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1. INTRODUCTION

Dear Bulletin Readers,

This month the Reformation Anniversary road bus reaches these shores and the General Synod considered the Reformation heritage. New ecumenical ground is broken in many other ways as recorded in this month's item. I hope you enjoy his bulletin and please send in news and information as we prepare for our centenary edition.

Best wishes from all at CCU,

Francis Bassett
Assistant Secretary Council for Christian Unity

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2. GENERAL SYNOD HAILS RECONCILIATION AS CHRISTIANS MARK 500th ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION

On Monday 13 February General Synod passed a motion in the following form, on a motion moved by the Bishop of Coventry and including an amendment moved by the Revd Angus MacLeay of Rochester.

“That this Synod, in the context of the 500th Anniversary of the beginning of the European Reformation and the Church of England’s understanding of the doctrine of justification as expressed in our historic formularies:

- (a) Give thanks to God for the rich spiritual blessings that the Reformation brought to the Church of England
- (b) welcome signs of convergence between the churches on the doctrine of salvation, noting Resolution 16.17 of the Anglican Consultative Council in 2016 regarding the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification and its relation to the Helsinki Report and ARCIC II’s *Salvation and the Church*; and
- (c) commend initiatives in this anniversary year to foster mutual understanding and reconciliation between churches, for the sake of our deeper renewal in the grace of God and our ability to share the gospel of salvation with all the world.”

The Bishop of Coventry’s resource paper for the debate can be accessed via clicking on the link GS2044 on the following page on the C of E website:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/general-synod/agendas-and-papers/february-2017-group-of-sessions.aspx>

A statement made by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York on 17 January can be read at:

<http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5826/reformation-anniversary-statement-from-the-archbishops-of-canterbury-and-york>

The Joint Declaration of the Doctrine of Justification made in 1999 by the Lutheran World Federation and the Roman Catholic Church can be read at:

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/chrstuni/documents/rc_pc_chrstuni_doc_31101999_cath-luth-joint-declaration_en.html

The text of the 1982 *Anglican – Lutheran Dialogue The Report of the European Commission* (referred to in the motion as the Helsinki Report) can be accessed at:

www.anglicancommunion.org/media/102172/the_helsinki_report.pdf

Salvation and the Church report has recently been re – published as part of the ARCIC II Final Report *Looking Towards a Church Fully Reconciled* volume edited by Adelbert Denaux, Nicholas Sagovsky and Charles Sherlock. The volume reprints the five ARCIC II agreed statements with a collation of responses thus far made.

There is also a survey of ARCIC II theological themes. In their preface the Co Chairs ARCIC's current phase, Archbishops David Moxon and Bernard Longley connect the volume to ARCIC III's mandate and ongoing work. The publisher is SPCK and ISBN 978 028 107 779 3

REFORMATION ANNIVERSARY U.K EVENTS

See the Reformation Anniversary page on the C of E website for details about Anniversary events in the U.K.

On this page there are three video clips of C of E bishops talking about the Reformation.

Tim Thornton from Truro speaks about the call to be one.

Graham Tomlin from Kensington speaks on the rediscovery of God as a generous giver, and the affirmation of the role of the laity.

Jonathan Gibbs from Huddersfield speaks on the centrality of grace, and the relevance of the Reformation to social and political life.

The link is

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/work-other-churches/reformation-anniversary.aspx>



3. ARCHBISHOP JUSTIN AND PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW JOINT STATEMENT ON MODERN SLAVERY



Archbishop Justin and Patriarch Bartholomew sign a joint declaration on modern slavery, Istanbul, Turkey, 7 February 2017.

On Tuesday 7 February the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and the Ecumenical Patriarch, His All-Holiness Bartholomew of Constantinople, issued a joint declaration condemning modern slavery, which gained the support of the UK Prime Minister.

The Declaration, agreed at the ‘Sins Before Our Eyes’ forum in Istanbul, pledged to:

- Condemn all forms of human enslavement
- Commend the efforts of the international community
- Pray for all victims
- Repent for not doing enough to curb modern day slavery
- Appeal to governments to implement strict modern day slavery laws
- Urge members of the Orthodox Church and Church of England to become educated, raise awareness and take action
- Commit to establish a joint taskforce for modern day slavery, looking at ways for how the Orthodox Church and the Church of England can work together

In his speech at the forum, Archbishop Justin outlined that slavery is more rampant today than any other time in human history, and called it an “abomination to human dignity”.

Estimates by the International Labour Organisation and the Global Slavery Index suggest that between 20.9 and 45.8 million lives globally are caught up in slavery.

The Archbishop praised the Church of England for establishing the Clewer Initiative against Modern Day Slavery, which aims to help dioceses detect instances of modern day slavery and provide care to victims.

“There is no religious basis or justification for a practice that commodifies human beings,” he said. “All religious leaders need to speak out against such a practice and challenge those false prophets that seek to corrupt sacred texts to justify their warped behaviour.”

The UK Prime Minister, Theresa May, welcomed the joint declaration.

“Modern slavery is one of the great human rights issues of our time, subjecting people around the world to experiences that are horrifying in their inhumanity,” she said. “We have a duty, as human beings and as Christians, to bring it to an end.

“The UK is leading the way in helping to tackle this vile and barbaric crime. However, governments alone will not be able to stop it. It is vital that all parts of society do their part.

“That is why I so warmly welcome the vital work that faith communities are doing to shine a light on the evils of modern slavery and encourage the steps that must be taken to address it.”

The Joint Declaration can be read at:

<https://www.patriarchate.org/-/modern-slavery-a-joint-declaration>

Archbishop Justin’s speech can be read at:

<http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5837/archbishop-of-canterburys-speech-at-istanbul-forum-on-modern-slavery>



4. BOSSEY STUDENTS ENCOUNTER ECUMENISM AS A LIFE QUESTION



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In January thirty-five international students from the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, Switzerland, embarked on a future of ecumenism, dialogue and unity that began with months of intense study and fellowship.

The students participated in a farewell service and ceremony on 27 January. “The content of the teaching at the Ecumenical Institute is focused on the challenges for the churches in the 21st century, and the responses given through the modern ecumenical movement”, explains Rev. Dr Dagmar Heller, dean of the Ecumenical Institute and professor of Ecumenical Theology. “The methodology is a combination of academic teaching and experiential learning. This makes the Ecumenical Institute a unique place for ecumenical education.”

Throughout the semester, the students learned about the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the wider ecumenical movement, its purpose, its history and its achievements. They discovered the way of thinking and practising faith in Christian traditions other than their own and, at the same time, practised ecumenical life by discussing their differences and by praying together.

“With this combination, the students discover ecumenism as a life question, which is not just a theoretical issue about which one reads in books, but which touches the essence of being a Christian”, Dr Heller said. “In their future work, we hope the students will be able to help their churches to develop peace and reconciliation as the heart of their calling”.

During the semester the students had different opportunities through study visits to get a deeper exposure to the main Christian traditions. The last of these visits, during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, was to Rome, on the invitation of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. “The purpose of the visit”, says Fr Lawrence Iwuamadi, the Catholic professor at Bossey, who was responsible for the programme and – together with Revd Dr Benjamin Simon - accompanied the students, “was to get intensive exposure to the Roman Catholic Church and its engagement in the ecumenical movement. For many students it was an extraordinary experience to visit

historical places of early Christianity, which they had heard of only in few lectures at home. And their active participation in the Vespers with Pope Francis at the end of the Week of Prayer gave them a lively idea of what is already possible to do together”.

Dr Simon concluded with a reminder about the Interreligious Summer School taking place in Bossey from 26 June to 14 July 2017. The topic this year will be “Living With and Loving Neighbours: Peacebuilding in Judaism, Christianity and Islam.”

Dr Simon said, “Ten participants of each religion will live and learn together during a period of three weeks. The deadline for applications is 17 February. This is a great opportunity to live together and learn from one another.”

“As the students finish their studies at the Ecumenical Institute, it is our hope that they continue to seek and build new ecumenical relationships between faith communities in their home contexts,” said Fr Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca, WCC deputy general secretary and director of the Ecumenical Institute.

Since its creation in 1946, the WCC’s Ecumenical Institute at the Château de Bossey has been fulfilling its mission of ecumenical theological formation and education.

For more information, please visit the website of the Ecumenical Institute at

<http://www.institute.oikoumene.org/en>

For more details about Revd Dr Benjamin Simon, the new Professor of Ecumenical Missiology at Bossey and his combined African and European background see:

<http://institute.oikoumene.org/en/news/all-news/bossey2019s-new-missiology-professor-shares-world-of-africa-and-europe>

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5. OXFORD – VÄXJÖ LINK NEWS

Canon Tony Dickinson has sent recent news about the Oxford – Växjö link.

On 30 September last year Bishop Fredrik Modéus attended the inauguration of the Rt Revd Steven Croft as Bishop of Oxford. Bishop Fredrik was accompanied by his wife Carina, his domestic chaplain Rickard Bonnevier and by Carin Frennevi from the Church of Sweden. There were several opportunities for formal and informal discussion about the link including a one to one meeting between the bishops.

The Internationella Rådet group was in Oxford and High Wycombe in November exploring how the Church has handled migration questions and a vision for the future of international work in Oxford diocese. There was a worship development element including participation in Messy Church in a parish in High Wycombe.

In Reformation 500 year there are plans for an Oxford study visit to explore the Swedish Reformation.

The parish link of Witney and Voxtorp (who enjoyed a joint pilgrimage to Assisi shortly after Easter in 2016) continues to grow.

For an overview of Oxford Diocese international links including a section devoted to its Växjö link go to:

<http://pwm.oxford.anglican.org/>



6. CHURCHES IN NORWAY AND PAKISTAN BREAK NEW ECUMENICAL GROUND



© Rabeeha Mazhar/Norwegian Church Aid Pakistan

26 January 2017

In a country where Christians are in clear minority, often suffering discrimination, and in a context that has seen repeated frictions and violence between people of different religious traditions, the Church of Norway and Church of Pakistan have broken new ecumenical ground during a recent week in Lahore, Pakistan.

Received by the Church of Pakistan's presiding bishop Samuel Robert Azariah on 15 January, Church of Norway's presiding bishop Helga Haugland Byfuglien became not only the first-ever woman bishop to visit Pakistan, but also preached during Sunday service at the Cathedral Church of the Resurrection in Lahore.

"It has been a great experience to feel the warmth and hospitality we are met with here," said Byfuglien after the service. "It is a sign that the worldwide ecumenical fellowship is strong, when a church which itself does not ordain women, in a country with a strong patriarchal structure, invites me to preach," she said.

"We have been included into the fellowship as Norwegian brothers and sisters in Christ, who stand united with Christians in Pakistan on a common mission," Byfuglien added, and reflected, "In Norway, we feel a strong connection to Pakistan through the large group of Norwegians that have their roots in this country. This group forms an important part of our Norwegian church, and contributes to our fellowship through their work, as well as to our common religious and cultural life. This is one of the things I have conveyed to those we have met here in Pakistan."

Diaconal cooperation a key to strong relations

The visit of Bishop Byfuglien followed an invitation from Bishop Azariah, who has long been engaged in dialogue and diaconal cooperation with the Church of Norway, the Norwegian Missionary Society, and Norwegian Church Aid.

Berit Hagen Agøy, general secretary of the Council on Ecumenical and International Relations of the Church of Norway, accompanied Byfuglien during the week, and reflects, "the smiles and the laughter of the disabled children we met at the church's school here, children who parents would often try to hide away, is an incredibly strong testimony to the Christian values of human dignity. Through diaconal work the church preaches the gospel in a clear way. This is something we have a lot to learn from in the Church of Norway. If we want to support Christians in Pakistan, one of the best things we can do is to support the church's diaconal institutions."

Relations between the churches' diaconal bodies also reach beyond inter-Christian relations, and as late as in 2016 representatives from the Church of Norway and Norwegian Church Aid participated in a conference on interreligious dialogue in Lahore, under the theme of "Pilgrimage of Life towards Reconciliation".

"Since 2004, we have been actively engaged with Church of Pakistan on interfaith initiatives on social cohesion between different faith communities in Pakistan," says Arne Sæverås, Norwegian Church Aid advisor for Peace and Reconciliation. "In many ways this work also reflects the interfaith work Church of Norway is engaged in in Norway," he adds.

"Norwegian Church Aid makes an impressive contribution," said Byfuglien, "and engaging in dialogue with its partners is an important part of our visit here in Pakistan."

Ecumenical relations give hope in difficult times

“In Pakistan, we have seen systematic discrimination of non-Muslim religious minorities,” comments Berit Hagen Agøy, “and we have been met by the attitude that minorities are free to convert to Islam, thereby attaining equal treatment.”

“This approach is of course unacceptable, so it is a good sign that Pakistani authorities have lately spoken up to strengthen the protection of the country’s minorities. But there is still a long way to go before freedom of religion is fully respected in Pakistan,” Agøy says.

“We have engaged in sincere dialogue with the ministers responsible for minorities and human rights, at both state and national level,” adds Bishop Byfuglien. “And although there are many good signs in the authorities putting the situation of minorities on the agenda, we remain deeply concerned about the human rights situation here in Pakistan.”

“Yet, the church we have met has not lost its hope,” Byfuglien concludes. “On the contrary. Meeting with young Christians who educate themselves and dream of the future, meeting women who know their rights and who show the courage to fight for them, makes a deep impression. And we have also met hopeful church leaders who maintain that there is a future for Christians in Pakistan. Christians may be few here, but they do impressive work, with schools and health services, they fill up the churches on Sundays, and when we ask them what we can do to help them, they reply, ‘well, you can start by filling up the churches in Norway.’ ”

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/churches-in-norway-and-pakistan-break-new-ecumenical-ground>

7. ANGLICAN CHORAL EVENSONG AT THE VATICAN

On March 13, for the first time ever, Anglican Choral Evensong will be celebrated at the altar of the Chair of St Peter in St Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican. Permission for this unique occasion was granted by Cardinal Angelo Comastri, Archpriest of St Peter’s Basilica, during a recent meeting with Archbishop David Moxon, the Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome.

Archbishop Moxon will preside at the 3.00pm service, while the preacher will be Archbishop Arthur Roche, the Secretary of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments at the Vatican. The music will be sung by the Choir of Merton College, Oxford.

The gesture reflects the deepening bonds of affection and trust between the Anglican Communion and the Roman Catholic Church. It comes just five months after Pope Francis and Archbishop Justin Welby celebrated Vespers together at the Basilica of San Gregorio al Celio to mark the Anglican Centre’s fiftieth anniversary. It also reciprocates the liturgical hospitality of the Archbishop of Canterbury and Dean Robert Willis in welcoming Cardinal George Pell to celebrate Solemn Mass at the High Altar of Canterbury Cathedral on 7 July 2015.

This date has been chosen as the nearest available day to the historic feast day of St Gregory the Great, who has become an unofficial patron of relations between the two churches. St Gregory was the Pope who sent St Augustine to England in 595 to evangelise the Anglo-Saxons and who became the first Archbishop of Canterbury.

8. ANGLICAN CENTRE IN ROME U.K. EVENTS

Among the many Anglican Centre in Rome events in the U.K. this year are the following:

Wednesday 22 March 13:10 at St Michael's Cornhill London. Holy Communion on the anniversary of the Dedication of the Centre with the Rt Revd Stephen Platten as celebrant and preacher. On this day in 1966 Archbishop Michael Ramsey dedicated the Centre prior to his historic meeting with His Holiness Pope Paul VI.

Friday 19 May 17:00 Vespers at Westminster Cathedral sung by the choirs of the Cathedral and Westminster Abbey. Earlier Revd Canon Christopher Tuckwell will be welcoming ACR visitors and taking them on a short tour (Interested people gather at the Cathedral Café at 15:30)

Thursday 22 May 17:00 at St Albans Abbey Evensong on the Feast Day of St Alban, Martyr

Tuesday 27 June 19:00 at Chester Cathedral. Lecture by the Very Revd Dom Henry Wansborough OSB, member of ARCIC III. Cost £6:50 per person. To book contact the Cathedral box office at www.chestercathedral.com

Thursday 30 November 18:00 at Westminster Abbey Annual UK Friends' Eucharist Reception and talk (probably in dialogue form) Full details to be announced nearer the time.

For news and information about the Centre go to

<http://www.anglicancentreinrome.org/>

9. AND FINALLY... GREETINGS ST THOMAS BECKET CHURCH HAMBURG

Former CCU European Secretary and Bulletin editor Canon Leslie Nathaniel sends warm greetings from St Thomas Becket Church, Hamburg. Read the latest "Becket News" about the outreach of priest and people in that vibrant city on:

<http://anglican-church-hamburg.de/>

The *Hamburger Abendblatt* has recently published an interview with Leslie. The interview is available (subject to registering) at

<http://www.abendblatt.de/hamburg/article209485633/Ein-neuer-Reverend-fuer-St-Thomas-Becket.html>

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