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Charity No 1053899
www.churchestogetherincornwall

NOVEMBER 2017



The ecumenical movement in England has been on a significant journey over the past few decades. The number of Churches and denominations engaged in the area has grown remarkably, reflecting shifting trends in English Christianity.

That, combined with major changes in the ecumenical bodies, and changing perceptions of ecumenism among Churches, has given rise to a complex and vibrant ecumenical scene.

This report provides a snapshot of contemporary ecumenism in England. It tells the story of how ecumenism has changed and describes a movement that is now sitting at a critical juncture as it looks to the future.

The report focuses primarily on Churches Together in England, the main ecumenical body operating in England. It identifies the strengths of the organisation and discusses the challenges it now faces.

The report concludes with some suggested possibilities for the future, making some tentative recommendations for Churches Together in England as an organisation. It is our hope that this report will serve to provoke fresh debate about the purpose, focus, and direction of ecumenism as it develops over the coming years.

Natan Mladin, Rachel Fidler, and Ben Ryan, Theos 2017

"We are grateful to Theos for its work in compiling this Report. We hope that, with widespread study and discussion, it will help us grow closer to each other in our shared pathways of discipleship and in the mission we hold in common."

The Presidents of Churches Together in England

Archbishop Justin Welby

The Archbishop of Canterbury

Cardinal Vincent Nichols

The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster

Revd Dr Hugh Osgood

The Free Churches Moderator

The Revd Canon Billy Kennedy

The President nominated by the New Churches, the Religious Society of Friends (the Quakers) and the Lutheran and German-speaking Churches

Bishop Angaelos

The President for the Orthodox Churches

Bishop Dr Eric Brown

The Pentecostal President



**Pastor
Agu Irukwu
becomes new
Churches
Together in
England
Pentecostal
President**

Pentecostal members of Churches Together in England have elected Pastor Agu Irukwu as the next Pentecostal President. A law graduate of the University of Warwick, a barrister and former investment banker, Pastor Agu is national leader of the Redeemed Christian Church of God in the UK, and Senior Pastor of Jesus House, London. Pastor Agu becomes only the second person to serve in this position following Bishop Eric Brown who was first elected Pentecostal President in 2013.

CTE Presidents provide spiritual leadership to the national ecumenical movement that facilitates closer working together by the churches in England. The Pentecostal President is part of a six-member presidium representing the breadth of English Christianity, these are: Bishop Angaelos, the Revd Canon Billy Kennedy, the Revd Dr Hugh Osgood, Cardinal Vincent Nichols and Archbishop Justin Welby.

In welcoming the new President, the Revd Dr David Cornick, General Secretary of CTE said, 'We are delighted to welcome Pastor Agu as our Pentecostal President and look forward to working with him to build on the foundations so ably laid by our first Pentecostal President, Bishop Eric Brown.'

The new Pentecostal President signed a joint covenant at a meeting of CTE presidents and national church leaders on 24 October 2017 at Lambeth Palace. The covenant commits the presidents to 'pray to God to lead us, with all our sisters and brothers in Christ, towards communion in faith, life and witness; so that, united in one body by the one Spirit, we may together witness to the perfect unity of his love'.

Commenting on his appointment Pastor Agu said, 'I consider it an honour and a privilege to serve as one of the six presidents of Churches Together in England. As the Pentecostal President, I have tremendous regard for the five other presidents most of them I know personally and are people whose ministries and lives I have admired.

I am hoping that I can bring whatever graces God has given to me to bear as we serve the church in what I consider exciting times. Exciting because in spite of negative news that all abounds, I see tremendous opportunity for the church. I am believing that as we serve we will play our part in bringing to pass the revival that we so earnestly desire for this nation'.

The Pentecostal President's term will run from October 2017 to September 2021.

How best can we give real support to our Christian Young People?

Unless you have been to CreationFest yourself, you will have little idea of the amazing time and effort that is put into the creation of a week in August, in Cornwall, each year, which is organised as a Christian Festival for thousands of our young people.

If young people are the future of the Christian church in our county and country, then this is an event in the year we should support financially and by sending our young people so they can worship and pray together.

To give you an idea of the week this year (5th – 11th August) the final statistics were as follows:

- 400 Volunteers, 60 team leaders, 26 venues, 3,000 nights camped
- 118 kids made first time or renewed commitments with 738 kids 0-11 year olds coming through the tents
- Connect Cards: at least 200 first time or renewed commitments
- Arts Cafe - 24 workshops, 450 Workshop Participants and 26 exhibitor chats
- Housing- 234 beds, 16 host homes
- Compassion - 129 sponsored children!
- Sports - 2,000+ players on pitches, 100 hours played / 100 prayers prayed
- Cafes - 14,000 hot drinks and over 1,500 litres of milk were consumed!
- Kitchen- 12,800 meals / over a ton of potatoes
- Live Viewers- 50,672 and counting!
- Skate Park - Almost 400 skaters
- Stewards- 18 stewards took 20,000 steps each day, 7 days which means together they walked 1,260 Miles / 2027 Kilometers this week! Which is like walking to London and back 2 times!

The 2018 dates will be 4-10 August. If you are serious in supporting young people to come together to know Christ, then start planning now for 2018. The booking systems to open in December/January.

We continue to receive daily reports of the work of God in salvation, healing, strengthening of faith, and so much more. Deeply thankful.

Thanks,
Sarah Yardley
Creation Fest Coordinator

Theos report on CTE.

David Cornick, General Secretary of Churches Together in England writes: CTE's Board took the decision last year to fund research by Theos into the current state of ecumenism in England. We hope that the report will be widely read and discussed, and that it will help our member churches to consider how they wish to work together in mission over the next five to ten years.

Combined with major changes in the ecumenical bodies, and changing perceptions of ecumenism among Churches, has given rise to a complex and vibrant ecumenical scene. This report provides a snapshot of contemporary ecumenism in England www.cte.org.uk/theos



Christmas

HOPE is a 28-page glossy give-away magazine. The aim of Christmas HOPE is to give churches a top-quality give-away to use door-to-door in their neighbour-hoods.

With Christmas HOPE as something to give, the aim is that Christians will find it easier to say something about their faith and to invite neighbours to Christmas events. Contact Sue.Jennens@hopetogether.org.uk. Or **Tell them how many copies you could use.**

The poster for 'Advent Oasis Day' features a central image of a lit red candle with a flame. The candle has numbers 1 through 8 written on it. To the right of the candle, there is text: 'Reflect on the year gone by.', 'Rest in the presence of God.', 'Prepare again for the gift of Christmas.', and a quote: 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.' Romans 15: 13'. At the bottom, it says 'Wednesday 6th December 10am—4pm'. Below that, it provides contact information: 'Led by Clare Shearman. Cost: £18 to include a light lunch. To book, email info@epiphanyhouse.co.uk or tel. 01872 272249. www.epiphanyhouse.co.uk Epiphany House, Truro, TR1 3DR'. The Epiphany House logo is in the bottom right corner.

That All May Be Free

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2018

Resources available to order or download

www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer



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The CTC Dementia Awareness Group

The CTC Dementia Awareness Group are taking further bookings for Dementia Awareness sessions during the autumn and winter. If your local Churches Together, church or church grouping would like to arrange a date, please get in touch with:

- Christine Todd : christine@mjcmtodd.plus.com
- Bren Stuart-White : brenwhite@btinternet.com

Details of what is on offer are attached. Dates and timing can be flexible.

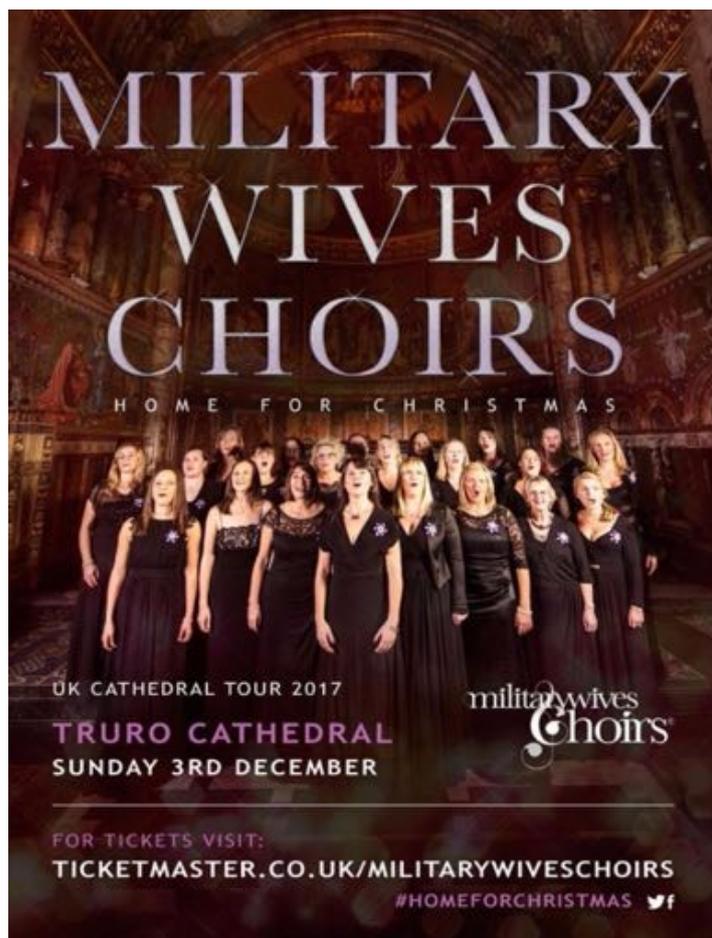
Sessions already organised for the autumn are:

- Saturday 14th October: Lizard and Mount's Bay Methodist Circuit : Central Methodist Church, Helston
Local Contact: Rev Fran Lane : franlane50@gmail.com / 01326 240200
- Saturday 11th November: Launceston Methodist Circuit : Bridge Church, Launceston
Local Contact : Rev Johanna Smart : jcsmart@me.com / 01566 782921

Both of these are open to those of other denominations who can be assured of a warm welcome.

The sessions are informal and encourage discussion and participation. Each starts at 11.00 am, finishes 3.00 pm, with the morning session giving insights into dementia, content as devised by the Alzheimer's Society while the afternoon session explores the pressures and issues that dementia raises for carers, families and friends.

Together they comprise Part 1 of the four sessions offered by the Dementia Awareness Group.



National Adoption Information



“So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” Romans 12:5

Each church whether it is in a town or a village has a ready-made community. This community is made up of a variety of families and their different traditions. What these families share is the sense of commitment and belonging to the same church community.

To adopt is to begin a new relationship and to accept a child into family life with all its disputes and traditions and sense of belonging and it seems to me that the church is ideally placed to support its members that choose to adopt. With its ready-made community and sense of belonging, through the gospels we learn about God's love for us and the value of caring for one another.

At any one time there are 3000 children in the UK waiting to be placed with adoptive families where they could feel secure and a sense of belonging. The church can play an important role in helping to give these children a sense of belonging and identity.

These children are not able to remain with their birth families for complicated reasons and will have experienced considerable trauma in their short lives. While they have a birth family, they are currently in limbo waiting to be belong to a new and forever family in a new community. Most of these children have complex needs, so adopters need a great deal of support and understanding. Parenting an adopted child is very different to parenting a birth child and requires an alternative much more flexible approach.

Adoptive parents can feel very alone and each church community is well placed to open its eyes and ears to the needs of others. The great thing about adopting not just into a nuclear family, but into the church community is the support the church can give. And that support needs to be wide ranging from the very practical to the emotional: For example it might be leaving a meal on the door step for the first week, it might be listening to the pain of the family as a child learns to trust. It might be through prayer.

16th-22nd of October was National Adoption week and gave us all the chance to think about adoption in our communities and how we can support those that adopt. Through our family of parishes, we're working to change lives across the South West. We know that as our world changes, so must we as the Church; responding at a local level to the spiritual and practical needs of the 900,000 people we serve. As we seek to live and tell the story, let's support families thinking about adoption and offering a child a sense of belonging to a community giving them security and commitment. Let us be "like minded, sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble" 1 Peter 3:8

Families for Children trust is a voluntary adoption agency and charity based in the South West with offices in Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall. Families for Children existed for many years as a joint venture operated by the Exeter Diocesan Board for Christian Care and the Plymouth Diocesan Catholic Children's Society. In 2003 the agency became a separate charity in its own right.

If you would like to know more, visit our website at www.familiesforchildren.org.uk where you will find details of regular information sessions in Cornwall.

If you would like someone from Families for Children to come and talk to your church community then please do call us on 01872 444100