1890
NATIONAL FREE CHURCH COUNCIL

1911
INTERDENOMINATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICE COUNCIL

1914
WORLD ALLIANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP

1917
COUNCILS OF CHRISTIAN CONGREGATIONS

1920's
COMMITTEE FOR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN CHRISTIAN COMMUNIONS OF WALES

1922
UNITED COUNCIL OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS COMMUNIONS IN IRELAND

1925
SCOTTISH CHURCHES COUNCIL

1916
FEDERATED COUNCIL OF EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCHES

1927
LAUSANNE WORLD CONFERENCE ON FAITH AND ORDER

1933
FRIENDS OF RE-UNION

1938
COUNCIL ON CHRISTIAN FAITH AND COMMON LIFE

1939
FREE CHURCH FEDERAL COUNCIL

1924
BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE ON POLITICS, ECONOMICS AND CITIZENSHIP

1939
COMMISSION OF CHURCHES FOR INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

1941
MALVERN CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL QUESTIONS

1940's
RELIGION AND LIFE WEEKS.

1910
EDINBURGH MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

1925
STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE UNIVERSAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL FOR LIFE AND WORK

1937
OXFORD LIFE AND WORK CONFERENCE

1937
EDINBURGH CONFERENCE ON FAITH AND ORDER

1912
CONFERENCE OF BRITISH MISSIONARY SOCIETIES

1920
INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY COUNCIL

1942
BRITISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

THE PILGRIM ROAD

1935
UNIVERSAL WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

THE STORY OF THE BCC • FOLLOW THE PILGRIM ROAD

40's



GENERAL SECRETARY
ARCHIE CRAIG
1942-46

R.E. BURLINGHAM
ACTING SECRETARY
1946-47





GENERAL SECRETARY
DAVID SAY
1947-55

First Headquarters -
20, Balcombe Street.
Because of bomb damage the BCC moved to 56, Bloomsbury Street.



○ J.H. Oldham spoke at the Autumn Meeting of the BCC's need to preserve its Church character

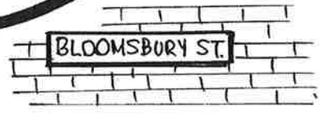
○ Bishop George Bell took the lead in mobilising the British Churches to help with post-war re-construction.

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES INAUGURATED. AMSTERDAM 1948

○ Increased attention given to African problems with the adoption of APARTHEID in South Africa.

1942 1944 1946 1948 1949





"THE ERA OF ATOMIC POWER" Report

Archbishop Geoffrey Fisher's Sermon at Cambridge suggesting that the Free Churches should take episcopacy into their system



JANET LACEY.
Department of Inter-Church Aid and Refugee Service.



50's

LUND FAITH AND ORDER CONFERENCE 1952

"Act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately"



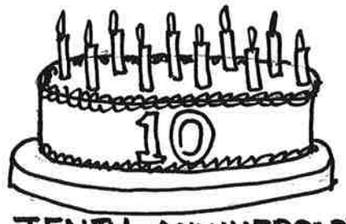


GENERAL SECRETARY KENNETH SLACK 1955 - 65

Said to have left the BCC "an absolute established feature of the ecclesiastical landscape".

- Scottish Churches Ecumenical Committee as Association.

- BCC begins to hold Council Meetings in Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Midlands and the North as well as London.



TENTH ANNIVERSARY of the BCC marked by a special Service. Archbishop Fisher asked if churches were "ready now to say that the Holy Catholic Church embraces all baptised persons"



BCC MOVES TO EATON GATE, SLOANE SQ.



Growth of Christian Aid and FIRST CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

1950 — 1952 — 1954 — 1955 — 1956 — 1957 — 1958

Move to more spacious headquarters at 39, Doughty Street





First British Conference of Christian Youth in Bangor, Wales

First Conference at SWANWICK to quicken the understanding and enthusiasm of local leaders. WHITSUN 1954



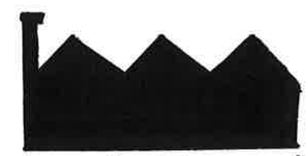


VISIT OF A GROUP OF RUSSIAN CHURCH LEADERS IN 1955

Second Youth Conference in Bristol

Salisbury Bequest "Sarum Chase" substantially increasing BCC's resources.

- "THE CHURCH AND INDUSTRY REPORT.

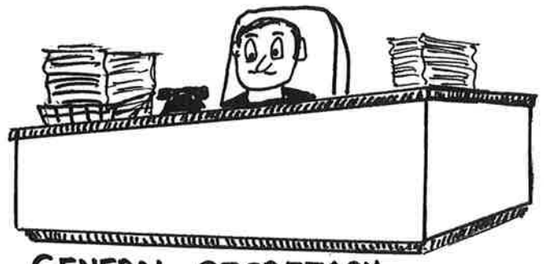


Largely the work of Mollie Batten of William Temple College.

60's



JOHN WELLER
ACTING SECRETARY 1965-66



GENERAL SECRETARY
KENNETH SANSBURY
1966 — 1973

PEOPLE NEXT DOOR
GROUP DISCUSSIONS 1966-7



1969
SHARING OF CHURCH BUILDINGS ACT

GROWTH OF NATIONAL COUNCILS

CACLB
Churches Advisory Committee for Local Broadcasting. Formed 1968.



Centred on hope that by Easter 1980 the British Churches would have found the path to Unity

ANGLICAN — METHODIST UNITY COMMISSION 1965

WALES
Call to Covenant
Committee on Covenants.

IRELAND
Irish Council of Churches

"LIFE OF THE SPIRIT TODAY" Report.



Churches Action for World Development

- "World Poverty and British Responsibility" BCC/CA Report 1963-4
- "Human Reproduction" Report.

1962 — 1964 — 1965 — 1966 — 1967 — 1968 — 1969

Multi-Lateral Church Conversations in Scotland

Irish Tri-partite Conversations

Third Youth Conference in Leicester



SCOTLAND.
Scottish Churches Council Re-constituted

- Lutheran Council joined



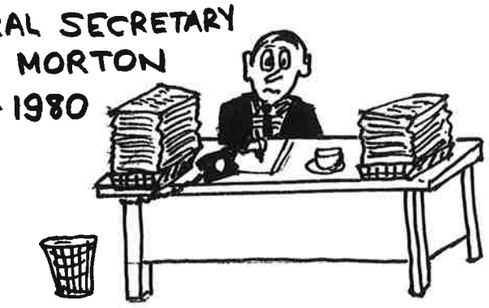
- Romas Catholic 'Observers' invited to BCC following Vatican II.
- Greek Orthodox joined
- "THE FUTURE OF SOUTH AFRICA" Report.

- Joint BCC and RC Working Group
- Education Department Active.
- "CHRISTIANS AND THE COMMON MARKET" Report.



70's

GENERAL SECRETARY
HARRY MORTON
1973 – 1980



THE 5 C's

1978 MOVING INTO UNITY	
1	COMPETITION
2	CO-EXISTENCE
3	CO-OPERATION
4	COMMITMENT
5	COMMUNION

WHERE ARE WE NOW?



1978
CENTRE FOR BLACK AND WHITE CHRISTIAN PARTNERSHIP



Christian Aid move to Brixton.

- Joint Pastoral care of Inter-Church Marriages
- Ecumenical Experiments Handbook
- Common Certificate of Christian Baptism 1972

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH ESTABLISHED



CCLEPE FORMED IN 1973
Consultative Committee for Local Ecumenical Projects in England
Areas of Ecumenical Experiment become Local Ecumenical Projects
– LEP's



- CWRU 1976
- "NEW BLACK PRESENCE" Joint Working Party.
- "GROWING TOGETHER LOCALLY"
- "CHILD IN THE CHURCH."

CHURCHES COUNCIL FOR COVENANTING IN ENGLAND



COVENANT FOR CHURCH IN WALES



BRITAIN TODAY AND TOMORROW Report

- ONE WORLD WEEK begins.
- Dayspring Youth Conference at St. David's
- Collaborative Ministry Group Formed. 1977

Standing Committee on Theological Education

Overseas Students

CRRU
COMMUNITY AND RACE RELATIONS UNIT

TALKS ABOUT TALKS IN ENGLAND

- "Discretion & Valour"

1970 | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 | 1974 | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 | 1978 | 1979

Local Councils of Churches now risen to 650



FAILURE OF ANGLICAN-METHODIST UNITY PROPOSALS

- "Local Councils of Churches Today" Report.

Church Leaders' Conference at Birmingham.

THE BALLYMASCANLON IRISH INTER-CHURCH MEETING 1973

- "ADVENTURES IN UNITY"

Taize Council of Youth

- BCC/ICC meetings.
- Churches Consortium on Industrial Mission.
- Standing Conference on Unity in Prayer Formed in 1975
- Nuclear Energy Hearings.

TEN PROPOSITIONS FOR UNITY IN ENGLAND



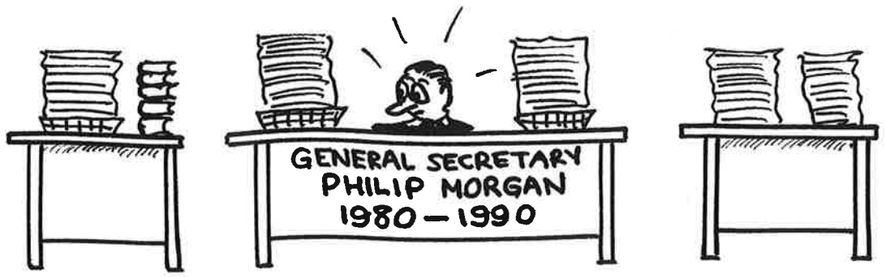
- CRPOF Committee for Relations with People of Other Faiths. 1977
- CBMS becomes CFWM. Conference for World Mission 1978
- Human Rights Forum.
- Consultation on Charismatic Renewal and the Church
- Political Change in South Africa. Britain's Responsibility.

Guidelines on Industrial Mission



NIE Nationwide Initiative in Evangelism
1977 – 1982

80's



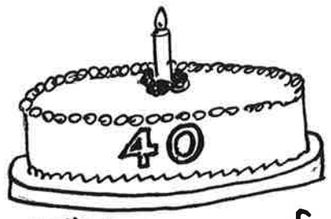
1984 BEGINNING OF INTER-CHURCH PROCESS
'Not Strangers but Pilgrims'

WHAT ON EARTH IS THE CHURCH FOR?
In 1986 60,000–70,000 Groups listened in to 57 Radio Stations.
One million people shared in this.

CONFERENCE FOR BLACK AND WHITE CHRISTIAN PARTNERSHIP



ECUMENICAL MEETING WITH POPE JOHN PAUL II AT CANTERBURY.



40th Anniversary of BCC in St. Paul's Cathedral

- ○ Delegation to Rome
- ○ Top level delegation to China.
- ○ "Peace-making in a Nuclear World"
- ○ Peace Forum.

SEPTEMBER 1984
British and Irish Church Leaders met at Friends' House to explore possible ways forward.

FEBRUARY 1985
INTER-CHURCH PROCESS SET UP ....



1980 — 1981 — 1982 — 1983 — 1984 — 1985 — 1986

- ○ "God's Yes to Spirituality" Report.
- ○ "Stewardship in the 1980's"
- ○ "UNITY — Why not yet?"
- ○ Pocket Praise.

"YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE CHURCH" Report.

LIMA REPORT
BAPTISM EUCHARIST AND MINISTRY

ARCIC I FINAL REPORT
EUCHARIST MINISTRY AND AUTHORITY

- ○ "Relations with people of other Faiths — Guidelines for Dialogue"
- ○ "Community of Women and Men"
- ○ "Understanding the Arab-Israeli Conflict"
- ○ Mannafest Youth Conference in Lincoln

FAILURE OF COVENANT IN ENGLAND

- ○ Kaleidescope Youth Conference at Carfmel.
- ○ "A Pattern for Local Ecumenism"
- ○ Evangelism Committee
- ○ Equality and Gender Project (1983-6)



- ● **JANUARY 1984** New Hall Meeting
- ● **MARCH 1984** BCC Assembly
- ● **APRIL 1984** Church Leaders' met at Canterbury
- ● **MAY 1984** Roman Catholic Bishops' Meeting.

- ○ "The Closed Door" concerning Immigration Policy.
- ○ "The Gospel and our Culture"
- ○ Association of Centres of Adult Theological Education.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF YOUTH



'REFLECTIONS'
How 26 churches understood the nature and purpose of the Church.

'VIEWS FROM THE PEWS'
100,000 Questionnaires analysed as a result of 'WHAT ON EARTH IS THE CHURCH FOR?

- ○ Church Computer Project.
- ○ Christian Enquiry Agency (Scotland)
- ○ National Youth Conference at Liverpoo
- ○ "Whose Rubicon?" Report on South Africa

80's CONTINUED

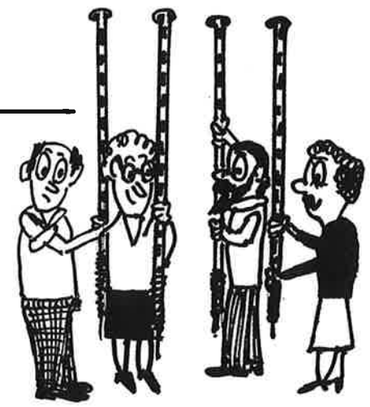
THE INTER-CHURCH PROCESS..... continued.

90's

● The Next Steps for CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PILGRIMAGE

"Co-operation to Commitment"

AUGUST 31st
Ring out the old!
SEPTEMBER 1st.
Ring in the NEW!



CONFERENCES

- NOTTINGHAM
- BANGOR
- ST. ANDREWS
- ● SWANWICK

Lent '88 "WHO ON EARTH ARE YOU?"

① "THE FORGOTTEN TRINITY" BCC Study Commission on Trinitarian Doctrine today.

Lent '90 'TURNING POINTS'

1987 — 1988 — 1989 — 1990

'OBSERVATIONS' on the Church from Britain and abroad.

- ○ Equal Opportunities Policy.
- ○ "Partners in Practice – Theological Educators"
- ○ Women's Resource Unit
- ○ "Stewards of God's House"
- ○ All Saints Declaration on Racism.

CHRISTIAN AID

Statement of commitment "TO STRENGTHEN THE POOR"

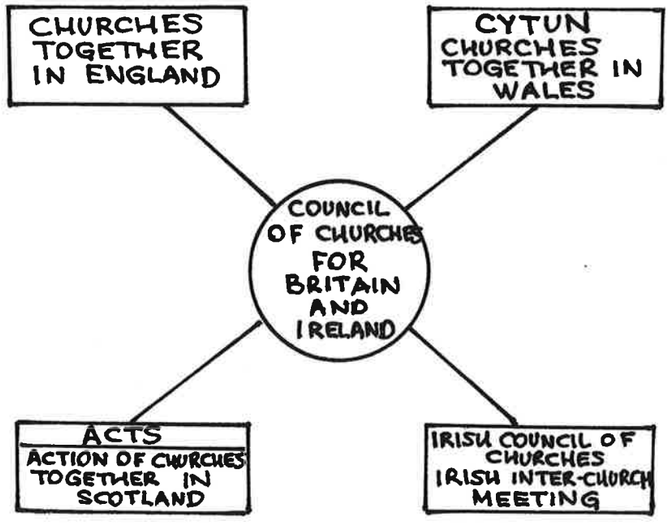


- ○ Christian Enquiry Agency (England)
- ○ "Christian Initiation & Church Membership"
- ○ "AIDS: A Challenge to the Churches"
- ○ British & Irish Churches respond to BEM.



- ○ ECUMENICAL YOUTH COUNCIL IN EUROPE Youth Gathering at Bath
  EYCE Secretariat move to Belfast.
- ○ SPECTRUM. Inter-Church Youth Work Training Scheme

NEW STRUCTURES FROM SEPTEMBER



- ○ Southern Africa Coalition Mass Lobby of Parliament.
- ○ Poland on the move.
- ○ Arms Talks.
- ○ "An Open House The European community looking to 1992"
- ○ Support for Namibian Independence Process.

NOT STRANGERS BUT PILGRIMS

Alan Dawkins. March 1990