

SPEAKERS:

Christian Unity since Vatican II: Memory



Jack Valero is responsible for Communications for Opus Dei in Britain and is a founder member and coordinator of Catholic Voices, which puts the Church's case in the public square. In 2010 he was Press Officer for the Beatification of Cardinal Newman.

Jack Valero will consider how Vatican II was a very significant milestone in the history of ecumenism in the Catholic Church. One of the 16 documents

released by the Council dealt exclusively with it, while other documents also referred to its importance. Was this a break with the past or a development of doctrine as foreseen by Cardinal Newman a century before? At the same time, the Council's central message – the universal call to holiness of all the baptised and the specific role of the laity – had unexpected consequences for ecumenism at the grass roots.



Revd Canon Prof Nicholas Sagovsky holds professorial posts at two ecumenical universities: Liverpool Hope and Roehampton. He has been a member of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC) since 1992. He has written widely on ecumenism, social justice and literary themes. He was the co-founder of Article 26, a project of the Helena Kennedy Foundation, which seeks to enable young people from an asylum-seeking background, who are denied access to student finance, to access university education.

Professor Sagovsky will reflect on how Vatican II was of enormous importance not only for Roman Catholics but for Christians of all traditions. The insights of the Council were for Anglicans a major stimulus to ongoing renewal in liturgy, in ecclesiology, in understanding of revelation, in the engagement of the Church with the world and non-Christian religions. The Decree on Ecumenism says that amongst the communions in which Catholic traditions and institutions in part continue to exist, the Anglican Communion has a 'special place'. Anglicans have responded warmly to this perception: it has been the foundation for fifty years of fruitful Anglican-Roman Catholic ecumenical engagement, including the continuing work of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC).

Christian Unity since Vatican II: Present



Revd Dr David Cornick is a United Reformed Church minister who is presently serving as General Secretary of Churches Together in England. He was previously General Secretary of the United Reformed Church and before that was involved in theological education. He is also a Fellow of Robinson College, Cambridge where he directs studies in Theology and Religious Studies.

Dr Cornick reflects on how successive waves of immigration over the past century have brought the world church to England's High Streets. A world-wide resurgence of charismatic and Pentecostal spirituality has added to an already rich Christian pluralism. England's churches are experiencing uneven and simultaneous patterns of growth and decline; the once dominant theory of secularisation is in disarray. That changed landscape raises many ecumenical questions about the ways in which we discern mission priorities and partners in the present, discover the gifts of God and heed the promptings of the Spirit. All this provides a demanding and challenging context for ecumenical conversation, and for assessing the contribution of the Decree on Ecumenism to that broad and multi-faceted conversation.



Alison Gelder is Chief Executive of Housing Justice, the national ecumenical Christian voice on Church action on housing and homelessness. She has more than 15 years of experience in Church-linked homelessness and housing work and academic qualifications in law and theology.

Taking Church action on housing and homelessness as the context, this talk will explore the ways in which denominations and individual churches are working together in the present. As well as offering examples of current projects there will be reflections on some of the barriers to engaging in ecumenical social action in this field - and on the benefits of this kind of practical action for wider ecumenism.

Christian Unity since Vatican II: Where Now?



Revd Archimandrite Nikodemos Anagnostopoulos is a Visiting Lecturer at St. Mary's University, Twickenham and at the Cambridge Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies. Currently, he is undertaking doctoral research at Heythrop College specializing on Muslim-Christian relations in south-eastern Europe. He is an Orthodox priest, under the authority of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, and since his

ordination in 1996 he has been serving at various parishes in Greece, Turkey and Great Britain.

Fr Nikodemos gives an Orthodox perspective on the ecumenical significance of Vatican II with special reference to both the Declaration on Religious Freedom and the Decree on Ecumenism. In the light of the recent meeting of Pope Francis and the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew during their Apostolic pilgrimage to the Holy Land in May 2014, this talk investigates the significance of the Declaration on Religious Freedom and the Decree on Ecumenism in relation to the present circumstances and the progress of the dialogue between the Orthodox and the Catholic Churches on one hand and the challenges related to religious freedom and practice that the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople is still facing based on the Turkish Republic Legislation on the other.



Revd Canon Lucy Winkett is currently Rector of St James's, Piccadilly. Lucy was previously the Canon Precentor of St Paul's Cathedral and served her curacy in Ilford. She writes extensively on Christian themes in various publications and is a regular contributor on Radio 4's Thought for the Day. Her book 'Our Sound is our Wound' was published by Continuum in 2010.

A closing summary of the day's proceedings will be given by the Revd Lucy Winkett, inviting us to reflect on what we might learn from the varied perspectives offered during the conference and looking forward with renewed urgency to address the question "where now for Christian Unity?"

TIMETABLE:

10:00	Coffee
10:30	Prayer
10:45-12:15	Christian Unity since Vatican II: the Memory – Jack Valero; Revd Canon Professor Nick Sagovsky
Lunch	(Bring own packed lunch)
12:45-14:15	Christian Unity since Vatican II: the Present – Revd Dr David Cornick; Alison Gelder
Break	
14:30-16:00	Christian Unity since Vatican II: Where Now? – Revd Archimandrite Nikodemos Anagnostopoulos; Revd Canon Lucy Winkett
16:00	Vespers
16:30	Tea

COST: £10:00 per person to include coffee/
tea and biscuits, (bring own packed lunch), payable
on the day either by
cash or cheque (made out to 'Mount Street
Jesuit Centre').

HOW TO BOOK:

Please note that advance booking is essential as
places are limited. To reserve a place please
contact:

Fr Dominic Robinson, SJ

Email: dominicrobinson@rcdow.org.uk

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CHRISTIAN UNITY SINCE VATICAN II

**Memory, Present,
Where Now?**

A Day Conference to be held
from 10am – 4.30pm
on Saturday, 15th November 2014
at
FARM STREET CHURCH & CENTRE
114 Mount Street,
London W1K 3AH



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