

**GS Misc 1182**

**ENGLISH ARC  
QUINQUENNIAL REPORT 2012 – 2017**

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## SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

1. The 2012 – 2017 Quinquennium of English ARC constituted the most recent chapter of a story that stretches back over more than four decades. English ARC was set up in 1970 in the wake of the momentous changes in Anglican – Roman Catholic relations at international level that followed the Second Vatican Council and then the meeting of Archbishop Michael Ramsey and Pope Paul VI in 1966, the fiftieth anniversary of which fell in 2016. Since the 1970s it has had a key role in monitoring and promoting relationships between the Church of England and the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, including responding to initiatives at international level, notably the work of the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC) and now also the International Anglican Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission (IARCCUM).
2. The Quinquennium began with a careful review of the role of English ARC. One of the results of this was a decision to reduce the size of the overall membership from 30 (15 from each church) to 20 (10 from each church) and to seek to set up task groups to work on projects in between main meetings, which would maintain the pattern of two 48-hour residential meetings per year inherited from the previous Quinquennium. As before, English ARC had a page on the website of Churches Together in England (CTE) that it could use to publicise activities and make resources available.

## SECTION TWO: INITIAL TASKS FOR THE QUINQUENNium

3. At the first meeting of the new Quinquennium in Canterbury on 23 and 24 March 2012, English ARC identified six major areas of work:
  - (i) Relationship with ARCIC
  - (ii) The New Evangelization (Evangelization and Secularization)
  - (iii) Joint Witness in the area of Public Affairs (common good, other social/ethical issues)
  - (iv) Ecumenical Formation
  - (v) Spiritual Ecumenism
  - (vi) Relations with the episcopate
4. In a paper to English ARC for the Canterbury meeting titled 'Priorities and Programme', Robert Byrne and Colin Podmore suggested 'that English ARC should envisage publishing a report in 2016, indicating what it has done to fulfil its mandate and what impact it has had.' Brief comments on each of these areas follow below.

### (i) Relationship with ARCIC

5. It has been very helpful that there were personal links between English ARC and ARCIC. Crucially, Archbishop Bernard Longley was Roman Catholic Co-Chair of both bodies. Dr Peter Sedgwick, who became a member of English ARC when the decision was made to invite the Church in Wales to send a representative, became the second person on English ARC who was also on ARCIC. ARCIC III has not however produced any major new documents during the Quinquennium, while the proposed collection of ARCIC II documents with accompanying commentary did not appear in time for English ARC to have a significant role in its reception in this country.

### (ii) The New Evangelization

6. Archbishop Bernard Longley attended the Synod of Bishops for the New Evangelization in 2012. The Bishop of Sheffield, the Rt Revd Steven Croft, was the Archbishop of Canterbury's fraternal representative and he reported back to the Church of England's House of Bishops and General Synod. Because of his significant role in shaping thinking and policy about evangelism and discipleship, his engagement has had an important effect on these areas for the Church of England.
7. Pope Francis brought a particular energy to the promotion of evangelization as the heartbeat of the church. It might be seen as providential that the election of Pope Francis in 2013 coincided closely with the appointment of Archbishop Justin Welby, whose list of priorities identified at the beginning of his time in office began with evangelism and witness. The two leaders met for the first time when Archbishop Welby visited the Vatican on 14 June 2013. At their second meeting at the Vatican on 16 June 2014, they committed themselves to campaign against modern slavery and human trafficking.
8. The apostolic exhortation that followed from the Synod for the New Evangelization has been perhaps the most significant document of Pope Francis' time in office so far. *Evangelii Gaudium* was well received within and beyond the Roman Catholic Church and remains widely influential. It also dropped the adjective 'new' for the great majority of the text and spoke simply about evangelization. English ARC commissioned Dr Paula Gooder, a member of ARCIC III as well as a well-known speaker and writer, to produce a study resource suitable for use by groups involving non-Roman Catholics,

with the Bishop of Sheffield providing a preface. The *Joy of the Gospel* was released by Church House Publishing in 2015, and there has been a very encouraging response in terms of sales, with study groups throughout the country being resourced. Some had seen the resource as bringing together Catholic and evangelical understandings. English ARC also offered strong encouragement to two of its members, the Revd Duncan Dormor and Dr Alana Harris, regarding their plans to organise an international academic conference at St John's College Cambridge in the summer of 2015 on *Evangelii Gaudium* under the title 'Making All Things New?' Selected papers from the conference were published in a special edition of the journal *Ecclesiology*, while a fuller collection is scheduled to appear in book form with Paulist Press.

### (iii) Joint Witness in Public Affairs and Evangelization

9. A Task Group liaised with Public Affairs staff at the Archbishops' Council, Church House Westminster and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales in Eccleston Square with a seminar on Public Affairs and Evangelisation being held on 4 October 2012. The seminar had shown the cooperation of the staff of both churches in these fields.

### (iv) Ecumenical Formation

10. A Task Group produced a leaflet called *Praying for Unity* leaflet. Starting with Christ's words reported at John 17:20–21, the leaflet included prayers from the Anglican and Roman Catholic traditions and thoughts about why praying for unity matters. There was a picture of Pope Francis and Archbishop Justin greeting each other and of them praying together. 2,000 copies of the leaflet were printed and distributed in national and local church networks in early 2014.

### (v) Spiritual Ecumenism

11. A Task Group put together a summary of Cardinal Kasper's book on this theme, which was made available on the English ARC website. Initial work was also undertaken on a leaflet about pilgrimage, but the decision was taken not to proceed with publication at that point.

### (vi) Relations with the episcopate

12. A joint meeting of bishops was held at Lambeth Palace in 2013, with a major focus on evangelization / evangelism. English ARC was invited to present some aspects of their work at the final session, leading into group discussions involving the bishops and members of English ARC before a final plenary review. The meeting showed the lack of awareness among many bishops of English ARC's work and the scepticism of some about its approach. It was however a significant occasion in being the first time that the joint meeting had directly engaged with English ARC. A further joint bishops' meeting is now being planned for early 2017, and it is hoped that, as this coincides with the end of the current Quinquennium, the bishops can be consulted on how they see the priorities for Anglican – Roman Catholic relations in England and Wales and what structures might best support work achieving them.
13. The desire to foster a closer relationship between the joint bishops' meeting and English ARC might be seen as congruent with a shift towards IARCCUM rather than ARCIC as the primary international point of reference. IARCCUM has a remit that focuses more on enabling practical partnership in missional activity between Anglicans and Roman Catholics, with a consequent expectation that it is for bishops working together to give a lead and help create the spaces for substantial joint working.

Bishop David Hamid, the Anglican Co-Chair of IARCCUM, was a guest at the English ARC March 2013 meeting at Mirfield and set out plans for the new phase of IARCCUM. He reported on the results of an IARCCUM survey of regional ARCs, to which English ARC had contributed a response. IARCCUM now has its own website, with provision for resources and news from regional ARCs. The English 'pair' of IARCCUM bishops, the Rt Revd Tim Thornton and the Rt Revd Mark O'Toole, attended the international IARCCUM gathering that formed a central part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations in Rome in 2016 of the visit of Archbishop Ramsey to Paul VI.

### SECTION THREE: THE MAPPING EXERCISE

14. By 2014, the initial phase of work pursued by the various task groups as set out above seemed to be coming to an end. Partly in response to the joint bishops' meeting at Lambeth in 2013, a decision was taken to set up a 'mapping exercise' designed to establish the range and extent of local and regional activities in which the two churches came together either bilaterally or multi-laterally with other churches. This ambitious project became a major focus for English ARC in 2015 and 2016, leading to a substantial report that establishes for the first time some comprehensive evidence about what is currently happening at diocesan and parish level. The project was led by the two National Ecumenical Officers, Canon John O'Toole and Dr Roger Paul. The report made a series of recommendations, and how to respond to these will be an important question in deciding what the next phase of English ARC might look like.

### SECTION FOUR: OTHER ACTIVITIES

15. English ARC has a responsive role as well as a responsibility to initiate work on areas that it believes need addressing. Meetings during this Quinquennium have given attention to a wide range of issues that concern Anglicans and Roman Catholics, e.g. the religious life, papal documents such as *Amoris Laetitia*, major events such as the Year of Mercy or the visit of Pope Benedict XVI, and significant developments with a direct impact on relationships such as the establishment of the Anglican Ordinariate. Often reflection on such matters would begin with reports or papers from members, with outside speakers also sometimes being invited to contribute.

#### Evangelism and evangelization

16. At the November 2014 meeting at Hinsley Hall Leeds two national advisors (Dr Rachel Jordan from the C of E) and Miss Clare Ward (from CBCEW) made a presentation and led discussion about Evangelism and Evangelization. English ARC considered a role in encouraging churches to work together in this field in the spirit of *Evangelii Gaudium* and Anglican initiatives that were to be highlighted by the Archbishop of Canterbury at the General Synod session the following February in an address titled *Joy and delight in the love of God is at the heart of Christian witness*.

#### The religious life: Chemin Neuf

17. At the November 2015 meeting at the Royal Foundation of St Katharine four facilitators from the Chemin Neuf community spoke about the growth of that movement over the last 40 years. One of the facilitators, Sister Sonia Beranger has a role in the setting up that year of the Community of Saint Anselm at Lambeth Palace. This Community of 36 young people comprised 16 residential and 20 non – residential members committing for 10 months to study, prayer, community life and service to the

poor. The Archbishop of Canterbury is the Abbot and Revd Anders Litzell from Sweden the Prior. A second cohort began community life in 2016 and many members of the first cohort remained in association.

## **SECTION FIVE: WHAT NEXT?**

18. As this brief review indicates, English ARC has during its most recent Quinquennium covered a great deal of ground. As well as producing resources of its own, such as the *Praying for Unity* leaflet and the mapping exercise report, it has been a catalyst for significant initiatives around *Evangelii Gaudium* and facilitated communication at various levels. It has provided a unique place where conversation and reflection can happen.
19. Plans are under way for the new Quinquennium and the appointment of new Co-Chairs. A paper prepared by English ARC at the last couple of meetings of the current Quinquennium will be discussed by the Church of England's Council for Christian Unity and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales' Department for Dialogue and Unity. It reviews different models for how a national ARC might function, recommends common Terms of Reference be adopted, and identifies some potential areas of work for the next phase.

September 2017

## ENGLISH ARC MEMBERS 2012–2017

### Anglican

#### *Church of England*

The Rt Revd Tim Thornton (Co-Chair)  
The Rt Revd Geoff Pearson  
The Revd John Cook  
The Revd Dr Andrew Davison  
The Revd Duncan Dormor  
The Very Revd Vivienne Faulk  
Miss Joy Gilliver  
Dr Colin Podmore (Co-Secretary) until 2013  
Mrs Margaret Swinson  
The Revd Canon Dr Jeremy Worthen (Co-Secretary) from 2014  
The Revd Dr Roger Paul from 2014

#### *Church in Wales*

The Revd Canon Dr Peter Sedgwick until April 2016  
The Revd Dr Matthew Hill October 2016  
The Revd Canon Sue Huyton 2017

### Roman Catholic

The Most Revd Bernard Longley (Co-Chair)  
The Rt Revd Paul Hendricks  
The Rt Revd Robert Byrne  
Mr Anthony Castle  
The Revd Robert Gay from 2013  
Dr Alana Harris  
Sister Sheila Moloney D.M.J.  
Mrs Dora Nash  
Revd Canon John O' Toole (Co-Secretary)  
Mrs Louise Walton

### Ecumenical representative

The Revd Dr David Cornick, General Secretary CTE

### Administrator for both churches

Mr Francis Bassett