

Declaration of Intent

17th November 2013

Ecumenical County of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly: A Declaration of Intent by the Anglican, Methodist, United Reformed South West Baptist Association Churches and the Salvation Army

With the whole Christian Church, we believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We share a life of faith which is the Spirit's gift, continually received through the Word, the Sacraments and our Christian life together.

We believe that we are being called by God to realise more deeply our common life and mission, to share and respect the distinctive contributions of our traditions, and to bring about closer collaboration in all areas of witness and service.

We commit ourselves and our churches:

- a. to seek out every possible opportunity for joint initiatives at Local and County Level in mission to all the people of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.
- b. to work together to equip both lay and ordained ministry whenever possible, and to share that ministry wherever appropriate.
- c. to continue the work of developing strategies whereby we optimise the use of our church buildings for the benefit of communities throughout the county.

We believe that God has given our churches a particular opportunity to work together more closely.

We also affirm our intention to go on praying and working, with all our fellow Christians, for the visible unity of the Church in the way Christ chooses, so that people may be led to love and serve God more and more.

Rt. Rev'd. Tim Thornton
Anglican Bishop of Truro

Rev'd. Steve Wild
Methodist Chairman
of Cornwall District

Rev'd. Ruth Whitehead
Moderator of the South Western Synod
United Reformed Church

Rev'd Jeremy Brown
Senior Regional Minister
South West Baptist Association

Major Ian Harris
South West Divisional Commander
Salvation Army

Letter of Companionship

17th November 2013

Dear Friends,

to the members and representatives of the Anglican, Methodist, United Reformed and South West Baptist Association Churches and the Salvation Army in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

We, the representatives of the other member Churches of Churches Together in Cornwall, are delighted to offer you our congratulations on the Declaration of Intent to be signed on 17th November 2013. In addition we offer you our ongoing companionship as we seek to serve Christ together in the county of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

We recognise with you the particular opportunity afforded to your churches to work more closely together, and commit ourselves to praying for God's blessing on what is begun with this Declaration of Intent.

We also affirm our intention to go on praying and working, with all our fellow Christians, for the visible unity of the Church in the way Christ chooses, so that people may be led to love and serve God more and more.

Bishop Christopher Budd
Roman Catholic Bishop of Plymouth

The Rev'd. Oeconómos Nikitas Lantsbery
Greek Orthodox Church
Community of Archangel Michael and St. Piran

Very Rev'd. Archpriest Benedict Ramsden
Russian Orthodox Church
Community of St Anthony & St Elias

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"We support the churches who have signed this Declaration of Intent in the move towards working together more closely."

Marion Coleman,
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Clerk to Cornwall Area Meeting