

There are two main dimensions of the Church of England's work with other Churches internationally:

## **Engaging with other churches in Europe**

Many of our activities in Europe are focused on:

- Linking with Churches through the Diocese in Europe
- Having an ongoing membership of the Conference of European Churches
- Developing informal conversations with new Churches across the continent.
- Creating and maintaining formal agreements with partner Churches including:

### **The Porvoo Agreement**

Signed in 1996, the Porvoo Agreement commits us to sharing a common life in mission and service with a number of Lutheran and Anglican Churches who are in communion with one another.

#### [Learn more](#)

Our Porvoo Partners:

- The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark
- The Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church
- The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland
- The Lutheran Church in Great Britain
- The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland
- The Church of Ireland
- The Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad
- The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania
- The Church of Norway
- The Scottish Episcopal Church
- The Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church
- The Church of Sweden

- The Church in Wales
- The Diocese in Europe
- The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia is an observer at the Porvoo Contact Group.

On the Porvoo Communion's own [website](#) you can find official documents, pastoral resources and other material from the ongoing Porvoo process. There are also links to the websites of the Porvoo churches and translation of the Porvoo Common Statement in many languages.

Read the [Common Statement](#) and follow the Porvoo [prayer diary](#).

### **The Meissen Agreement**

Signed in 1991, the Meissen Agreements commits us to journey towards greater unity and closer fellowship. This is a formal relationship between the Evangelical Church in Germany and the Church of England.

#### [Learn more](#)

In the agreement the two Churches recognised each other as Churches belonging to the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ. They committed themselves to work together in closer fellowship. More information about the agreement is set out in the [Meissen Common Statement: On the Way to Visible Unity](#). Including the joint declaration known as the Meissen Declaration which was approved by the General Synod of the Church of England, the EKD and the Federation of the Evangelical Churches in the German Democratic Republic.

A Commission from the two Churches meets annually in September, either in Germany or England, to make sure that the agreement has practical actions in the life of the churches.

In 2016 when the two Churches celebrated 25 years of the Meissen Agreement, the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said:

“One of the goals of Meissen is the full visible unity between our Churches. This goal has allowed the development of significant relationships between our two Churches at every level and remains a model for other ecumenical agreements. The remembrance of that initiative which led to the signing of the Agreement is an important reminder that the churches are at times called to set the agenda and take the lead in matters of unity and reconciliation. Over the years parishes and dioceses have created vibrant partnerships, and exchanges between them have proved fruitful. Our Churches and individuals have learned to look at their faith and the life of their parish through different eyes. What is currently being experienced between our churches is a programme which could be called 'Mission Interchange'. Our Churches have therefore come a long way, and I am grateful to God for his continuing mercies on this journey.”

Read the latest [statement from the Meissen Commission \(September 2019\)](#)

The proceedings from the 8th Meissen Theological Conference in 2014 can be found [here](#).

## The Reuilly Declaration

Signed in 2001 in Canterbury and Paris, the Reuilly Declaration commits us to worship, witness and service together with French Protestant Churches (Lutheran and Reformed).

### [Learn more](#)

Our Reuilly Partners:

- The Church of Ireland
- The Scottish Episcopal Church
- The Church in Wales
- The Church of Augsburg Confession of Alsace and Lorraine
- The Reformed Church of Alsace and Lorraine
- The Evangelical Lutheran Church of France
- The Reformed Church of France

The *Reuilly Common Statement* was an important step forward in the direction of visible unity. It was founded on:

- A common faith
- A common understanding of the nature and purpose of the Church
- A movement towards a common understanding of the apostolicity of the Church and ministry

To continue the conversations which began in 1994, the Reuilly Contact Group meets every two years. As a group they hope to strengthen the relationships between the Anglicans and the French Lutheran and Reformed Churches; and explore practical ways to work together.

## Engaging with Churches around the world

- We engage with Churches around the world, through ecumenical organisations such as the World Council of Churches and national Councils of Churches, and through the global ministry of the Archbishop of Canterbury.
- The Archbishop of Canterbury's ministry includes representing the worldwide **Anglican Communion** in its relationships with other Churches at local, national and international level.

- We are a member of the **World Council of Churches**, which says the purpose of the fellowship of member churches "is to call one another to visible unity in one faith and in one Eucharistic fellowship, expressed in worship and common life in Christ, through witness and service to the world, and to advance towards that unity in order that the world may believe".

## Related Links

### Migration

Global migration is one of the biggest issues of our time. It is important for our church, and so is every individual who is caught up in the rapidly-changing movements of people around the world.

#### Anglican Communion

Global family of Anglican Churches whose links include their relationship to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

#### Communion

a) the sacramental sharing of bread and wine by the faithful, following the example given in the Last Supper of Christ with his disciples; b) a service in which Holy Communion is received.

#### General Synod

The 'Parliament' of the Church of England. The General Synod usually meets twice a year to debate and discuss matters of interest and to consider and approve amendments to Church legislation.

#### Archbishop

Leading bishop with authority for a province. There are two provinces and therefore two Archbishops in England – Canterbury and York.

#### Eucharist

An ancient name (from the Greek word for 'thanksgiving') widely used today for the service that is otherwise known as the Holy Communion, the Lord's Supper or Mass.

---

**Source URL:** <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/work-other-christian-churches/working-together-internationally>