



Affirming Catholicism: Inspiration and Hope in the Anglican Communion

**Affirming Catholicism Newsletter
March/April 2016**

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

(Collect for the third Sunday of Easter)

Watchword for April 2016 (from the Herrnhuter *Losungen*)

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."

1 Peter 2: 9

The biblical "Watchwords" of the Herrnhut Brethren (Moravian Church) have been published every year since 1731.

The new commandment: three Haiku

Life poured out for friends,
generous, painful, costly;
so are we to love.

Following Jesus
means loving one another.
No more; nothing less.

Disciples must love.
It is as simple as that.
Why complicate it?

Ken Raikes (2016)

Gospel Imprint: "Praying the Eucharist"

"...But how do we give what we are to Christ? How do we offer ourselves, as the bread and wine are offered, to be changed and used by God? How do we pray the Eucharist?"

You can find the rest of the leaflet at:

http://www.gospelimprint.com/GI-documents/Praying_the_Eucharist-Sep12.pdf

Please do print it out and make it widely available!

Gospel Imprint is the fresh voice in Anglicanism sharing free resources with all Christians who are seeking to learn, worship and witness to the generosity of the Kingdom of God. It is supported by Affirming Catholicism and the Society of Catholic Priests.

Resources for working with children: Ascension Day

Emma Smith writes:

Teaching or maintaining the idea of church attendance on Holy Days which do not coincide with a Sunday is an ongoing issue for all of us within the Catholic tradition, and how to make it a reality for children and families new to the church can be a particular challenge. We have found that offering an hour and a half of themed activities and a tea-party, which segue "effortlessly" into a short child-friendly Eucharist has done the trick for several feast-days, Ascension among them. As an example, the Ascension Event the children's worker and I introduced at my title parish was billed as a family event, not a drop-off, to encourage parents as well as children to attend both activities and Eucharist. It included four "stations" of activities – one taken from a favourite book, "Paper Plate Bible Crafts"(!), which involves making a spiral into Heaven from a paper plate; one creating a stained glass window of Jesus' Ascension (several possibilities can be found online), one decorating a cloud-shaped biscuit; and one drama station, where children could dress up as angels and disciples and act out the story of the Ascension itself. This was followed by a music session with instruments, during which they were introduced to both a traditional Ascension hymn, eg "Hail the day that sees him rise", and to "We have a King who reigns in Heaven" (to the tune of the Drunken Sailor). Finally, a number of kind volunteers had produced a "cloudy tea", with white bread and cream cheese sandwiches cut into cloud-shapes, banana milkshakes, "cloud" fairy-cakes etc, all laid out on a pale-blue paper cloth. All this did perhaps reinforce a literal view of Biblical cosmology(!), but it certainly made the story as told by St Luke memorable.

Activities and tea were followed by the Eucharist itself, with the reading used for the drama, the songs learned, and (we hoped) some greater understanding of the importance of the Feast-Day within the Church Year.

Please do share other ideas with this newsletter if you have found helpful ways to open up the wider scope of the liturgical year to the younger generations in Church.

Resources mentioned

Anita Reith Stohs, *Paper Plate Bible Crafts* (2012).

Anglican Consultative Council – April 2016

From 8-19 April, the Sixteenth Meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council took place in Lusaka, Zambia, in the Province of Central Africa. Each Anglican Provinces are invited to send the Primate, a clergyperson and a lay person. All Provinces except Uganda nominated delegates, and most attended, although no delegates from Nigeria or Rwanda were present. A full list of attendees is found here:

<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/structures/instruments-of-communion/acc/acc-16/participants.aspx>). ACC-16 affirmed “the commitment of the Primates of the Anglican Communion to walk together” and committed the ACC “to continue to seek appropriate ways for the provinces of the Anglican Communion to walk together with each other and with the Primates and other Instruments of Communion” (Resolution 16.23).

A key focus was “Intentional Discipleship and Disciple-Making”. The ACC affirmed the need for “every province, diocese and parish in the Anglican Communion to adopt a clear focus on intentional discipleship and to produce resources to equip and enable the whole church to be effective in making new disciples of Jesus Christ,” and commended the report, “Intentional Discipleship and Disciple making—an Anglican Guide to Christian Life and Formation,” for study across the Anglican Communion (resolution 16.01). It is available here:

<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/220191/intentional-discipleship-and-disciple-making-an-anglican-guide-230316-.pdf>.

ACC-16 discussed gender violence, affirming the need across the Communion to “work at empowering girls and boys, women and men to live and work in relationships that reflect Christian values of love, dignity, and justice, by fostering awareness of harmful gender norms and cultural practices, and unjust power relations; encouraging and supporting church leaders to take responsibility for modelling just relationships and, within their spheres of influence, for promoting gender equality, and for leading their people in challenging and ending gender-based violence in all its forms; transforming structures that prevent women and girls from offering their gifts and talents in the Church and in their communities; fully involving men and boys as well as women and girls in exploring and redefining just and equal gender relationships; exploring how liturgies, contextual Bible study and existing ministries such as preparation for Baptism, Confirmation and Marriage can serve in the promotion of right relationship and intergenerational teaching about the God-given dignity and status of all persons” (Resolution 16.02 – and see also resolutions 16.03 and 16.04 on gender justice and the status of women).

The urgent need to respond to climate change was highlighted, and in particular ACC-16 recommended that energy efficiency and access to renewable energy be made a priority in all church operations, and that political, economic, social, and religious leaders be urged "to address the climate change crisis as the most pressing moral issue of our day consistent with the United Nations' 21st Climate Change Conference, Paris 2015" (Resolution 16.08). A commitment to reducing the Anglican Communion's carbon footprint was passed (Resolution 16.32).

The Anglican Inter Faith Network's draft report, "Out of the Depths: Hope in Times of Suffering" was commended to the Provinces; it is available here: <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/217261/out-of-the-depths-hope-in-a-time-of-suffering.pdf>.

ACC-16 commended recent developments in Anglican-Methodist, Anglican-Oriental Orthodox, Anglican Orthodox and Anglican-Lutheran dialogues (Resolutions 16.13, 14, 15, 18). Recognising "the significance of the five-hundredth anniversary of the Reformation", being marked in 2017, the ACC encouraged Anglicans to join in shared services, study and events, and to make use of the Lutheran World Federation's focus, "Liberated by God's Grace": "Salvation is not for sale; human beings are not for sale; Creation is not for sale" (<https://2017.lutheranworld.org/content/liberated-god%E2%80%99s-grace-131>; resolution 16.16). ACC-16 also welcomed and affirmed "the substance of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (JDDJ), signed by Lutherans and Roman Catholics in 1999" and recognised that Anglican teaching is coherent with this declaration (Resolution 16.17).

The complete resolutions can be found here: <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/structures/instruments-of-communion/acc/acc-16/resolutions.aspx>.

ACC delegates studied the Book of Ruth, and the Bible Studies have been made available for the use of groups across the Communion: <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/220206/ACC-16-Ruth-Studies-English.pdf>.

Thinking about Catholic Mission

In an extract from a much longer piece, which can be found here: <http://www.affirmingcatholicism.org.uk/articles.html>

Jonathan Clark, Bishop of Croydon, writes:

Our call to mission is one that has changed because of our changing culture, but it certainly need not mean that we accommodate ourselves to it. I find Michael Ramsey's statement very powerful that "Individualism has no place in Christianity, and Christianity, verily, means its extinction" . One of the key means to mission for the church in post-Christendom will be to live out authentic Christian faith as the early church did, in a way that is clearly distinctive and quite possibly at odds with contemporary culture – and which certainly isn't tied into a culture of individualism. Authenticity becomes a vital category just as the unquestioned external authority which existed in Christendom is dying, and if the church is to have a mission today it must

demonstrate that quality. That is what the present Pope is admired for: the authentic life that he is perceived to lead, in which his personal actions are at one with his theological principles. But despite his present fame, there is a deeper issue which isn't resolved, because authenticity as presently understood is completely tied up with the individualistic and narcissistic culture of self-fulfilment: to be authentic is to be self-sufficient. The church will I believe witness strongly to its distinctiveness if we can practice an authentic living which lives in community, not in isolation.

...

As Catholics, faith is first and foremost the faith of the Church. Our individual faith relationships with God are formed within that body of which we are part by baptism. That means that our own faith is formed in relationship – it's never just us and God. So if as Catholics we are to present the faith in our culture, we have to resource one another in living out a common life, a shared narrative. It is in that life as a body together that we both grow in faith, and demonstrate our difference from the world around us.

On 17 April, Radio 4's "Agree to Differ" series included a discussion of "Anglican Communion and homosexuality": <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b076mmm2>.

Forthcoming events which might be of interest:

THE REFUGEE TALES 2016

A walk in solidarity with refugees and detainees from Canterbury to Southwark, 3 – 8 July.

Inspired by Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, around sixty pilgrims will leave Canterbury on 4 July, walking north to Faversham and Gravesend and then along the Thames Path into Central London, calling for the practice of indefinite immigration detention in the UK to end. The project will create a space in which the language of welcome is the prevailing discourse. Every evening of the walk, contemporary writers will read tales written in collaboration with former detainees. These events are free with guest hosts and musicians. The evening events are at Faversham, Gravesend, Dartford and Greenwich. On the last night there is a ticketed event at the ICA on the Mall.

Refugee Tales opens on 3 July with a Forum at the University of Kent, 'Being Detained Indefinitely: A Day of Thought, Performance and Action'. The purpose of the Forum is to communicate the facts and experience of immigration detention in the UK, while setting the policy in a wider human context and making the case for an end to indefinite detention. Confirmed speakers include Ali Smith, Shami Chakrabarti, Marina Warner, David Herd, Mary Bosworth and Abdulrazak Gurnah. Booking for the Forum and walk tickets for Refugee Tales is now open. If you would like to attend our opening Forum, or walk with us for a single day or the full five days see: www.refugeetales.org. There is a short film of the walk last year, which gives a flavour of the project: <https://vimeo.com/154166590>.

We are very grateful to support from Bishop Jonathan Clark and The Reverend Canon Dr Rosemarie Mallett of Southwark Diocese.

FAITH AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR:

A conference at the University of Glasgow, 21-22 July 2016

A programme of events to mark the centenary of the Women's Peace Crusade will also take place on 23 July 2016 at Glasgow Women's Library

The extent and importance of religious faith in the First World War is undoubtedly one of the great rediscoveries of the centenary years. Among the belligerent empires and nations, religion proved to be a vital sustaining and motivating force, with the Ottoman war effort cloaked as a jihad, the United States entering the war on Good Friday 1917, and even professedly secular societies such as France experiencing a degree of religious revival. At the same time religious convictions also provided some of the most powerful critiques of the war, contributing to tireless peace-making efforts by Pope Benedict XV and to the stand of thousands of conscientious objectors in Great Britain and the United States. Faith also inspired many of the women who were active in war resistance and initiatives for peace, including Quakers, feminists and Christian socialists who were involved in the Hague Peace Congress of 1915, the resulting Women's International League, and also grassroots action such as the Women's Peace Crusade, which was launched in Glasgow in the summer of 1916. This conference seeks to explore the huge diversity and significance of religious faith for those who experienced the First World War, addressing themes such as faith in the armed forces and on the home front, religion, war resistance and the peace crusade, and the role of religion in remembrance.

Key-note speakers will include Professor S. J. Brown (University of Edinburgh), Dr Lesley Orr (University of Edinburgh) and Professor Michael Snape (University of Durham).

To register for the conference, please contact Dr Charlotte Methuen (charlotte.methuen@glasgow.ac.uk) or visit (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/faith-and-the-first-world-war-tickets-24680348587>). Cost to participants is £25.00 per day to include coffees, teas and lunch.

Support for diocesan events:

Would you like to organise an event locally but can't afford to bring a speaker in? Affirming Catholicism can offer grants of up to £500 to help fund your event.

Expressions of interest to the Board at administrator@affirmingcatholicism.org.uk.

Donations and gift aid

We welcome donations to support the work of Affirming Catholicism. You can send a cheque to Mark Perrett, Affirming Catholicism, 114 Hamilton Terrace, Maida Vale, LONDON NW8 9UT, or make an online donation by registering here:

<http://www.affirmingcatholicism.org.uk/donate.html>

Have you renewed your gift aid declaration? Many of our supporters made gift aid declarations under the old rules, and these declarations have now run out. If you

have not renewed yours, or are not sure, please complete
<https://form.jotformeu.com/53301712150338>

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We hope you enjoy Affirming Catholicism's newsletter.

Do tell us what you think, and let us know of forthcoming events that you would like publicised by writing to: newsletters@affirmingcatholicism.org.uk.

If you are a diocesan coordinator, please pass the newsletter on to your members and supporters, or let us have their emails so that we can send it to them directly.

If you have received this because someone has forwarded it to you, please consider becoming a supporter yourself. It's easy to do this on our website www.affirmingcatholicism.org.uk. In doing this, you will receive regular news and updates including the Annual Review; your financial contribution will help us to do more and to do it even better; and you will be one more voice calling for a generous and open Catholic future for the Church of England and the Anglican Communion.

If you would like to know more about what Affirming Catholicism does, look at our **Annual Review** which is available here:

http://www.affirmingcatholicism.org.uk/Downloads/annual_review_downloads/Aff_Cath_2015_Annual_Review.pdf



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