



**JULY 2017**



To all clergy and parishes

### **Day of Prayer and Farewell to the Bishop of Truro**

I am writing to give you further details about the events taking place on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July**, and also **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July**.

You may recall we agreed that to build on the priority we have set for prayer in the diocese, we will have an annual day when we call people together to pray. This year we are in Truro Cathedral on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July**.

You are invited to come and join us for the event entitled **The Journey**. It will begin at **11.00 a.m.** and close with an act of worship at **2.00 p.m.** As last year in Bodmin, feel free to come and go for part or all of the time, as you can and wish. There will be prayer stations and, of course, plenty of space to pray in the Cathedral. I am very grateful to all those who have worked so hard to prepare for this. I do encourage you to come and spend some time praying for the diocese, for the mission of the Christian churches here in Cornwall, and for the coming of God's Kingdom.

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July** is also the day when I am going to preside and preach at the Eucharist in the Cathedral for the last time as the Bishop of Truro. I am therefore inviting you to come and join me at **4.00 p.m.** on that day. I encourage the clergy to come with people from the parishes and sit together in the Cathedral. There will be speakers set up so the service will be relayed outside if there are more than enough people to fill the Cathedral.

**Chairman - Reverend Steve Wild**  
**Vice Chairman - TBA**  
**CTC Missioner - David H Smith**  
**Treasurer - Paul Durkin**  
Charity No 1053899  
[www.churchestogetherincornwall](http://www.churchestogetherincornwall)

It is a sad day for me of course and I hope you will come, not only to say thanks be to God for the last nine years, but also to continue the theme of the day. We will pray and think about the pilgrimage God has called us into and I continue on my pilgrimage - and we pray together for the diocese as we now move into a new phase.

At the end of the service I will hand over the pastoral staff to be kept in the care of the Dean of Truro and the Cathedral until a new Diocesan Bishop is welcomed. Following the service there will be refreshments and some short words will be exchanged, I fear!

Do please let one and all know about this event and that they are warmly invited.

I am also inviting you to come and say a final goodbye at Lis Escop on either **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July or Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July**. Refreshments available and feel free to wander around the garden and I hope there will be a chance to say goodbyes to all who want to come. I will be welcoming people on both days from **3.00 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.** Anyone is welcome to come and say hello and goodbye.

I hope these opportunities will allow all who wish, a time to gather and pray together, and consider together what God is saying to us as we journey on.

I give thanks to God for all the wonderful opportunities I have had to be with, and be blessed by, so many marvellous pilgrims. I give thanks for all that has been, and continue to say yes to what will be.

With greetings and all good wishes

Yours sincerely



Bishop Tim presenting a Simon Jenkins book as a gift to his brother in Christ, Abbot Jean Michel for the Landevennec Abbaye library.



## Pilgrimage to Landévennec with Church Leaders 2017

On Sunday 7 May, twenty-nine pilgrims from different Christian traditions living in Cornwall and the South-West gathered at the Ferryport in Plymouth for an overnight crossing to Roscoff. Every two or three years since 1989 there has been an ecumenical pilgrimage led by a group of church leaders to the Benedictine Abbey of St Guénolé at Landévennec in Brittany. This year the party included the Bishop of Truro, Tim Thornton, the Bishop of Plymouth, Mark O' Toole, Methodist Chairman, Steve Wild, Salvation Army Majors Jean and Ian Harris and Lesley Chandler, a member of the Society of Friends. The pilgrimage was organised by the St Guénolé Working Group on behalf of Churches Together in Cornwall.

Early on Monday morning, the group was collected by a Breton coach and driven for about an hour across rich agricultural countryside to the Crozon peninsula where the Abbey is located in a sheltered inlet from the sea. While the present buildings date from the 1950s and 1960s, the site has been occupied by a monastic community, off and on, since the fifth century when the first monastery was founded by St Guénolé and a group of eleven followers.

After a welcome and settling into the guest accommodation, the pilgrim group started to find their bearings. Entranced by the tranquillity and natural beauty of the place, we engaged with the routine of prayer that structures the daily life of the monks. The services in the cavernous modern church are in French but that proved to be a minimal barrier: we could not fail to be impressed by the exquisite chanting of the psalms, accompanied by either gentle zither notes or organ chords, and by the dignity of a liturgy that is ancient in structure yet modern in nuance.

Tuesday was designated as a time of Silent Retreat. Some managed to attend Vigils at 5.20 although most began their day with Lauds at 8.00 am. Mass was celebrated at 11.15 and was followed by the main meal of the day. The brief office of None took place at 2.00 pm. The evening office of Vespers at 6.15 pm was followed by supper and the day ended with Compline at 8.30 pm.

During the day there were two Retreat Addresses in English by members of the community. Abbot Jean-Michel spoke about the parable of the Prodigal Son. He prefers to call it the parable of the Mercy of God because the father does not judge his wayward son, he does not humiliate him or call for repentance, he is simply overjoyed at the son's return. Brother Francois-Xavier shared with us his insights about a painting by the priest and artist, Sieger Köder. The painting depicts Christ washing the feet of Peter at the Last Supper. He suggested that, whereas differing beliefs about the significance of Holy Communion lead to dissention among Christian traditions, there are no such divisions about the washing of feet.

On Wednesday, Bishop Tim celebrated a pilgrimage Eucharist in the monks' oratory and there was a group meeting that gave an opportunity for people to talk about their ecumenical journeys. Bishops Mark and Tim talked about walking and praying together on pilgrimage to Canterbury and Rome as part of a 36-strong gathering of Anglican and Catholic bishops, representing 19 different countries. Ian and Jean Harris spoke about their experiences of ecumenism, including their previous visit to Landévennec, and Lesley Chandler offered a Quaker perspective on Christian unity. Steve Wild gave his distinctive personal testimony on the importance of the Abbey as a spiritual home.

That day the Eucharist in the monastery church was celebrated by the recently appointed Bishop of Quimper. Following lunch, most of the group boarded a coach for an afternoon excursion to the city of Quimper. A tour of the ancient Cathedral was given by an English-speaking guide, Henri, who struggled heroically with the accompaniment of a practising organist! The importance of Guénolé to Breton history and to its traditions and culture was clearly apparent in stories associated with some of the statues and stained glass windows.

On Thursday the weather changed; after three days of it being warm and sunny, the rain arrived. A final evaluative session gave group members an opportunity to express their departing thoughts about what they had gained from their experiences. There was a strong sense that what is shared by the different traditions is far greater than what divides. Thanks were expressed to the members of the Working Group who were able to confirm an aspiration that a pilgrimage should take place every year. In 2018 there is a particular celebration as the monastery will celebrate the 1200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the community's adoption of the Rule of St Benedict.

Everyone will have their own vivid recollections of their stay at Landévennec. Perhaps it was the extraordinary dawn chorus after the early morning office of Vigils. It may be the palpable sense of peace and tranquillity. Some will recall their rain-soaked visit to the remains of the ancient monastery on the shoreline. Others will recall the crêpes enjoyed in the local café and the sense of community that the group established. Several have commented on the friendship, kindness and love they experienced.

# Churches Together groups 'Transforming our Communities'

An Invitation re Movement Day  
6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> October 2017

From Jim Currin, Evangelisation, Mission and  
Media, at Churches Together in England



Do please consider coming to the conference called Movement Day. I know it is over 2 days, and in London, but there will be several hundred people sharing in the common concern of how groups of churches *transform the communities* they serve.

I am involved in the planning, and aim to run a seminar on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. for Churches Together groups. Do encourage groups to come as a delegation to learn from the whole conference, especially as it goes beyond church unity to 'spheres of influence', like education, business, arts etc. on the Saturday.

Do contact me for any more information [jim.currin@cte.org.uk](mailto:jim.currin@cte.org.uk) 07837973214 or go direct to the website [www.movementday.uk](http://www.movementday.uk) for more information and booking. Please pass this invitation on to colleagues. Thank you.

The CTE website has a page and video introduction from Roger Sutton: [www.cte.org.uk/MovementDay2017](http://www.cte.org.uk/MovementDay2017)  
It would be great to see Churches Together groups at Movement Day 2017.

## Jim (Currin)

PS If you book in the next few days before 30<sup>th</sup> June on the dedicated page below that has space for a discount code (GATHER10) it will take £10 off the booking price, to £65. Accommodation is not provided as the sessions are at Westminster Central Hall.

[https://www.ecevents.uk/movement-day/friends/Site/Register?utm\\_source=Gather+contacts&utm\\_campaign=e9c2a19519-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2017\\_06\\_15&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_c87653159a-e9c2a19519-111030673](https://www.ecevents.uk/movement-day/friends/Site/Register?utm_source=Gather+contacts&utm_campaign=e9c2a19519-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_06_15&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c87653159a-e9c2a19519-111030673)

## SNIPPETS FROM THE 2017 NATIONAL METHODIST CONFERENCE – ECUMENICAL ACTIVITIES

### Priorities for the Methodist Church begins.....

"In partnership with others wherever possible ...".

The ecumenical dimension of our worship and mission is one expression of being in partnership with others, and Local Churches, Circuits, and Districts are all encouraged to carry out their work ecumenically. The forms of partnership as well as the partners are many and varied: they range from the informal to the formal and from new churches to long established ones; they include food banks and Churches Together groups, Christian Aid Week and chaplaincy more, in partnership with others, we proclaim and affirm our conviction of God's love in Christ, for us and for all the world, and renew confidence in God's presence and action in the world and in the Church.

The material for next year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, jointly sponsored by the World Council of Church's Commission on Faith and Order and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU), has been produced by Christians of the Caribbean Conference of Churches. It focuses on the Song of Moses and Miriam in Exodus 15 and relates the text to the Caribbean experience of slavery, colonialism, and liberation.

Churches Together in England (CTE) now has 45 member churches and, in March, its Enabling Group accepted Action for Children as a new Body in Association. Bishop Angaelos of the Coptic Orthodox Church is now the Orthodox President of CTE.

Last November saw the first National Pentecostal Symposium: the papers given illustrated the breadth and depth of Pentecostal experience and scholarship; the symposium was followed by a celebration led by the London Community Gospel Choir

During the last year, CTE's Enabling Group has marked the 300th anniversary of Russian Orthodoxy in the British Isles and the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, received presentations about new unity movements, the URC, and Congregational and Lutheran churches, engaged in Bible study led by a Roman Catholic and a Moravian, been reminded of the situation of Christians and churches in the Middle East, considered some aspects of Pentecostal and multicultural relations (including modern day slavery and violence against women), received responses to a new framework for local mission in unity, and discussed the paper 'Doing Good'.

Theos (the Christian think tank) has been carrying out a review of CTE that is due to be presented to the Enabling Group in September; it is hoped that it will help the churches discern the role for the national ecumenical instrument for England for the next five to ten years.

The 2018 Forum is entitled, 'I am with you always'. The Revd Ruth Gee is the Moderator and Ms Hilary Topp (Religious Society of Friends) is the Deputy-Moderator. It is hoped that young people will be integral to the Forum and churches are to be asked to include them among their representatives.

**"IF ONE PART [OF THE BODY] SUFFERS,  
EVERY PART SUFFERS WITH IT."  
1 CORINTHIANS 12:26**

**WE DREAM OF A WORLD IN WHICH EVERY  
CHRISTIAN WHO IS PERSECUTED IS  
REMEMBERED AND SUPPORTED BY OTHER  
CHRISTIANS.**

## **OPEN DOORS UK**

### **ABOUT US**

Open Doors is an international ministry serving persecuted Christians and churches worldwide. We supply Bibles, leadership training, literacy programmes, livelihood support and advocacy services. We also seek to mobilise the church in the UK & Ireland to serve Christians living under religious persecution. And you can help.

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### **COUNT ME IN!**

**Over 290,000 people from 116 countries have spoken out, calling for a hope and a future for Christians in the Middle East. Will you join them?** Add your name to the One Million Voices of Hope petition that will be presented to the UN and UK government in December 2017. The crisis that's been unfolding in the Middle East is like nothing we've seen before. Yet courageous Christians have chosen to stay in their homelands to shine the light of Christ - despite the most intense persecution and the attempts of extremists to drive the church out.

We asked church leaders and Christians from Syria and Iraq what would give them hope. They highlighted three things: equality, dignity and responsibility. It's vital that their call reaches the ears of world leaders so that change can happen on the ground. Amplify their voice by signing the petition today!

**This is only possible with global support – with your support.** One million voices can make this happen. Join your brothers and sisters from Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Brazil, Sweden, Hong Kong, India and beyond to speak out in hope for the Middle East. **Sign the petition today and receive your free wristband!**

### **SHARE THE PETITION**



**Dana to open exhibition offering churches all kinds of everything.** Dana will cut the tape on an exhibition that offers all kinds of everything to churches of all shapes and sizes 10am Tue 17 October. Practical seminars, technical instruction and an opportunity to celebrate together are all part of the first-ever Worship Alive conference at CRE 2017. The **Christian Resources Exhibition** runs from 17-19 October 2017 at Sandown Park in Surrey.

**Christian Aid** are advertising for a new Regional Coordinator for Devon, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly. For more details use the link <https://jobs.christianaid.org.uk/vacancy/regional-coordinator---devon-cornwall--isles-of-scilly-1274/1292/description/> Closing date for applications: 6 July 2017. Interview 19 July 2017



**The newly elected Chairman of the Churches Together in Cornwall Executive Reverend Steve Wild (right) at the 2017 Methodist Conference with the Chairman of Bath and Wells Churches Together Group, Mr David Pendle (left)**

**Offering prayer for all those souls lost and the folk caught up in turmoil and disaster at home through recent tragic events in UK**

Lord of all compassion  
We pray for all of those caught up in the midst of  
tragedy or disaster.  
For those who have lost life and those working to save life  
For those who are worried for people they love  
For those who will see their loved ones no longer  
Lord Have Mercy.  
For those in need of the peace that passes all understanding  
For all who turn to you in the midst of turmoil  
For those who cry out to you in fear and in love  
Lord Have Mercy.  
For those in confusion and those in despair  
For those whose tears are yet to dry  
For those in need of your unending love  
Lord Have Mercy  
Amen.