Receptive Ecumenism and Ecclesial Learning: Learning to Be Church Together

Joint 2nd International Receptive Ecumenism Conference & 3rd Annual Gathering of the Ecclesiological Investigations Network

Organised and hosted by
The Centre for Catholic Studies, Department of Theology & Religion, Durham University, UK & St Cuthbert’s Seminary, Ushaw College, Durham

at
Ushaw College, Durham, 11th-15th January 2009

Receptive Ecumenism and Ecclesial Learning: Learning to Be Church Together represents the joint second international Receptive Ecumenism conference (the first internationally acclaimed event being held in January 2006) and the third annual gathering of the Ecclesiological Investigations research network. As in January 2006, the January 2009 by invitation event is being organised and jointly hosted by the Centre for Catholic Studies of Durham University’s Department of Theology and Religion and St Cuthbert’s Seminary, Ushaw College, Durham. This is being done in association with Churches Together in England, the Ecclesiological Investigations International Research Network, the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches, and the Society for Ecumenical Studies. Sponsoring assistance has been received from Churches Together in England, the Diocese of Durham, the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, Durham University, the Jerusalem Trust, the Northern Synod of the United Reformed Church, One in Christ, The Tablet and The Pastoral Review, Ushaw College, and an anonymous trust. The core aims of the conference are: 1) to focus attention on the fresh ecumenical strategy that Receptive Ecumenism represents in order to subject it to critical scrutiny and to explore its potential for further development; 2) to explore the implications of the receptive ecumenical question – ‘What can we and what need we learn from our others for the sake of our further flourishing?’ – in relation to a broad range of Christian traditions; 3) to explore the on-the-ground relevance of Receptive Ecumenism at the level of local church life. The January 2009 conference will issue in a second major volume of essays to complement that deriving from the January 2006 colloquium: Receptive Ecumenism and the Call to Catholic Learning: Exploring a Way for Contemporary Ecumenism, (Oxford: OUP, 2008).

Background

In January 2006, to mark the conferral of a Doctorate of Divinity honoris causa on His Eminence Cardinal Walter Kasper, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, the Department of Theology and Religion of Durham University and St Cuthbert’s Seminary, Ushaw College hosted a widely acclaimed international colloquium focussed on a proposed new strategy in ecumenical thought and practice, referred to as Receptive Ecumenism.¹

Receptive Ecumenism takes equally seriously the reality of the contemporary ecumenical moment – wherein the hope for structural unification in the short-medium term now appears unrealistic – and the abiding need for the Christian churches to walk the way of conversion towards more visible structural and sacramental unity. It aims after an appropriate ecumenical ethic and strategy for living between the times; for living now orientated upon the promise of being made one in the Trinitarian life of God. The central conviction is that further ecumenical progress will become possible if – and only if – rather than asking what other traditions might need to learn from us, each tradition instead takes the creatively challenging step of examining what it both needs to learn and can learn (or ‘receive’) with integrity from its others. The further conviction is that if all were acting upon this principle then change would happen on many fronts, albeit somewhat unpredictably. The desire is to see ecumenism move forward into action; and not simply the action of shared mission, nor of problem-solving and incremental agreement, but the long-term action of individual, communal and structural conversion driven, like the Gospel that inspires it, by the promise of conversion into greater life and flourishing. Far from ignoring particularity and difference, the aim at work in Receptive Ecumenism is for each of the Christian traditions, singly and jointly, to become more, not less, than they currently are by recognising their own respective sticking points and correlatively learning from and receiving of each other’s particular gifts.\(^2\)

In January 2006, this basic strategy was illustrated and tested in specific relation to the host tradition, Roman Catholicism, as befits the creatively self-critical principle at the heart of Receptive Ecumenism. Further, reflecting the concern not just to theorise about the church but to diagnose and address problems in the actual lived structures, systems and practice of the church, the colloquium drew together a critical mix (150 in total) of theologians, ecumenists, ecclesiastics, social scientists, organisational experts, and local church practitioners from across a wide range of denominational traditions. The revised papers, together with additional commissioned essays (32 in total), have been published as Paul D. Murray (ed.), Receptive Ecumenism and the Call to Catholic Learning: Exploring a Way for Contemporary Ecumenism, (Oxford: OUP, 2008). This major volume provides the backdrop for the January 2009 conference and will be assumed reading for it.

Programme

Sunday 11th January 2009

3.00pm Arrive

4.00pm **Formal Opening & Liturgy – St Cuthbert’s Chapel**
   Opening words – Rev. John Marsland, President of Ushaw College; Dr Paul D. Murray, Director of the Centre for Catholic Studies, Durham University; Rev. Dr Paul Collins, Secretary to the Ecclesiological Investigations Research Network; Rev. Dr David Cornick, General Secretary of Churches Together in England & former General Secretary of the United Reformed Church, UK; Mgr Mark Langham, Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, Vatican City

4.15pm Liturgy/worship – to involve the voices of: Rev. Rowena Francis, Moderator of the Northern Synod of the United Reformed Church; Rev. John Claydon, Regional Minister (Pastoral) for the Northern Baptist Association & Moderator of North East Christian Churches Together; Rt. Rev. Dr Tom Wright, Bishop of Durham; Rev. Ruth Gee, Chair of the Darlington District of the Methodist Church; Rev. Leo Osborn, Chair of the Newcastle upon Tyne District of the Methodist Church; Canon Seamus Cunningham, Bishop-designate, Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle.

4.40pm Opening Address – *Spirituality of Unity and Receptive Ecumenism*
   Rev. Dr C. Callan Slipper, Ealing Focolare Community and Focolare International Study Group

5.00pm Act of Dedication
   Photograph

5.15pm Process to Refectory for

5.30pm Opening Dinner

7.00pm **Session 1**
   *Receptive Ecumenism and Ecclesial Learning: Opening Thoughts and Agenda in View*
   2 x 25 min. papers followed by plenary discussion (panel to include Rev. Dr C. Callan Slipper)
   Mgr. Donald Bolen, Nash Chair of Religion, Campion College, University of Regina, Canada & former staff member of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, Vatican City State
   Rev. Dr John Gibaut, Director of the Faith and Order Commission, WCC, Geneva, Switzerland & Faculty of Theology, St Paul University, Ottawa, Canada
   Chair: Dr Paul D. Murray, Director of the Centre for Catholic Studies, Durham University

8.30pm Small Groups
   Introductions, Initial Thoughts & Hopes & Night Prayer
   Small group sessions and associated processes to be directed by Dr Nicholas Adams, Academic Director of the Cambridge Interfaith Programme, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge, UK in consultation with morning reflector, Dr. Catherine E. Clifford, Assistant Professor (Systematic Theology), Faculty of Theology, Saint Paul University, Ottawa, Canada

9.30pm Bar
Monday 12th January

7.30am  Morning Prayer
         Jn 17:20-24 Keynote Reflection: Jn 17:20-24, ‘Spiritual, not Spiritualized, Ecumenism’
         Dr. Catherine E. Clifford, Assistant Professor (Systematic Theology), Faculty of
         Theology, Saint Paul University, Ottawa, Canada

8.00am  Breakfast

9.00am  Session 2
         Chair: Rev. Dr Michael Sharratt, Ushaw College
         Scripture and Receptive Ecumenism
         Rt Rev. Dr Tom Wright, Bishop of Durham (25 min’s with 5 min’s clarifying points)

9.30am  Scriptural Reasoning and Receptive Ecumenism
         Prof. David F. Ford, Regius Professor of Divinity & Director of the Cambridge Interfaith
         Programme, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge, UK
         Scriptural Reasoning in Practice
         Prof. David F. Ford & Prof. Peter W. Ochs, Edgar M. Bronfman Professor of Modern
         Judaic Studies, University of Virginia, USA
         Plenary clarifications

11.00am Refreshments in Small Groups
         Scriptural Reflection / Ecclesial Reasoning through Scripture

12.30pm Plenary Discussion of Morning’s Work (with Rt Rev. Dr Tom Wright also on the panel)

1.15pm  Lunch

2.15pm  Parallel Short Papers Session 1

4.00pm  Refreshments

5.00pm  Eucharist – Catholic Presidency (Rt. Rev. Terence Drainey, Bishop of Middlesbrough,
         UK) with Prof. John Barclay, Lightfoot Professor of Divinity, Department of Theology &
         Religion, Durham University, UK to preach

6.00pm  Bar

6.30pm  Dinner

7.30pm  Session 3
         Chair: Julie Clague, Lecturer in Catholic Theology & Deputy Head of Department,
         Department of Theology & Religious Studies, University of Glasgow
         Receptive Ecumenism and the Sensus Fidelium: Expanding the Categories for Catholic
         Ecclesial Discerning
         Rev. Dr Ormond Rush, St Paul’s Theological College, Banyo, Australia
         Developing Catholic Understanding and Practice of Ordained Ministry through
         Receptive Learning
         Rev. Prof. Richard Lennan, Professor of Systematic Theology, Boston College School of
         Theology and Ministry, Boston, USA
         Plenary Discussion

9.00pm  Move to St Cuthbert’s Chapel for

9.10pm  Night Prayer (Taize/Iona)

9.40pm  Bar
Tuesday 13th January

7.30am  Morning Prayer
Keynote Reflection: Phil 2: 1-9 ‘Kenosis and the Church’
Dr. Catherine E. Clifford, Assistant Professor (Systematic Theology), Faculty of Theology, Saint Paul University, Ottawa, Canada

8.00am  Breakfast

9.00am  Session 4
Chair: Very Rev. Dr John Arnold, former Dean of Durham Cathedral and former President of the Council of European Churches

Receptive Ecumenism and the Dynamics of Development within Lutheranism
Rev. Dr William G. Rusch, Yale Divinity School, USA

Receptive Ecumenism and the Dynamics of Development within Pentecostalism
Prof. Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, Professor of Systematic Theology, Fuller Theological Seminary, USA & University of Helsinki, Finland

Plenary Discussion

10.30am  Refreshments

11.00am  Session 5
Chair: Rev. Mark Woodruff, Secretary to the Society for Ecumenical Studies, UK

What Prevents Christian Churches from Learning?
Rev. Prof. Jeff Astley, Director of the North of England Institute for Christian Education, Durham, UK

Ecclesial Impasse: What Can We Learn from Our Laments?
Prof. Bradford E. Hinze, Professor of Theology, Fordham University, New York, USA

Plenary Discussion

12.30pm  Eucharist – Anglican Presidency (Rt Rev. Dr Tom Wright, Bishop of Durham) with Rev. Tom Bruch, General Secretary of the Lutheran Council of Great Britain, UK, to preach

1.30pm  Lunch + free time (Ecclesiological Investigations Steering Group – Douai Room)

3.30pm  Refreshments

4.00pm  Small Groups
Scriptural Reflection / Discussion of the day’s work

5.30pm  Bar

6.00pm  Dinner

7.30pm  Session 6
Chair: Dr Kirsteen Kim, Associate Senior Lecturer in Theology, Leeds Trinity and All Saints, UK

Unity and Universality, Locality and Diversity in Anglicanism
Most Rev. Dr Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, to be presented in absentia by Rev. Canon Jonathan Goodall, The Archbishop of Canterbury’s Chaplain and Secretary for Ecumenical Affairs

Unity and Universality, Locality and Diversity in Baptist Life
Rev. Prof. Paul Fiddes, Professorial Research Fellow, Regent’s Park College, University of Oxford, UK

Plenary Discussion

9.00pm  Chapel for Night Prayer

9.30pm  Bar
Wednesday 14th January

7.30am  Morning Prayer
    Keynote Reflection: Jn 14:25-31 ‘The Learning Church’
    Dr. Catherine E. Clifford, Assistant Professor (Systematic Theology), Faculty of
    Theology, Saint Paul University, Ottawa, Canada

8.00am  Breakfast

9.00am  Session 7
    Chair: Prof. Susan A. Ross, Chair of Faculty of Theology, Loyola University, Chicago,
    USA
    Unity and Universality, Locality and Diversity in Orthodoxy
    Metropolitan Kallistos Ware, Ecumenical Patriarchate & Emeritus Spalding Lecturer in
    Eastern Christian Studies, University of Oxford
    Unity and Universality, Locality and Diversity in Catholicism
    Sr Prof. Susan K. Wood, SCL, Department of Theology, Marquette University, USA
    Plenary Discussion

10.30am Refreshments

11.00am Session 8
    Receptive Ecumenism and the Local Church: The Anatomy of a Project
    Dr Paul D. Murray, Director of the Centre for Catholic Studies, Durham University; Dr
    Marcus Pound, Assistant Director of the Centre for Catholic Studies, Durham University;
    Prof. Geoff Moore, Professor of Business Ethics, Durham Business School; Rev. Prof.
    Jeff Astley, Honorary Professor of Christian Education, Department of Theology &
    Religion, Durham University & Director of the North of England Institute for Christian
    Education; Prof. Tom Redman, Professor of Human Resource Management, Durham
    Business School
    Plenary Discussion

12.30pm Lunch in small groups (identifying any one issue and/or comment to be offered to final
    plenary)

2.00pm Parallel short papers session 2

3.20pm Refreshments

3.50pm Session 9 – Final Plenary
    Chair: Dr Paul D. Murray, Director of the Centre for Catholic Studies, Durham
    University
    Speakers (each for 5-7 min’s max): Rt. Rev. Joe Aldred, Bishop in the Church of God of
    Prophecy, Chair of the Council of Black Led Churches & Secretary of Minority Ethnic
    Christian Affairs (MECA) for Churches Together in England; Ms Jenny Bond, Field
    Officer for the North and Midlands, Churches Together in England; Prof. Richard
    Gaillardetz, Margaret and Thomas Murray and James J. Bacik Endowed Chair Professor
    of Catholic Studies, University of Toledo, Ohio, USA; Dr Tamara Grzdelidze, Faith and
    Order Commission, WCC, Geneva, Switzerland; Rev. Prof. James Haire, Executive
    Director & Professor of Theology, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture,
    Charles Stuart University, Canberra, Australia & the Joint International Commission for
    Dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and the World Methodist Council; Dr
    Janet Soskice, University Reader in Philosophical Theology and Fellow of Jesus College,
    University of Cambridge, UK.
5.30pm Move to Chapel for  
5.45pm Methodist Covenant Service/Eucharist, presided over by either Rev. Dr Roger Walton, Director of the Wesley Study Centre, Durham, with Rev. Elizabeth Welch, former Moderator, West Midlands Synod of the URC, Birmingham, UK, to preach.

7.00pm Bar
7.30pm Final Dinner
  After-dinner speeches:
  Rev. John Marsland, President of Ushaw College
  Rt. Rev. Terence Drainey, Bishop of Middlesbrough, UK
  A.n.other – TBC
  Final word:
  Prof. Chris Higgins, Vice Chancellor, Durham University, UK
  Blessing:
  Rt. Rev. Terence Drainey, Bishop of Middlesbrough, UK

9.00pm Celebration

Thursday 15th January

7.30am Breakfast
9.00am DEPART