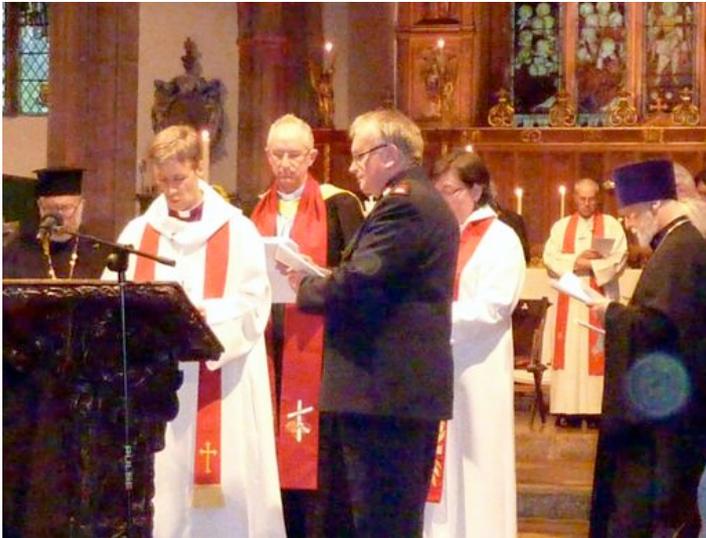


DECEMBER 2013



What a wonderful inspiring service, celebrated by over 750 people including the Archbishop of Canterbury in St Petroc's Church, Bodmin, was enjoyed by all, to celebrate the signing of a Declaration of Intent by church leaders who cover Cornwall and the Scilly Isles. There were balloons, fireworks and a jazz band with party poppers and St Petroc's Primary School choir

This special historical ecumenical service, organised by Churches Together in Cornwall, marked an important milestone towards church unity as the leaders of the Church of England, the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church, the SW Baptist Association and the Salvation Army committed themselves and their churches 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
- work together to equip both lay and ordained ministry whenever possible, and to share that ministry wherever appropriate
- continue the work of developing strategies to optimise the use of church buildings for the benefit of communities throughout the county.

The leaders and representatives of the other churches present (the Roman Catholic, both the Greek and Russian Orthodox Churches, and Religious Society of Friends) then signed a Letter of

Chairman - Revd Steve Wild
Vice Chairman - Bishop Tim Thornton
CTC Missioner - David H Smith
Treasurer - Mike Cullen
Charity No 1053899
www.churchestogetherincornwall

Companionship supporting the five churches who had made the Declaration.

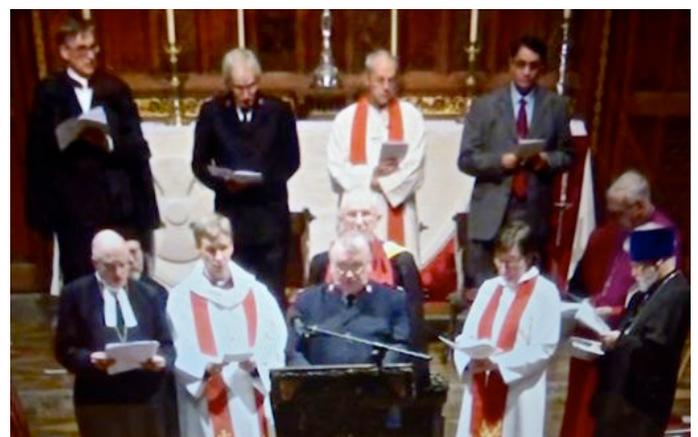
In his sermon, Dr Daleep Mukarji, vice-president of the British Methodist Conference, congratulated everyone on this initiative of sharing and pointed out that the essential purpose of ecumenical initiatives must be mission. "It cannot be a dream," he said. "Unity does not mean uniformity and we must not spend time on our systems, but rather on transforming lives and inspiring the local community."

Dr Mukarji spoke of the hidden poverty and deprivation in Cornwall and the disparity between the very rich and the poor. "We are called to be witnesses to the love, inclusiveness and justice of Jesus," he said. "Do not be ashamed of The Lord. Do not be ashamed of the Gospel. We must equip our members to be confident in their mission and to speak with passion about what Jesus has done for them in their lives."

Referring to the Gospel reading [Matthew 5.13-16] he said "We are salt of the earth. We choose to be agents of change like salt. But if we lose our sense of purpose then our 'salt' will be trampled underfoot.

"By our words and deeds we can influence this world. We are challenged to be involved in the world and to work for unity ... we are called together to build the Kingdom of God. Our message is that all our children of God. Unity is not just for the Church, it's for the whole community." You can access more through clicking on <http://www.trurodiocese.org.uk/2013/11/archbishop-justin-joins-in-ecumenical-celebration/>

Now the real work begins.



A Quaker View on Peace...

As we journey through 2014 and the centenary of the start of *'the war to end all wars'*, it seems timely to look much more closely at peace.

Quakers try to put their faith into practice. Our inner experience leads us towards a commitment to peace, equality, simplicity and truth which we try to live out in our lives. These commitments are often referred to as Quaker testimonies and underpin a lot of Quaker thinking and work. The Quaker understanding of faith is that true fulfilment comes from attempting to live life in the spirit of love, truth and peace and by acknowledging *'that of God in everyone'*. The concept of *'God in everyone'* where each person is considered unique and precious is a key Quaker belief. Interpreting who or what God is and how God manifests in individuals is for personal discernment.

A commitment to peace is our testimony to the world. Quakers believe that conflict can be a positive force for change if handled creatively. It is the use of violence as a means of dealing with conflict that is problematic.

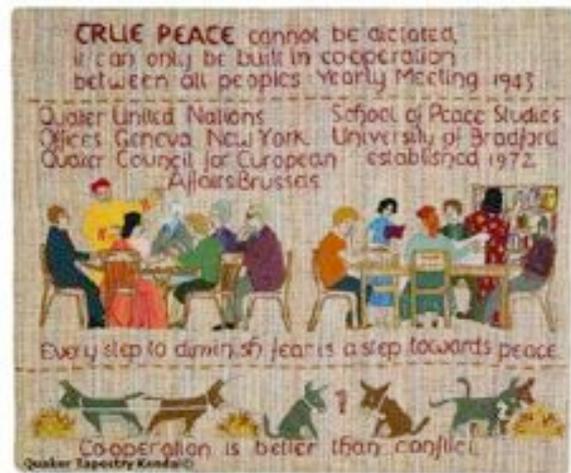
Quakers think of peace as an approach to living and working for social change rather than an ideological opposition to war and violence. Violence may create temporary good but risks becoming the only way of resolving conflict.

Violence is not merely the absence of direct violence such as murder or domestic violence. Structural and cultural violence must also be dealt with for true peace to be present. When poverty and hunger sit alongside great wealth, we have structural violence and when a dominant culture asserts its position and symbols to the detriment of others (i.e. disrespecting or attacking their symbols of identity, language, dress or forms of worship) we have cultural violence.

Much suffering stems from structural and cultural violence. When government and citizen alike devote real resources to tackling the root causes of conflict and injustice, violence as a tool of change can be greatly reduced and possibly even eliminated.

As a group, Quakers in Britain have always opposed the use of violence in any form, for any end. Instead they work to build the conditions of peace that *'take away the occasion of all wars'*. In relationships with others be they family, friends or strangers, Quakers aim to recognise the dignity of all which often means working to manage conflict with others without seeking to destroy or subjugate.

The Religious Society of Friends is perhaps best known for its stand against war as conscientious objectors. In times of war, many Quakers have refused to bear arms and instead tried to help the victims on all sides of the conflict. During past wars Quakers have done war relief work with many joining the Friends Ambulance Unit and in recognition of their work were awarded the Nobel peace Prize in 1947.



Locally Quakers work for peace education and conflict resolution. They organise peace vigils and non-violent direct action. Internationally Friends are involved in highly sensitive and delicate negotiations and mediation across the world.

Friends work against nuclear weapons and the arms trade sharing the belief that the more weapons there are in a society, the more likelihood there is of war. Many Quakers believe that war is also more likely if the military have a strong influence on governmental policies.

As we commemorate the huge suffering and loss of life produced by the Great War which began a hundred years ago, we must be mindful that in wars and conflicts since that time, more than 200 million people have lost their lives because of armed conflict. Conflict will always be with us but with more creative and compassionate ways of resolving that conflict, we can all work for a more peaceful future. That would be a fitting way to commemorate war.

Lesley Chandler on an abridged article from 'A Quaker View on Peace, Conflict and Violence' (Friends House January 2009).

"Bible-Believing Christians"

Dear Church Leaders, Churches Together Chairpersons, and Ecumenical Secretaries,

I am delighted to be able to let you know about a new book which is about to be promoted within The Salvation Army, with its forenote written by the SA World Leader, General Andre Cox, called "Bible-Believing Christians".

As the title suggests, this book is for all churches and Christians together groups and, if you are willing, we would be very grateful if you would please pass this information onto the Churches Together groups within your area, in the hope that they, in turn, will pass this message along to their individual church leaders.

Thank you very much for your support! May God bless you, Phil
Captain Phil Layton
The Salvation Army, United Kingdom Territory
Registered Charity No. 214779 and in Scotland SC009359

LISKEARD CHURCHES TOGETHER

Dear David,

I was contacted some time ago by Rev Elizabeth Foot, asking me to let you know if we had had any events in this area.

On Good Friday we held an open air service on the main street distributing hot cross buns to passers by wrapped in a serviette which had the message, "why a cross on a hot cross bun." These were well received. There were many opportunities to talk to people telling why we were there.

We booked a space at the Liskeard and district Agricultural show in July. It was a very hot day which resulted in a very good response. Helium balloons, face painting, drawing and goodie bags for the children went down really well. There was a good foot fall as we were in the main shopping arcade. Leaflets with information of services at the churches in Liskeard CT were distributed.

In December we are printing leaflets to be distributed in the town and have arranged for an article to be printed in the Cornish Times about Churches Together.

We will also be holding a community carol service at a local restaurant, Eliot House, combined with an "alternative nativity play." Last year's play was excellent. (in previous years, this event was presented in church).

We still hold our quarterly United Services which are well attended.

There continues to be good grass root links with all the churches which we all continue to build on.

My apologies for not contacting you before but I was waiting for the last committee meeting to be held finalising our Christmas programme.

We will be having a visit from the Archbishop of Canterbury in November and all the local church leaders have been invited. This is not a Churches Together event but will involve many representatives of clubs in the town.

Just a vignette of what goes on here in Liskeard.
Best wishes

Liz Piper, Secretary L.C.T.

NEWS FROM CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ENGLAND

The theme for the 2014 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is based on a key biblical text of the ecumenical movement - 1 Corinthians 1:1-17. We are invited to think about what our divisions say to the world and to each other about the Christian faith. Resources are available to download. [More](#)

Advent resources

Download the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. [More](#)

Holocaust Memorial Day 2014

Resources are available for the HMD 2014 theme of *Journeys*. Journeys themselves form a large part of the story of any genocide, as people seek in desperation to flee. [More](#)

Lent Study 2014

Our Lent study for 2014 will be available soon. *Parables and Possessions* is based on the Church of Scotland's report *A right relationship with money*. [More](#)

The Archbishop's Sermon. In Truro Cathedral - 16th November 2013

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dr Justin Welby, midway through his three day visit to Cornwall was warmly welcomed by the Dean of Truro Cathedral, Rev Roger Bush, addressed those attending the service, which, for health and safety reasons, had to be ticketed.

The Cathedral was full and the service, described as the Festival of The Cross was joyful, musical and dignified.

The Archbishop commenced his sermon by mentioning the recent Baptism of Prince George, who he said was well behaved! He drew our attention to the fact that at Baptism the sign of the cross was made on the forehead of the baby, (or other candidate.) It was the 'Cross on the Face.'

He continued by speaking about the Face on the Cross, - the face of Christ - this caused by love'

Referring to the previous Old Testament reading from Isaiah 63 which describes the rescue of the Israelites by God, he pointed out that each one of us was loved by God and that Christ struggled and suffered on our behalf. We have all sinned and become cut off from God who sent his Son for our Salvation.

The Archbishop, who had earlier that day travelled on the Penlee Lifeboat, told us how a wreath was cast on the sea by the widow of one of the men drowned in the disaster some years ago, as a sign that lost lives were remembered with honour. "God comes to rescue us, but the cost of that rescue was the Cross."

The Gospel Reading from St. Luke 23 describes the reaction of various persons to the crucifixion of Christ.

There were passers by, including Religious Leaders, mocking soldiers and people with hard lives who had become empty and weak. Christ did what he did for them but also for us and as emphasised in the Epistle from 2. Corinthians 5.

St. Paul draws the attention of his readers to that of Christ's death and resurrection which has made 'all things new.' Everything has become new. We can start again with God in the realisation that if we accept and take to ourselves the Cross - as a symbol of love it will set the pattern of our lives. The face on the Cross becomes the Cross on our face.

The sermon was followed by the hymn "When I survey the wondrous Cross."