

**CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY  
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**1. INTRODUCTION**

Dear Bulletin Readers

*EEA at Sibiu*

As August unfolds, so too the main European ecumenical event of the year, the Third European Ecumenical Assembly (EEA3) in Sibiu Romania, draws near. The Assembly will be held from 4 – 9 September, with around 2500 delegates from the member churches of CEC and the Roman Catholic Church across Europe.

Arrangements for the Assembly in Sibiu are in their final stage. As mentioned in previous bulletins, readers are urged to check the latest news about EEA3 on the Assembly web site ([www.eea3.org](http://www.eea3.org)), and also on our own CCU web site at <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/info/ccu/europe/notices>, where we've provided special resources for use during and after the Assembly. The latest Church of England press release on the Assembly is available at <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/news/pr7207.html> A perspective on the Assembly from the Orthodox Churches is downloadable at <http://www.cec-kek.org/content/pr-cq0731e.shtml>

CEC organised a special pre-Assembly meeting in Switzerland for youth delegates, and the communiqué can be read at <http://www.cec-kek.org/pdf/YouthSt.Mauricestmt.pdf>

*His Beatitude Patriarch Teoctist*

Sadly, only a few weeks before the Assembly, on 30 July, His Beatitude Patriarch Teoctist, head of the Romanian Orthodox Church, passed away at the age of 92. Bishop Geoffrey Rowell, in a tribute at [http://www.europe.anglican.org/news/newsItems/2007/07\\_jul\\_02.html](http://www.europe.anglican.org/news/newsItems/2007/07_jul_02.html), writes of meeting His Beatitude only a few weeks ago. A tribute from the General Secretary of CEC, the Venerable Colin Williams, can be read at <http://www.cec-kek.org/content/pr-cq0733e.shtml>. For further information, see the web site of the Romanian Patriarchate at <http://www.patriarhia.ro/>. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Orthodox Christians of Romania at this time of great loss.

*CEC Monitor*

The latest 12 page edition of CEC Monitor is now available on-line at <http://www.cec-kek.org/pdf/Monitor59.pdf>. Apart from news about Sibiu, it also looks forward to the next CEC Assembly, to be held in the French city of Lyon in July 2009.

*CEC Church and Society Commission*

The Church and Society Commission of CEC has been developing a new information service of updates on European affairs – see <http://www.cec-kek.org/content/EuropeUpdates.shtml> for the latest edition, which covers European Treaty reform, the Portuguese EU Presidency, social issues, Commission key initiatives for 2008, the CSC Plenary Meeting, and other topics.

*Roman Catholic Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith*

The recent statement on the nature of the Church (*RESPONSES TO SOME QUESTIONS REGARDING CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE DOCTRINE ON THE CHURCH*) from the Roman Catholic Church Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has raised considerable interest in ecumenical circles. The text is available, with a commentary, at [http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_20070629\\_responsa-quaestiones\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20070629_responsa-quaestiones_en.html). A response from CEC can be found at <http://www.cec-kek.org/content/pr-cq0732e.shtml>

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## **2. WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2008**

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) reminds us that it is time to start thinking about events to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, on the theme 'PRAY WITHOUT CEASING'.

CBTI writes that the aims of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity are:

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.

The Order forms for materials for the Week of Prayer 2008 will be sent out before the end of August 2007. It is hoped to despatch orders in October. To order contact Methodist Publishing House sales@mph.org.uk , telephone 01733 325002

Ongoing details are posted on the CTBI web site at [www.ctbi.org.uk](http://www.ctbi.org.uk)

For a French Protestant perspective on the Week of Prayer, see <http://www.protestants.org/>

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## **3. REVIVAL MEETINGS IN FINLAND**

The news service of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Finland reports on a growing interest in large summer religious meetings in the country during the holiday period.

According to the report, as many as 140,000 Finns participate during the summer in meetings and festivals of various revival movements and other organizations that function within the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The peak of this season is in July.

Enormous tents as well as rows of benches under the open sky gather people of all ages to hear the word and sing together. These occasions usually last for two or three days, and their basic content has remained the same from year to year: Christians worship together and they also assemble in meetings known as 'seurat', consisting of speeches and songs. There is also some separate program for children and young people. Concerts are also arranged.

Although many of these meetings and festivals seem to resemble each other, differing doctrinal emphases of Finland's various revival movements underlie them. The roots of many of these revival movements reach to the nineteenth century, in some cases as far as the eighteenth.

For more details, see <http://www.evl.fi/english/index.html>

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#### **4. LUTHERANS IN SWEDEN AND LIBERIA SIGN NEW AGREEMENT**

The Church of Sweden reports that it has signed a mutual agreement about further collaboration with the Lutheran Church of Liberia: the document is the first of its kind and it will be the foundation for similar agreements with other churches in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

According to the news report

([http://www.svenskakyrkan.se/tcrot/Press/pressmeddelanden/Eng/2006/067\\_liberiaavtalet.htm#TopOfPage](http://www.svenskakyrkan.se/tcrot/Press/pressmeddelanden/Eng/2006/067_liberiaavtalet.htm#TopOfPage)), historically, collaboration between the Church of Sweden and a number of churches in the South has been marked by a relationship of dependency, unlike the agreements of more equal collaboration that exist with churches in the North.

“In practice, much of our international work of co-operation has meant that we in the North have been sending money to churches in the South. That must however not be the foundation for our collaboration, since we belong together at a much deeper level,” says Archbishop Anders Wejryd.

Follow the above link for further details.

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#### **5. ... BUILDING FAITH IN OUR FUTURE**

The C of E’s Church Heritage Forum has published its fifth bulletin in the “Building Faith in our Future” series.

This bulletin includes updates about the funding of church buildings; results from the questions asked in parish returns about church facilities; hosted post offices in churches and chapels; grant funding opportunities; the Shrinking the Footprint campaign; the Churchcare and Church Art websites; and liaison with Government departments and other partners. The bulletin concludes with some key facts to tell your friends.

The text of this bulletin can be downloaded from

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/builtheritage/buildingfaith/index.html>

on the Church of England’s website.

For more information contact Becky Payne of the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division on

[Rebecca.payne@c-of-e.org.uk](mailto:Rebecca.payne@c-of-e.org.uk)

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## 6. AND FINALLY ...

The French Protestant weekly newspaper *Réforme* has an excellent new web site at <http://www.reforme.net/> It is regularly updated with a wide range of articles on life and faith, and is well worth a regular visit for readers with French. Current articles include pieces on the church union scheme in Alsace-Lorraine, on the importance of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and several reflections on the current French political scene.

And German-speaking readers might be interested by a new guide to Christian cafés and restaurants, reviewed on the EKD web site at <http://www.ekd.de/aktuell/54725.html> With its many interesting pages, including audio and other multi-media material, the EKD web site is celebrating a current level of around a million ‘visitors’ per month ([http://www.ekd.de/aktuell/070808\\_ekd\\_de.html](http://www.ekd.de/aktuell/070808_ekd_de.html))

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