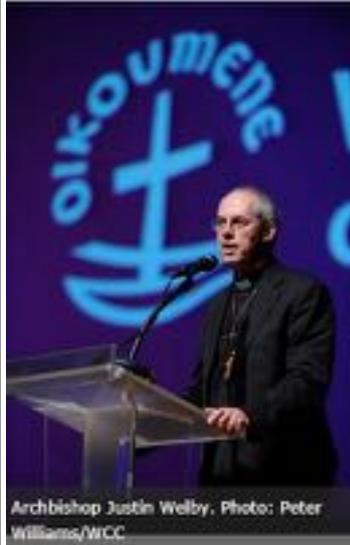




CHURCHES
TOGETHER
CORNWALL

MARCH 2018

Visiting WCC, the Archbishop of Canterbury's recent lecture on 'ecumenism of action'



Archbishop Justin Welby. Photo: Peter Williams/WCC

During a visit to the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Geneva on 16 February, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby spoke on an "ecumenism of action" as he also congratulated the WCC on its 70th anniversary.

"Bi- and multi-lateral theological dialogue over the course of the twentieth century bore much fruit but at times it could appear to be akin to diplomatic renegotiation of borders: the barriers to communion still exist but not where we thought they did," said Welby.

"The underlying problem with these discussions, however, is that they are what I would call negotiation of the frontiers." The negotiation of the ways in which frontiers are set down, and in which they are crossed, is one of the most difficult aspects of international relations at times of tension, he continued.

"Frontiers imply difference," he explained. "They say that on one side of the frontier there is the 'other'."

Ecumenism that looks as though it is about the negotiation of frontiers is an ecumenism that is based on theological foundations of sand, he said. "Indeed, one might argue that it is not based on foundations at all," he said.

"Negotiated frontiers start with barriers." One of the great gifts of the ecumenical movement is that it has allowed Christians from different denominations, who might once have kept separate from one another, to get to know one another, Welby reflected.

Chairman - Reverend Steve Wild
Vice Chairman - John Keast OBE
CTC Missioner - David H Smith
Treasurer - Paul Durkin
Charity No 1053899
www.churchestogetherincornwall

"There were times before, say, the 1960s, when people of one denomination might never have entered the church building of another," he said.

"In England today, and I am sure it is similar in other parts of the world, many congregations are made up of people who started their Christian life in other denominations."

The result of this is that traditions, ideas and worship styles from one church are brought into the other, he noted. "The wind of the spirit which has brought such movements into reality, is blowing ever more powerfully," he said. "In many places it is becoming a hurricane."

An ecumenism of action says that faced with evil, we come together in love and show that we are one. "There is a great danger that the ecumenism of action turns into the ecumenism of being useful," he cautioned. "We can easily fall into the trap of believing that if we cannot agree, then we can at least do something together that is nice and useful."

But this is massively to understate and to misrepresent the nature of the ecumenism of action, he said. "The world is crying out in need," he said. "We can become too pragmatic about this, forgetting its theological foundations."

The ecumenism of action is also based in this reality that need does not wait for theological agreement, but for the compassion of Christ, he added. "When non-believers meet missionaries who do not agree among themselves, even though they all appeal to Christ, will they be in a position to receive the true message?" he asked. "It is not the case that an ecumenism of action leaves theology outside the room."

One of the genius characteristics of the WCC was, from very early on, to hold together the theological, diaconal and evangelistic ecumenical movements, Welby concluded.

"Theological dialogue and discussion brings people closer together and sets up the framework for joint action," he said. "Joint action brings people closer together, and sets up the relationship that enables theological dialogue and discussion."

Video from the lecture of Archbishop Justin Welby on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5HeqjA80wU&feature=youtu.be&t=10m55s>

Read the notes from the website of the Archbishop of Canterbury

<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/speaking-and-writing/speeches/ecumenical-spring-archbishop-justins-speech-world-council-churches>

FUNERAL SERVICE
LIVE STREAM



HONOURING THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF

BILLY GRAHAM

1918–2018

Dear Friends,

On Wednesday, 21 February 2018, Billy Graham went home to be with the Lord whom he served with his life for 80 years, preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. We take comfort knowing that Mr. Graham is alive more than ever—in the presence of his Saviour.

The United Kingdom held a special place in Billy Graham's heart and was the site of many milestone outreaches. Churches across the nation will be streaming his funeral service live on Friday, 2 March, at 1700 and you can find the location nearest you at billygraham.org.uk

Will you share this with your congregation, so that they may join people around the world in honouring Mr. Graham's life and ministry?

This is an opportunity for you to invite friends and family to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Billy Graham's one purpose in life was to help people find a relationship with God that comes only through knowing Jesus Christ, and his desire would be the same in his passing. Please encourage your congregation to bring friends and family who need to hear the life-changing Gospel message as it is proclaimed during the service.

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel and for your prayers for the family during this time.

May God bless you.

Sincerely,
Lee Searle
Director of Ministry
Billy Graham Evangelistic Association UK

INSURANCE COVER FOR CHURCHES TOGETHER EVENTS IN CORNWALL AS FROM 1st JANUARY 2018

Dear Local Churches Together Group Secretary or
Contact Person

Many of you will be aware of the importance of insurance cover for all the events that will take place during 2018 under the name of your local Churches Together Group. The Insurance Policy now runs from 1st January to 31st December each year and the premium has recently increased to just under £2500.

There are 38 Churches Together Groups in Cornwall some of which have previously paid the annual joint amount of £20 affiliation fee (£10 affiliation- £10 for insurance) and some that have not.

This is a concern for your CTC Executive, especially for those that don't affiliate because the insurance cover for events is very important with the actual charge very low.

Please note that Churches Together events need separate insurance cover from that of local church activities – **CT events are not covered by any local church insurance.**

In recent year's I'm pleased to share that we have not had to make any insurance claims – however in past years there was a real Cornish example of what can happen when a Churches Together representative was injured which resulted in an award settlement of £25k. If insurance had not been in place, the costs would have had to be met by the Local CT Group.

Luckily this particular CT Group had insurance cover through their affiliation to CTC and by declaring the event in advance. We would therefore suggest to you that this affiliation fee of **£20 per annum** is money well spent.

Although the increase to £20 per annum happened two years ago we are still receiving only £10 from some groups and we would ask those groups to send the other £10 remittance please.

So, once signed up and affiliated, all your new events need to be notified by email to David H Smith in advance please through:- (ses.dhs@hotmail.co.uk) so that they are registered and covered by Aviva.

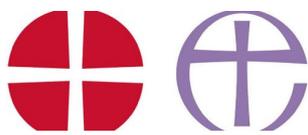
When you make your payment, please ensure you clearly identify your Churches Together Group name on the Bank form so that each CT Group can be clearly identified by our bank.

If any CT Group would like to voluntarily increase their affiliation contribution, as has been suggested, then they are free to do so.

If you have any concerns or queries about the content of this letter please don't hesitate to contact either the Missioner/Secretary or the Treasurer, contact details of which are below.

David H Smith
Missioner
Ses.dhs@hotmail.co.uk

Paul Durkin
Treasurer
paulvdurkin@btinternet.com



THY KINGDOM COME - 2018

CofE General Synod welcomes move towards communion with the Methodist Church

The General Synod has given its welcome to a report containing proposals which could bring the Church of England and the Methodist Church in Great Britain into communion with each other.

Members backed a motion welcoming a joint report published last year, which sets out proposals on how clergy from each church could become eligible to serve in the other.

The report, *Mission and Ministry in Covenant*, which was co-written by the two churches' faith and order bodies, also sets out how the Methodist Church could come to have bishops in the historic episcopate.

The motion acknowledges that there is further work to do to clarify a number of areas, including how the proposals would be worked out in practice.

It also calls on the Church of England's Faith and Order Commission to update Synod at its next group of sessions in July of this year on this work. But an amendment to the motion speaks of "confident hope" that outstanding issues can be resolved quickly.

Speaking during the debate the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: "I want to support this motion very strongly indeed. "It seems to me that in voting for it we respond to the word of God in the scriptures where there is a clear command to unity in diversity and in responding to this paper positively we respond to the Spirit who is already working in both of our Churches bringing us together."

Opening the debate, the Bishop of Coventry, The Rt Revd Christopher Cocksworth, Chair of the Church of England's *Faith and Order Commission*, said the proposals would be a step towards "healing a tragic division in the Church of England" when the two churches separated almost 200 years ago.

He said: "These proposals concern reconciliation between churches. "The reception of the historic episcopate by the Methodist Church and the Church of England's declaration – no, celebration, eucharistic celebration – of being 'in communion' with the Methodist Church, [would] re-order our relationship and takes us a vital step towards full visible unity."

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, told Synod: "I believe that the time has come for our two church traditions (Methodism and Anglicanism) to consult the people of God – the Laos, the Laity. "A mute button must be switched off for the sake of the Kingdom of God and the urgent need to re-connect our two Church traditions with England. All has to do with God's Mission."

The report builds on the theological convergence established by '*An Anglican-Methodist Covenant*', signed in 2003, and the subsequent work of the Covenant's Joint Implementation Commission.

In 2014 the General Synod of the Church of England and the Methodist Conference mandated the faith and order bodies to bring forward proposals that would enable the interchangeability of ordained ministries in the two churches.

Overall the voting was as follows:

Bishops: 35 for with two against and no abstentions
Clergy: 131 for, with 23 against and 13 abstentions
Laity: 124 for, with 34 against and 11 abstentions

I attach the latest national communications update for Thy Kingdom Come. Perhaps you could also still encourage people to share the video here:

<https://vimeo.com/255739089>

or on social media – it is on our Facebook page. The new rowing video will be available in about two weeks and will be included in a March update.



40 new Bishops visit Lambeth palace – tales of Thy Kingdom Come going global:

On Tues 6th Feb, The Thy Kingdom Come team had the incredible opportunity to speak with 40 new Anglican bishops about Thy Kingdom Come.

Organised by the Anglican Communion, the team shared about Thy Kingdom Come's journey so far and hopes for the future.

Incredibly, approximately 1/3 of those who attended had heard of Thy Kingdom Come and had actually run it in their own provinces! Ranging from South Sudan to Pakistan and from Australia to Burundi, some incredible stories emerged, including a province in New Zealand which embarked on the 10 days of prayers culminating in the consecration of a Bishop!

As Thy Kingdom Come continues to build momentum globally, we are in the process of translating some of our resources into 2 new additional languages this year, including Urdu and Arabic, which will be available soon.



**To all Churches Together in Cornwall Groups
GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)**

THIS NEEDS YOUR ACTION

You may be aware that new data protection legislation called GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) comes into place on 25th May 2018. This will require all of us to change the way in which we collect and retain personal data of our volunteers, members and all those we distribute information to.

Churches Together in England has now published some guidance on this. It is relevant not just to you but also to others whom you serve. Please do ensure that all ecumenical groups, including but not only Churches Together groups, are aware of this new responsibility. You can find sound advice here:

<https://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/301830/Home/Resources/GeneralDataProtection/GeneralDataProtection.aspx>

By going through the above address see under **Church of England Parish Resources - guidance** - (at the bottom of this page) you will find a consent form which can be adapted to your needs.

I'm sure that our Member Churches are aware of this issue, but I am sending this to members of the each CT Groups so that each can draw the web page to the attention of their membership. I hope you find this helpful. Please also note that the Diocese has a training day planned for 19 Mar in Truro, Penzance and Bodmin for 'clergy and parishes'

<https://www.trurodiocese.org.uk/2018/01/free-gdpr-training-for-parishes-clergy/>,

which I'm sure will be very helpful to those who may remain confused.

DAVID H SMITH
Churches Together in Cornwall Ecumenical Missioner
ses.dhs@hotmail.co.uk
website (www.churchestogetherincornwall.org.uk)

**Women's World Day or Prayer
prepared by the Christian
women of Suriname.**

For the past couple of years, I have produced for you a list of all the services in Cornwall. I am afraid that I have simply not had the time to do this again this year, but I can give you an approximate number and suggest where people can find further information.

This year it's on Friday 2nd March. The service is both challenging and topical. It is entitled "All God's creation is very good!" and was prepared by the Christian women of Suriname. We are challenged to consider what we can do to care better for God's creation and there is an opportunity to promise to change our behaviours either as individuals or as groups of Christians.

There will be in the region of 50 services throughout Cornwall. The majority are held in the afternoon but there will be some on the morning and a few evening services too - so there should be no-one who cannot get to a service if they wish to. Some of the services are advertised on our website

www.wwdp.org.uk/find-register-service/

although I am afraid not as many as we would like. Most services are advertised locally by posters or through local media.

(Dr) Elizabeth Burroughs - Chairperson
Women's World Day of Prayer National Committee for England, Wales & Northern Ireland



Look Back in Hope

An Ecumenical Life. Book by Keith Clements.

A child of China missionary parents, Keith Clements looks back on a life rich in diverse experiences in many parts of the world as pastor, theologian, writer, and servant of the ecumenical movement.

In so doing he finds hope "for the creation of true community in the world, of people among themselves, with God, and with creation.

That is what the gospel of Christ is all about, what the church is about, and indeed what God who lives and loves as three-in-one is all about." It is both a very human story of personal faith, and an insider's account of ecumenical Christianity's quest for a more visibly united church and a world of peace and justice.

<https://wipfandstock.com/look-back-in-hope.html>

**Faith in Politics monthly podcast launched
by the Joint Public Issues Team.**

Faith in Politics, an exciting new podcast series that features guests discussing topics from current affairs that link in with faith, has been launched by the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT).

JPIT is a joint venture of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church and the Church of Scotland.

The team works on issues of justice and inequality - and will feature lively discussions from the world of politics from a faith viewpoint, interviews and a 'musing slot', inspired by Thought for the Day.

Each 30-minute podcast will be released on the last Thursday of every month and can be downloaded from

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/podcast.>