

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2011

The 2011 theme: All things in common

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers.” Acts 2: 42

Do we have to follow the January dates?

Most places observe the “Week” in January, from the 18th to the 25th (the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul), others at Pentecost (which in 2011 falls on 12 June). Locally, you may make your own decision, and the resource material may be used at any time in the year. To allow for variation, the material only has the year on it and days are denoted by the numbers one to eight.

We are organizing the Week of Prayers service for my church/ Churches Together. How should we use the resources?

If you are the preacher or worship leader, you will probably need additional copies of some items – enough pamphlets for those who will attend the ecumenical service, plus additional ones for those who may pray at home or in church during the “eight days” of the Week of Prayer.

Can the material be adapted for local use?

Yes – very much so! And to help with this, the worship and resources are also available in electronic form via the CTBI website www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer which should enable editing and adaptation. Material from previous years is also available on the website should you wish to make use of it.

Resources on our website

From August 2010 the CTBI website will have downloadable resources available to help you mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2011 and lead worship during it, along with some background information about the service. You will find the resources at www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer.

How can we encourage church members to pray for unity during the eight days of the Week of Prayer?

You can order pamphlets for the congregation to use during the main ecumenical service, at home, in church or in prayer groups on other days. Pamphlets contain:

- **Outlines for eight days of daily prayer and Bible readings;**
- **A single ecumenical order of service which you may choose to hold during the week – on Sunday or on a weekday or evening during the Week.**

Are there other ways of observing the Week of Prayer?

We hope that local churches will be creative in the ways they mark the Week of Prayer and we would be glad to hear of what has been tried, what works and what doesn't! Sometimes a pilgrimage around the churches is organised – on each day of the eight days in a different church, following the daily Bible readings. This permits each church to worship in its own style and offer hospitality to others. Some people organise daily prayers in their place of work. Church schools may put on services and events.

All things in common

What is the reason for this year's theme?

This year an ecumenical group in Jerusalem were the originators of the material. Amidst all the turmoil, danger, injustice and fragility of the Middle East, the Churches in Jerusalem challenge the whole Church to remain faithful to the vocation to be one, and to recommit ourselves to pray for the unity of the church that world might believe. Further details can be found at www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer.

Who is responsible for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity?

The material was developed by the International Committee for the Week of Prayer composed of members of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, and adapted into its present form by writers from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales on behalf of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

What are the aims of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity?

- To pray as Christ prayed "That they may be one".
- To pray for the unity of all Christian people as we share in Christ's ministry The Week of Prayer offers opportunities to meet and pray with fellow-Christians of different denominations in your locality. Often new local initiatives emerge out of such meeting and praying together.

Is there all-age material for the Week of Prayer?

All-age material for the Week of Prayer will be available from ROOTS, the worship and learning resource. See their website www.rootsontheweb.com.

How do we advertise the Week of Prayer locally?

- A3 size posters are available to order. You may attach local details to the bottom or side of the poster.

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*Also available to download from: www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer


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18–25 January

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