

# **The Ampleforth Covenant**

4th December 1998

**We believe that we are being led by the Holy Spirit, and that God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, is calling us to greater sharing in His mission to the world.**

We recognise that we have in common many similar responsibilities, joys, problems and hopes and that we have much to offer and receive from each other in the rich diversity of our traditions.

**We rejoice in the growing partnership between our Churches at national, regional and local levels.**

As Church Leaders in the North East we commit ourselves:

- to meet annually for prayer and reflection
- to proclaim and preach the faith
- to be a sign of hope and encouragement to all
- to bear each others burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ.

It is hoped that through our friendship and commitment we will bring vision to our Churches and where possible encourage through appropriate intermediate bodies:

- local covenants and partnerships
- the sharing of our resources and decision making, especially in rural areas, inner cities and on new estates
- the use of our buildings creatively together
- the sharing of resources in training for laity and ordained.

We will review regularly the purposes and objectives of the Covenant.

**We invite our congregations to support us in this Covenant to which we now commit ourselves in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

## **Participants**

- The Bishop of Middlesbrough -
- The Rt. Revd John Crowley
- The Bishop of Newcastle & Hexham -
- The Rt Revd Ambrose Griffiths
- The Abbot of Ampleforth -
- Rt Revd Timothy Wright
- The Archbishop of York -
- The Most Revd & Rt Hon David Hope
- The Bishop of Selby -
- The Rt. Revd Humphrey Taylor
- The Bishop of Durham -
- The Rt Revd Michael Turnbull
- The Bishop of Jarrow -
- The Rt Revd Alan Smithson
- The Bishop of Newcastle -
- The Rt Revd Martin Wharton
- The Chairman of York & Hull Methodist District
- The Revd Stuart Burgess
- The Chairman of Darlington Methodist District -
- The Revd Graham Carter
- The Chairman of Newcastle Methodist District -
- The Revd Robin Hutt
- The Moderator of the Yorkshire Province of the United Reformed Church -
- The Revd Arnold Harrison
- The Moderator of the Northern Province of the United Reformed Church -
- The Revd David Jenkins
- The Divisional Commander of the Northern Division of the Salvation Army -
- Major Ray Kirby
- The Divisional Commander of the Yorkshire Division of the Salvation Army -
- Major Geoffrey Blurton
- \*Superintendent designate of the North East Area of the Baptist Union -
- The Revd Ernest Whalley
- Independent Church Leader -
- The Revd Brian Howell
- \*The Bishop of Whitby -
- The Rt Revd Gordon Bates
- \*The Bishop of Hull -
- The Rt Revd Richard Frith
- The Bishop of Beverley -
- The Rt Revd John Gaisford
- The Assistant Bishop of Newcastle -
- The Rt Revd Paul Richardson
- \* Unable to attend the actual signing.

This Covenant may act as an encouragement and spur to ecumenical action at all levels of church life and help forward the idea that for churches to act together is more normal than for churches to act in isolation. *Editor*