

“United in faith, care and mission”



In September 1987 Churches in Britain and Ireland met in Swanwick, Derbyshire, and committed themselves afresh to overcome historic divisions and to ‘become more fully, the one Church of Christ... united in faith, communion, pastoral care and mission.’ Every January, as Christians of all traditions recall the Conversion of St Paul, a special Week of Prayer for Christian Unity celebrates and challenges God’s call to overcome divisions and to work together.

Saint Paul emphasised the importance of unity within Christian communities when growth of the early church was at its most vulnerable and at risk of divisions as they laboured to understand

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taken from Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians who were described as a disordered community. ‘Is Christ Divided?’ he writes, as he responds to the emergence of factions divided between Peter and Paul as apostolic missionaries, and Christ Himself.

This question may well find a place in our ‘disordered’ world community today, but in truth, Christ is not divided, it is the church that is divided, which many consider to be a scandal.



Scandal or not, there are times when I wonder where I would be now in terms of my faith journey without involvement in the Ecumenical Movement, and I count myself fortunate indeed to enjoy the friendship of and collaboration with many different denominations received over time, and indeed now within the body of Christian Chaplains, as we seek to share and live out the one true faith that we profess in collective ministry, in and around the airport.

The Ecumenical Movement progresses in many directions through the work of the Holy Spirit, to solidify and affirm my belief in Christian Unity and the pursuit of its goals. Thankfully, much work has been done and progress achieved in terms of on-going bi-lateral and multi-lateral dialogue between the various member churches that, not only stimulate hopes for unity, but with the passage of time, has brought congregations closer together in ways undreamt of many years ago through Local Ecumenical Partnerships and Churches Together Groups.

The rate of progress may be slow for some, too fast for others, but progress there is, and now further, hopefully more positive and progressive, dynamics, have been introduced following the elections of Pope Francis and Archbishop Justin Welby. Time will tell!

Mike Denny
Airport Chaplain

Manchester Airport and its Chaplaincy lost two great friends at the beginning of 2014, both men of deep faith and commitment, who reached out far beyond their own respective faith traditions to work in partnership with those of other faiths and perspectives - and achieved great things by doing so.

Canon Mike Vincer was Senior Chaplain of Manchester Airport. He established the Airport Chaplaincy as we know it today as a Charitable Limited Company, and went on to lead the team for 12 years, retiring in 2005. He played a very active part in the growth and development of the International Association of Civil Aviation Chaplains and was Secretary for several years before becoming President from 2003 to 2005. Mike was loved and respected by all who knew him, and his warmth, humour and guidance left a lasting impression on the airport and proved an inspiration to those whom he supported. Mike died peacefully on January 4, at home with his wife and family. His funeral will be held on Monday January 20 at 11.00 at St Peter and St Paul, Pickering, North Yorkshire.

Paul Goggins, MP for Wythenshawe and Sale West died on January 8 following a stroke over the Christmas period. Tributes from both sides of the House of Commons have praised “a man of deep faith whose commitment and strong values shone through everything he did... a kind and a brilliant man who believed profoundly in public service, (who) always treated everyone, in whatever circumstances, with respect.”

We hold Mike’s wife, Bette and Louise, Fiona, Kirstie and their families and Paul’s wife, Wyn and their family in our prayers.

Prayer Diary

January 20 - 26, 2014 - Week 4
We give thanks in our prayers for the work of:

- Property & Asset Management
- OCS Group
- Airfield Operations
- JD Sports
- Flybe

The Chaplaincies at:

- Birmingham International Airport
- Blackpool International Airport
- Boston Logan Airport
- Bournemouth International Airport
- Bristol International Airport

Daily Prayers (Christian) take place every day at 8.30am in T1 Prayer Room
(and at many other times and places too)

Friday Jumma Prayers
(Islamic) are held in T3 Prayer Room
1300 GMT (Winter)