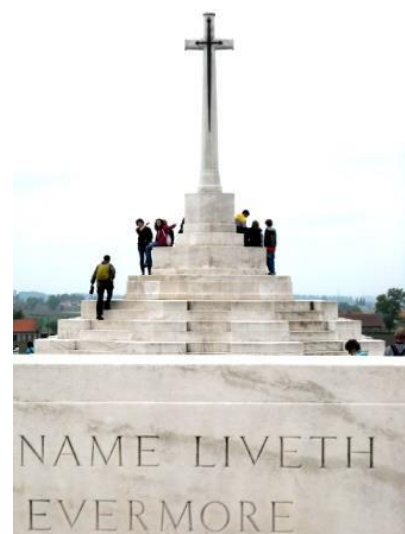
The booklets are available as a downloadable pdf at: www.urc.org.uk/british-german-remembrance-resources.html or by ordering printed copies from the URC shop www.urcshop.co.uk (Tel: 0207 916 8629).

Information re marking WW1

The 6 Presidents of Churches Together in England agreed a statement: 'From 4th August 2018 in churches across the country, let us mark 100 days with prayers for peace, hope and reconciliation'.

As we approach the 11th November 2018 and the 100th year since the end of World War I, there are many groups and resources for prayer, remembrance, outreach and service that groups of churches can offer to their local communities.

Here is a list of resources in alphabetical order:



[10 suggestions for local Churches Together groups 2014-2018](#)

[100 Days of Prayer for Peace and Reconciliation from Aug 4th](#)

['Active Service St Johns Gospel' replica: giveaway from Lifewords](#)

[An Order of Service free PDF](#)

[Battlefield information and timeline](#)

[Battles Over: A Nation's Tribute - Bells, Beacons, Town Criers, and events](#)

[British and German authors offer prayers and reflections from URC](#)

[Carved Names: a hymn for Remembrance](#)

[Church of England web resources](#)

[CTBI eBooks: *We will Remember* and *Beyond our Tears*](#)

[Government webpage resource](#)

['Hear My Cry', stories, psalms, poems, prayers and Bible readings for 'when words fail': Bible Society](#)

[Hope for the World's despair: hymn](#)

[Imperial War Museum and 1000 partners](#)

[Orders of Service: CTBI from Church House Bookshop](#)

[Paper from URC Peace Fellowship: Some Issues re 'Language' and Commemorating WW1](#)

[Quaker paper remembering WW1 and pacifist tradition](#)

[Service resources, PPT, images, etc from CTBI](#)

['Silence', give away exploring aspects of war and Christian faith](#)

[Ten Myths of WW1 debunked - a BBC Magazine article by Dan Snow](#)

[They Also Served: African and Caribbean servicemen.](#)

[Video re resources from Hope Together by Catherine Butcher](#)

Please note that this list is a sample of resources available for Churches Together groups, and our partnership with www.christianity.org.uk will reflect some of the questions people have about war and peace for those enquiring about the Christian faith.

Commission on Religious Education launches its report



The Final Report of the Commission on Religious Education (CoRE) was launched on 12 September, at the House of Commons, after publication on 9 September.

The report, entitled Religion and Worldviews: the way forward A national plan for RE, was the result of 2 years' worth of evidence-gathering, debate and analysis by the Commissioners. Some of our member churches have been actively involved throughout the process, participating in consultations and offering evidence. The Catholic Education Service, Church of England and Free Church Education Committee have published responses to the publication, and all will be offering more detailed comments in due course.

Sarah Lane Cawte as the Free Churches Education Officer says:

The Free Church Education Committee welcomes the publication of this report and is grateful to the members of the Commission for their hard work and commitment. The Committee has engaged with the Commission on Religious Education at every stage of its work, and we are pleased to see recommendations that reflect our position, and that of many others.

We agree that change is needed. Religious Education is, perhaps, more important now than it has ever been in helping young people navigate the complexities of a diverse society and forming their own views. The Commission's extremely thorough analysis of the current situation has led it to propose substantive change that, we hope, will attract the support of stakeholders and Government, and lead to rounded and rigorous educational experiences for all young people, including those who are studying vocational subjects. [Read more.](#)

Churches are encouraged to read the Commission's [report](#), of which there is also an executive summary, to gain an understanding of the far-reaching changes the Commission is recommending. The Commission welcomes responses to the report and recommendations.

Bible Society publishes new Youth Bible

Bible Society is a Body in Association with Churches Together in England and writes:

Designed in partnership with Youth for Christ and young people themselves, this new edition of the Good News Bible contains plenty of unique features such as journaling pages, key discussion topics, challenges and even a dedicated series of YouTube videos.



Special features:

- links to a dedicated YouTube playlist with 30 videos unpacking and offering support on key themes and issues found in the Bible;
- hundreds of interactive elements throughout the Bible to encourage a deeper engagement with the text;
- Space for writing, doodling and drawing’;
- a full-page introduction to each book of the Bible, showing what it's all about and how it fits into a bigger story;
- and 32 colour pages of key things to know about the Bible, help with tough topics, and journaling space.

Pre-order it now on the Bible Society's [website](#).

Celebrating Eucharist









Thousands of Catholics gathered in Liverpool over the weekend of 7-9 September 2018 to think, pray and celebrate. The Eucharistic Congress, Adoremus ('Let us adore') was a mixture of theological input, worship and silent prayer. One theme running throughout the Congress was ecumenism.



On the Friday, the 'symposium day', one of the workshops offered was 'The Eucharist as a sign of the Church's Unity: "One Bread, One Body" revisited'. Co-ordinated by John O'Toole, the Catholic National Ecumenical Officer (right in the photo), it featured inputs by three of his NEO colleagues, from left to right in the photo: Callan Slipper (Church of England), David Evans (Salvation Army), and Neil Stubbins (until recently the Methodist NEO). Their inputs are downloadable below.

One of the sessions on offer in the varied parallel programme was 'Eucharist, the Bread of life'. This was an ecumenical conversation about the place of the Eucharist in the life of the Church and in living our Christian faith. Speakers were the Anglican Bishop of Liverpool the Rt Revd Paul Bayes, the Archbishop of Liverpool the Most Revd Malcolm McMahon OP and Revd Dr Sheryl Anderson, the Liverpool Methodist District Chair. This was the session which the *Church Times* headlined: RC Archbishop tells Liverpool Anglicans "I long to share the Eucharist".

Inputs and reports are downloadable below and are also on the [Bishops' Conference website](#). These are the ecumenical papers and reports:

-  [new! 01 Callan Slipper input](#) (20.8KB)
-  [new! 02 David Evans input](#) (21.9KB)
-  [new! 03 Neil Stubbens input](#) (32.7KB)
-  [new! 04 John OToole responding to the NEOs](#) (18.2KB)
-  [new! 05 Question from the floor](#) (19.5KB)
-  [new! 06 John OToole concluding the workshop](#) (18.2KB)
-  [new! 07 Church Times report](#) (2.3MB)
-  [new! One Bread One Body text, 1998](#) (276.9KB)

Ecumenical Companions of Hereford Cathedral

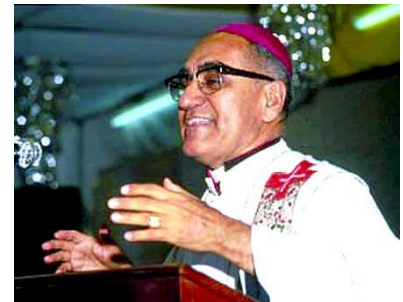


Anna Nugent writes on 2nd October:

At an Evensong in Hereford Cathedral last month, the Bishop of Hereford and the Dean welcomed two new Ecumenical Companions. Pastorin Brigitte Malik of the Nuremberg Lutheran Church and Revd Steve Faber, Moderator of the West Midlands Synod of the United Reformed Church. The Cathedral makes provision for four Ecumenical Companions – the other one pictured is Steve Sully, Pastor at Challenge Community Church, Hereford (pictured). Very sadly, the fourth Ecumenical Companion, Dom Cadfan Williams OSB, of Belmont Abbey died last month. He was a loyal friend of the Cathedral.

Events for Oscar Romero

In November two events are taking place to celebrate the life of the Oscar Romero and give thanks for his canonization.



The first shall be held at St George's Cathedral Southwark on Saturday November 3rd at 12:30pm, Archbishop Bernard Longley will be preaching.

For more information please see the poster [attached](#).

The second is at Westminster Abbey on Saturday 17th November at 3:00pm, Cardinal Vincent Nichols will be preaching at this service. See the poster [attached](#).

For more information and to register to attend please check the [eventbrite](#).

URC report re CTE and David Cornick's retirement

The United Reformed Church write about the CTE General Secretary's retirement:

A former United Reformed Church General Secretary is to retire from a prominent role within the national instrument of the Christian Church in England.



The Revd David Cornick, who became General Secretary of Churches Together in England (CTE) in 2008 and retires from the role at the end of September, reflects on

his time in the position.

'It has been a fascinating, privileged ten years. No other job in English church life offers such a panoptic view of what is going on in English Christianity. Fourteen denominations/networks of churches have joined CTE in that decade: that's 30% of our total membership of 47.

'We are the most diverse ecumenical body in Europe, holding together in conversation Pentecostals, Orthodox, and the new churches as well as the Church of England, the historic Protestant churches and the Roman Catholic Church.

'I wasn't expecting that expansion, and it is evidence of what seems to be a remarkable work of the Spirit. It is no secret that the historic churches struggle against demography because (to put it simply) more Christians are dying than are being made. What isn't so obvious is that at the same time God is renewing the Church from the margins: the growth of black-led churches and new churches, like Pioneer and Ground Level amongst our members, is astonishing. London has bucked all trends, confounded sociologists and presents a picture of Church growth, and that picture is black because African and Caribbean Christians found churches and go to them! But more than that, these churches want to be part of the wider Christian conversation and mission in England. To see that and play a small part in making it happen has been a rare privilege, for which I thank God.

'There have been many memorable moments, but two experiences stand out. To attend mass in one of the catacomb chapels in St Peter's in Rome symbolised the immense enrichment of my encounter with Roman Catholic spirituality. The second is mundane but precious – our CTE monthly staff meeting where our small staff team of five, all of whom have been with CTE longer than me, share our work and discernment. They have been great and I shall miss them.

'But retirement beckons, and I look forward to returning to my first love, Church history, which has taken a back seat during 17 years of Church leadership and management, and to leading worship in some of our local churches, and, of course, to spending more time with my family who have tolerated an often absent husband and father for so long.'

Originally posted on the URC [website](#).

David Cornick's CTE retirement

A gathering that included CTE Presidents, Board members, Ecumenical Officers, Church leaders, colleagues and staff came together in the Guardroom at Lambeth Palace to say thank you to David Cornick on his retirement as the CTE General Secretary. David's wife, Mary, was also thanked for all the generous support and many times David had to be away from home on CTE business.



Guests included Bill Snelson, previous General Secretary, and Celia Blackden and Elizabeth Joy, previous staff members. Presentations were made by Board Members, past and present, chaired by Ruth Bottoms who presented various gifts (including a pasta maker) that had been given by colleagues. A book of 'Thank you' messages collated by Lorraine Shannon in the office, was also presented on behalf of all, and those who could not be present.

Here are some pictures from the evening:



And finally ...

'Unity' is EA theme for Sept/oct IDEA magazine

The Evangelical Alliance magazine IDEA has a different theme each month and Sept/Oct 2018 covers



a number of items on the theme of unity and mission under the heading of 'One in Jesus'.

<https://www.eauk.org/news-and-views/idea/one-in-jesus>

English chair of International Reformed Anglican Dialogue

The Co-Chair of the International Reformed Anglican Dialogue is Revd Elizabeth Welch, a local minister in London of the United Reformed Church. Elizabeth reports:

"The International Reformed–Anglican Dialogue (IRAD) between the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) and the Anglican Communion met for the fourth time, between 24 and 30 August 2018. IRAD met at Vancouver School of Theology, Vancouver, Canada. This bilateral dialogue, the first that the Anglican and Reformed Communions have had globally since 1984, which then led to the report *God's Reign and Our Unity*, was mandated to take as its theme a study of the nature of communion (koinonia) and the pressing issues which emerge for both Communions out of such reflection. For the full report, see the News item:

[https://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/531254/Home/News/Latest_news/International Reformed Anglican.aspx](https://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/531254/Home/News/Latest_news/International_Reformed_Anglican.aspx)

CCME meets in London

The Executive Committee of the [Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe](#) (CCME) held a meeting in London from 27 to 29 September. The meeting was significant as the CCME UK members expressed their wish to remain connected to the European fellowship of churches despite Brexit.



The Executive Committee took note of the "hostile environment" towards migrants and refugees expressed in the UK and common in many other European countries. The committee articulated an alternative vision and narrative of hospitality, fellowship and compassion.

One of the decisions of the meeting was to join the European Citizen's initiative [Welcoming Europe](#). The meeting was a last occasion for an official farewell to the former CCME General Secretary Doris Peschke and the first meeting with Dr Torsten Moritz, the new CCME General Secretary. Ms Shari Brown who will join the CCME staff on 1st October as Executive Secretary also attended the meeting.

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