

FEBRUARY 2015

**“ONE YEAR ON”
WORKSHOP RESPONSES**

Should you wish for a copy of the responses please email CTC Missioner, David H Smith ses.dhs@hotmail.co.uk

HAS PROGRESS BEEN MADE?

This 16th November gathering in St Austell gave CTC Executive members (County Denominational Leaders and Denominational Ecumenical Officers) the opportunity to listen to what local Churches Together Groups were saying about their events and mission activities carried out over the year. Delegates expressed that they had witnessed the wonderful birth of a child in November 2013 and now they are looking for signs that the ‘baby’ is at least starting to crawl if not walk!

Many expressed the need for help in finding resources in order to move forward and expand.

There was recognition of a big job for Churches Together in Cornwall to tackle; there needs to be more coming together events. Representatives want County Church Leaders to both encourage bottom up suggestions as well as top down. Leaders should have confidence and engage more with their representatives at local level.

Delegates were impressed that county denominational leaders in Cornwall meet regularly together for prayer and sharing and they felt this was to be encouraged. Leaders need to model good ecumenical working together/worshipping together and to facilitate as far as possible the support of this from their ordained priests, ministers and lay people.

The Churches Together Forum Groups are contact points which can provide consultancy /mentoring review. Much mission work comes from local CT Groups. The important thing therefore for the leaders of CTC is to encourage all who are within their sphere of supervision to seek out and meet with other Christians.

Recognition that by far the majority of our greatest mission successes (Foodbanks, Open the Book, Street Pastors, Breakfast Projects, Charity Shops, Fetes, Bazaars, Memory Cafes etc) take place

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

outside of church building. Neutral ground for mission work helps. It attracts and encourages non church goers to participate as volunteers.

Delegates want more CT Group leadership awareness that offers advice and expertise - spreading new ideas. They see CTC acting like a ‘figure head’ for the local groups. The example of leaders meeting and building relationships needs to filter down to the local level. However it is too much to expect only County Leaders to make this happen. It has to come from the local CT Groups.

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE DAY

Suggested topics for CT Groups to work on but not in any priority order were:-

FIRSTLY - ALL WE DO MUST BE SURRENDERED IN PRAYER

- Get communication right with all platforms and with Contact/secretaries of CT Groups
- **Distribution emails and Newsletters from one central point.**
- An East and West Day Conference where training, knowledge and inspiration can be shared
- **Suggested title change – from Churches Together to Christians together**
- A need to grow a healthy inclusive relationship with the Pentecostal independent churches
- **To plan events that would encourage families**
- Change (denominational) structures; make it easier for groups to work “together” and expand
- **Identify and appoint lead Officers for certain specific TC related topics/jobs**
- Help expand our Christian mission work wherever the future needs arise.
- **Look geographically where Churches Together Groups might be formed or merged.**
- Respect the covenants in place which represent lasting agreements between various churches
- **Sharing of lay and ordained ministry across denominations.**
- To promote and encourage joint events - Ideas exchange, prayer, sharing problems as well as successes.
- **A strong need for CT Leadership to conduct quarterly large united services around Cornwall**

07-01-2015 David H Smith
Churches Together in Cornwall - Ecumenical Missioner

By John L. Allen Jr.
Associate editor of CRUX
December 22, 2014

ROME — At the end of a tumultuous year for the Vatican, in which divisions among senior leadership over the direction being set by Pope Francis were at times glaringly apparent, the pontiff today led senior aides in a check-up for what he described as a series of dangerous “spiritual diseases.”



In a thinly veiled critique, the pope didn't name any potentates whom he regards as infected by those diseases, but his words left no doubt that he doesn't regard them as merely theoretical.

Speaking in a traditional Christmas address to the cardinals and archbishops who make up the Vatican's upper echelon, Francis spoke of the disease of division and “poor coordination,” saying he doesn't want “an orchestra that produces only chaotic noise.” He also called officials to reject the “pathology of power” and the temptation of “narcissism.”

He said Church officials should never become “bureaucratic machines”, and pointedly urged them to reject gossip, division, and the building of personal empires.

The pontiff warned his top aides of the danger of becoming sealed off in “closed circles,” in which membership in a specific camp or movement is more important than belonging to the whole Church.

The pope's audience were members of the Roman Curia, the administrative arm of the Holy See and the central governing body through which the pontiff conducts Church business.

Francis, who is the first Latin American pope and never worked in the Italian-dominated Curia before he was elected, has not shied from complaining about the gossiping, careerism, and bureaucratic power intrigues that afflict the Holy See. But as his reform agenda has gathered steam, he seemed even more emboldened to highlight what ails the institution.

The cardinals were not amused. The speech was met with tepid applause, and few were smiling as Francis listed one by one the 15 “Ailments of the Curia” that he had drawn up, complete with footnotes and Biblical references.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHEMIN NEUF COMMUNITY

At the end of this first Christmas at Sclerder Abbey in Cornwall, I want to send you all my wishes of Peace and Love for this New Year 2015.

With Jean Laval and Désirée Kim Lim who are here since November, we begin to feel at home in this nice place full of prayers of the Carmelite Sisters before us.

The warm welcome of the parishioners is very helpful for this small beginning. Now we are planning some works to be able to welcome this summer one week session for families and adults in better conditions.

Thank you for your prayers because we have to trust in God and his Providence.



God bless

Sr Jacqueline - Jean Laval and Désirée Kim Lim

PLANNING FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

The list of events for Churches Together Up the Creek for 2015 is already in place and very encouraging.

The insurance payment for 2015 to cover these events has already been received. The events are as follows:-

- 18th Jan - Gathering at Carnon Downs Village Hall
- 25th Feb, 4, 11, & 18th Mar Lent Talks Feock Methodist Church
- 3rd Apr - Good Friday Walk of Witness from Carnon Downs to Feock
- Jun 7th - Carnon Downs Outdoor Service
- Jul 5th - Penpoll Regatta Service

We may have an Autumn Event on October 25th to celebrate Bible Sunday - will confirm later in the year.

Many thanks - Margaret Saville

**Share your Churches Together Group
planned events with us through the CTC
Newsletter - If you know of people who would
like a copy of this bi-monthly newsletter,
please send their email address to David H
Smith at:- ses.dhs@hotmail.co.uk**

FEEDING BRITAIN

A strategy for zero hunger in England,
Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

The report of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry
into Hunger in the United Kingdom

Co Chairs -

The Rt Hon Frank Field MP

The Rt Revd Tim Thornton, the Bishop of Truro

It's been interesting reading through many of the media articles following the parliamentary launch of [Feeding Britain](#). There have been plenty of them, that's for sure; the Church of England's [media digest pages](#) probably haven't been so full since the Same-Sex Marriage Bill went through Parliament.

Much of it has come down to the role of the state and what Iain Duncan Smith's Department for Work and Pensions should be doing about it all. Getting payments to more people on time is the most obvious place to start. It would save a couple of hundred thousand visits to foodbanks over the next year. Having them take over the running of foodbanks would certainly not be a good move. There are a few writers who have got it into their heads that *Feeding Britain* has called for the state to intervene in this way, but nothing of the sort has been said. Such were the rumours based on leaks that, by the time Justin Welby stood up to make his speech at the launch, he had to refute such claims: "You might think from some of yesterday's coverage, and today's, that the report is asking the Government to move into the foodbank sector. It's not. It is far more interesting and creative than that."

Obviously some journalists weren't paying attention because the co-chair of the report, Frank Field, had to do almost exactly the same thing a few days later. [Writing to the Times](#), he didn't mince his words: "The last thing we want is for the deadening hand of government to fall upon food banks."

He's absolutely right, too. One of the main reasons why foodbanks have been so successful is that they've stayed away from government interference. The other is that they have been run by Christians.

Not so long ago Christians were often perceived by many, particularly in local government, as a bunch of amateur do-gooders. Some still think that is the case, but the truth is that you can't deal with pushing on for a million foodbank visitors needing help unless you're thoroughly organised with plenty of structural frameworks in place. There's no way on recent performance that the state could run a system like this in such an efficient and effective way. Churches are perfectly placed to do this sort of thing – they have the manpower and local knowledge and relationships, but most of all they have something the state can never harness: they have God at the heart of it.

This is something that secularists repeatedly struggle to get their heads round. So do plenty of politicians, but not all. Stephen Timms has been banging the drum for the churches for quite some time now. Being a Christian, he gets it. This is what he said [in a speech](#) in September:

If you look around the country today there is a very important new social movement which is blossoming – but I don't think its significance has properly yet been understood. It's steadily building, it's making an impact and it's a movement of activism whose starting point is faith in Jesus and hope in his resurrection. We're talking about a grassroots movement. There isn't a headquarters somewhere or some famous celebrity who's directing it all: this is a locally based, locally focused movement. It's rooted in committed communities, in churches, which are socially and culturally mixed groups in a way that's actually quite unusual in our society today. And this movement is rooted in worship – we're not talking about something that consists of activists who happen to have got a bit of background in Christianity – instead this has right at its centre the person of Jesus Christ and the activity of worship and that's what gives it vitality and energy and commitment.

And it's a movement that's interested in changing individuals. It plugs away. It doesn't abandon failures even if sometimes it looks a bit foolish. It works in faith that human history is in God's hands and that one day what is clearly wrong and unfair today is going to be put right and I think this is one of the most hopeful developments around.

This is the big difference. When the state is in charge it becomes a job to do, but when churches are doing the work on the ground it is an act of worship. It has a spiritual dimension that fuels compassion and the desire to serve, and to serve well. The authors of *The Myth of the Undeserving Poor*, which was [reviewed here last week](#), explains this very clearly:

(Christians) have something to offer that others do not. We are not relying on our human effort to transform people's lives, but on a God who is intimately acquainted with the needs of the poor and offers hope as well as practical help. Jesus' response to human need combined passion, prayer, commitment, faith, available human resources – and the expectation of change. Christians have access to the same power that raised Jesus from the dead, and we should fully expect that power to be at work in us as we minister to the most vulnerable in society.

We have the privilege of praying for the people we are seeking to help. Faith and miracles must play a part in our care for the poor and needy. The Church's work cannot be reduced to a social services model. God's Spirit is available to us to bring a miraculous breakthrough that goes beyond any practical help we can give. Not only does God call us to demonstrate his mercy to the poor, but we also get the honour of explaining the extraordinary good news of Jesus Christ that can be embraced equally by rich and poor alike, and which has immediate impact on our lives, however desperate they may be.

No one else approaches social action in this way, not even organisations linked to other religions. This might seem nonsense or even offensive to those on the outside, but Christian projects up and down the country can testify to this power that comes through faith in Jesus. And what's more, it works.

This is what social action through our churches should look like. These projects and organisations do not exclude anyone because of race, beliefs, sexuality or anything else, nor do they create any pressure to convert, but they also know that the best they have to offer to those they work with is more than just meeting physical needs. If a Christian is asked what motivates them, they should have every reason to give a full and honest answer without fear of criticism.

Many Christian organisations, receive no funding from the state and they see this as liberating. It avoids interference from those making demands on how grants should be spent. Other Christian organisations have gone after public funding in order to grow or survive and due to constraints placed upon them or concerns that the faith aspect should be toned down as a result they have lost their way, losing sight of the faith that fired them into existence and becoming less successful in the process.

The *Feeding Britain* authors and Justin Welby acknowledge that more can be done if State and Church work together in partnership using limited amounts of public money to build foundations. But they also know that they would need to be equal partners. The Church is not the little man to be bossed around here. It is delivering what the state is unable to do and shouldn't be ashamed of its motivations. Whatever funding providers do to force Christian organisations to be less Christian is backward, insulting and counter-productive.

This is a moment for government to throw its support behind Christian organisations which have proved themselves and blessed this nation. And that includes acknowledging and encouraging the faith of the thousands of volunteers and leaders who are providing routine acts of compassion that would otherwise be in very short supply.

Together in Unity

Your life in Christ makes you strong, and his love comforts you.

You have fellowship with the Spirit, and you have kindness and compassion for one another.

I urge you, then, to make me completely happy by having the same thoughts, sharing the same love, and being one in soul and mind and so the Christ-follower smiles and understands... Comprehends that it is LOVE...

The dynamic force of the universe that binds all together, that is Drawing Christ's scattered flock from the far-flung corners into one-ness – into unity, into grace.

Breaking down denominational barriers that for so long have seemed insurmountable. Are we bothered about our own house more than the one we share together? Do we think, "My way is the right way you other lot are wrong."

Stumbling blocks galore litter the road we journey together – Things like the Eucharist and women priests to name a couple. And don't get started on infant baptism or that dreaded word... SILENCE! Divisive ways.

Yet, You, Lord God are the God of the impossible And so we ask, that in the freedom of this covenant we would respect the differences that make us who we are, whilst revelling in the one-ness that only you can bring, Lord Jesus.

Make us mindful that it is you who have made us different – So when we are tempted to criticise and question that diversity may we acknowledge that if you choose to work through us, then you can work through them as well!
Fill us, your people with respect for one another

Dare us to let that respect blossom and grow into love.

Dare us to share the many resources that you have gifted us with, so that together we might be filled with the riches of your blessing.

Dare our hearts to beat in time with yours so that the melody of your grace will make us long for you... together.

Dare us together to carry your light into the darkness of the world so that your love will radiate out further and further as you draw us near

Showing us we can only remain in your love more, the more we give it away. Let us journey and explore together as we travel; pilgrims who are willing to stretch the cords that bind us tightly to one another compelling us to keep on trying something new let us see the wonderful mosaic of humanity and holiness in one another as we remember that we are made in your image.

And so, enable us to reflect your image in our diversity and be like Christ - To your glory.

Rev. F. Joan Watson For "The Gathering" 2014

Dementia Action Day

Saturday, 20th June 2015 10.00 am—4.00 pm
am Truro Cathedral, pm Truro Methodist Church

Advanced notice of date



A day for everyone, all who wish to understand and explore what memory loss means, and how to enable support.

What are the implications for individuals, carers, families, the community and the churches – emotional, social, and spiritual?

Introduction: Rt Revd Tim Thornton, Bishop of Truro

Main Contributors:

Trevor Adams (Livability): Trevor has worked in Dementia Care for over 30 years and has written extensively. He speaks nationally and internationally, and runs courses, including how to promote Dementia Friendly Churches.

Az2B: A theatre group which performs throughout the UK to raise awareness of dementia issues. For this day they will bring to us Forum Theatre, a lively series of situations to aid our understanding and promote discussion.

The day will also include a 'Market Place' of community organisations working in this field, the opportunity to experience 'Music for Well-being' and will conclude with a Memory Friendly Service.

Further information contact: Christine Todd christine@micmtodd.plus.com or Margaret Barnes margy02@btinternet.com Booking details and joining instructions to follow in March but please note this date of the event in your diary.

*A Project of Churches Together in Cornwall,
in association with the Diocese of Truro and the Cornwall Methodist District*



Wadebridge Churches Together
and the Memory Café invite you to
WORSHIP TOGETHER

A Memory Friendly Service at the
John Betjeman Centre
Sunday 15th February : 10.30 am
Tea, Coffee, Cake and Conversation to follow.
A service for all but especially those with
memory loss and their carers

CHAPLAINCY WALK

Wednesday 28th Jan 2015

12:30 - 16:30

Open to all Culdrose Personnel, their families
And members of Churches Together Groups
And well behaved dogs

Transport available for MOD personnel
From outside Chaplaincy

Alternatively meet at the Car Park as you enter
Cadwith Cove (TR12 7JX) for 13:00

For further information please contact
Annette Brightman ext 2388

Women's World Day of Prayer 2015

Women's World Day of Prayer, the largest, most inclusive, worldwide, ecumenical Christian service of the year, is on Friday 6th March. On that day all round the world, in more than 170 countries, men, women and young people will be worshipping using the lovely service written by the Christian women of The Bahamas. The service is entitled 'Jesus said to them: Do you know what I have done to you?'

There will be more than 5600 services throughout the UK, about 50 of them in Cornwall. Most of these are listed below. Note that, for those unavailable during the day, evening services are being held in West Cornwall at Goldsithney, near Penzance, and in mid Cornwall at St Austell. Note also that these services are written by women but that does *not* mean that they are for women: they are women's gift to the whole church and men will appreciate them just as much as women do!

Further information can be found on the Women's World Day of Prayer website www.wwdp.org.uk

Elizabeth Burroughs

Methodist representative on the Women's World Day of Prayer National Committee for England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Bodmin	Bodmin Methodist Church 2.30 pm
Bude	Venue to be decided - see WWDP website or phone 01288 353842 10.30 am
Callington	Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church, Callington 10.00 am
Calstock	Tamar Valley Methodist Church Albaston, Gunnislake PL18 9EP 2.30 pm
Camborne	Camborne Parish Church 2.00 pm
Camelford	Camelford Methodist Church 2.30 pm
Carnon Downs	Penpoll Methodist Church 2.30 pm
East Lizard area	see WWDP website TBA
Falmouth	St Michael & All Angels, Penwerris 10.30 am
Goldsithney	Goldsithney Methodist Church, Fore St., Goldsithney TR20 9HA 7.00 pm
IoScilly	St Mary's Parish Church, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly 2.00 pm
Launceston	St Mary Magdalene Church, Launceston 2.30 pm
Liskeard	Church of Our Lady & St Neot, West Street, Liskeard 2.00 pm
Looe	St Martin's Church, Looe 2.30 pm
Lostwithiel	St Bartholomew's Church, Lostwithiel 10.30 am
Marazion	All Saints Parish Church, Marazion 2.30 pm
Menheniot	Menheniot Methodist Church 2.00 pm
Mevagissey	St Andrew's Church, Mevagissey 2.30 pm
Mid-Cornwall	(Bugle/St.Dennis) Nanpean Methodist Church 2.30 pm
Mullion	Mullion Parish Church 2.00 pm
Mylor	All Saints Church, Bell's Hill, Mylor Bridge TR11 5SH 2.30 pm
Newlyn	Newlyn Centenary Methodist Church 2.30 pm
Newquay	Holy Trinity Church, Tower Road, Newquay. 11.00 am followed by Lenten lunch
North Hill	St Paul's Church, Upton Cross, Liskeard afternoon
Padstow	St Merryn Parish Church 10.30 am
Pelynt	St Marnarch's Church, Lanreath 2.30 pm
Penzance	High Street Methodist Church, Taroveor Road, Penzance TR18 2AA 10.30 am followed by 'brunch'
Perranporth	see WWDP website TBA
Port Isaac	
St Kew	Highway Methodist Church, St Kew Highway Village Hall PL30 3ED 2.30 pm
Probus	Probus Parish Church 2.00 pm
Redruth	Salvation Army Hall, Middleton Road, Redruth 2.00 pm
Saltash	Saltash Wesley Methodist Church 10.00 am
St Agnes	Mount Hawke Methodist Church, Mount Hawke TR4 8DR 2.00 pm
St Austell	St Augustine's Roman Catholic Church, Woodland Road, St Austell 2.00 pm & 7.00 pm refreshments after
St Breward	St Breward Methodist Church 2.30 pm followed by refreshments
St Just-in-P	St John the Baptist Church, Pendeen 11.00 am
St Kew Highway	St Kew Highway Methodist Church, Village Hall, St Kew Highway PL30 3ED 2.30 pm
St Mawes	St. Just in Roseland Church 2.00 pm Refreshments after service, Fair Trade stall
St Neot	St Neot Methodist Church 11.00 am
Summercourt	Indian Queens Methodist Church TBA
Tintagel	St Paul's Roman Catholic Church, Bossiney Road, Tintagel 2.30 pm
Torpoint	St James Church, Torpoint 2.00 pm
Truro	Our Lady of the Portal & St Piran Catholic Church, St Austell Street, Truro, TR1 1SE 2.00 pm tea after
Tywardreath &	Par Church of the Good Shepherd, Par Green, Par 2.30 pm followed by refreshments
Wadebridge	Egloshayle Church, Egloshayle Road, Wadebridge 2.30 pm Refreshments after service