

# *Receptive Ecumenism and Ecclesial Learning: Learning to Be Church Together*

## **Joint 2<sup>nd</sup> International Receptive Ecumenism Conference & 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Gathering of the Ecclesiological Investigations Network**

**Organised and hosted by**

***The Centre for Catholic Studies, Department of Theology & Religion, Durham University, UK  
& St Cuthbert's Seminary, Ushaw College, Durham***

**at**

**Ushaw College, Durham, 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

*Receptive Ecumenism and Ecclesial Learning: Learning to Be Church Together* represents the joint second international Receptive Ecumenism conference (the first internationally acclaimed event being held in January 2006) and the third annual gathering of the Ecclesiological Investigations research network. As in January 2006, the January 2009 by invitation event is being organised and jointly hosted by the Centre for Catholic Studies of Durham University's Department of Theology and Religion and St Cuthbert's Seminary, Ushaw College, Durham. This is being done in association with Churches Together in England, the Ecclesiological Investigations International Research Network, the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches, and the Society for Ecumenical Studies. Sponsoring assistance has been received from Churches Together in England, the Diocese of Durham, the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, Durham University, the Jerusalem Trust, the Northern Synod of the United Reformed Church, *One in Christ*, *The Tablet* and *The Pastoral Review*, Ushaw College, and an anonymous trust. The core aims of the conference are: 1) to focus attention on the fresh ecumenical strategy that *Receptive Ecumenism* represents in order to subject it to critical scrutiny and to explore its potential for further development; 2) to explore the implications of the receptive ecumenical question – 'What can we and what need we learn from our *others* for the sake of our further flourishing?' – in relation to a broad range of Christian traditions; 3) to explore the on-the-ground relevance of *Receptive Ecumenism* at the level of local church life. The January 2009 conference will issue in a second major volume of essays to complement that deriving from the January 2006 colloquium: *Receptive Ecumenism and the Call to Catholic Learning: Exploring a Way for Contemporary Ecumenism*, (Oxford: OUP, 2008).

### ***Background***

In January 2006, to mark the conferral of a Doctorate of Divinity *honoris causa* on His Eminence Cardinal Walter Kasper, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, the Department of Theology and Religion of Durham University and St Cuthbert's Seminary, Ushaw College hosted a widely acclaimed international colloquium focussed on a proposed new strategy in ecumenical thought and practice, referred to as *Receptive Ecumenism*.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See Elena Curti and Michael Hirst, 'Amid the Cold, Signs of a Thaw', *The Tablet*, (21<sup>st</sup> January 2006), pp. 12-13; also Avery Cardinal Dulles, SJ, 'Saving Ecumenism from Itself', *First Things*, (December 2007); Ladislav Orsy, SJ, 'A Time to Ponder: A Reflection on the Spiritual Mystery of the Ecumenical Movement', *America*, 196 (5<sup>th</sup> February 2007), 14-19 (pp. 18-19).

*Receptive Ecumenism* takes equally seriously the reality of the contemporary ecumenical moment – wherein the hope for structural unification in the short-medium term now appears unrealistic – and the abiding need for the Christian churches to walk the way of conversion towards more visible structural and sacramental unity. It aims after an appropriate ecumenical ethic and strategy for living between the times; for living now orientated upon the promise of being made one in the Trinitarian life of God. The central conviction is that further ecumenical progress will become possible if – and only if – rather than asking what *other* traditions might need to learn from *us*, each tradition instead takes the creatively challenging step of examining what *it* both needs to learn and can learn (or ‘receive’) with integrity from its others. The further conviction is that if all were acting upon this principle then change would happen on many fronts, albeit somewhat unpredictably. The desire is to see ecumenism move forward into action; and not simply the action of shared mission, nor of problem-solving and incremental agreement, but the long-term action of individual, communal and structural conversion driven, like the Gospel that inspires it, by the promise of conversion into greater life and flourishing. Far from ignoring particularity and difference, the aim at work in *Receptive Ecumenism* is for each of the Christian traditions, singly and jointly, to become more, not less, than they currently are by recognising their own respective sticking points and correlatively learning from and receiving of each other’s particular gifts.<sup>2</sup>

In January 2006, this basic strategy was illustrated and tested in specific relation to the host tradition, Roman Catholicism, as befits the creatively self-critical principle at the heart of *Receptive Ecumenism*. Further, reflecting the concern not just to theorise about the church but to diagnose and address problems in the actual lived structures, systems and practice of the church, the colloquium drew together a critical mix (150 in total) of theologians, ecumenists, ecclesiastics, social scientists, organisational experts, and local church practitioners from across a wide range of denominational traditions. The revised papers, together with additional commissioned essays (32 in total), have been published as Paul D. Murray (ed.), *Receptive Ecumenism and the Call to Catholic Learning: Exploring a Way for Contemporary Ecumenism*, (Oxford: OUP, 2008). **This major volume provides the backdrop for the January 2009 conference and will be assumed reading for it.**

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<sup>2</sup> For further, see Paul D. Murray, ‘Receptive Ecumenism and Catholic Learning: Establishing the Agenda’, *International Journal for the Study of the Christian Church*, 7 (2007), 279-301; also ‘Receptive Ecumenism and Ecclesial Learning: Receiving Gifts for Our Needs’, *Louvain Studies*, 33 (2008), 30-45.

# Programme

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

- 3.00pm Arrive
- 4.00pm **Formal Opening & Liturgy – St Cuthbert’s Chapel**  
Opening words – Rev. John Marsland, President of Ushaw College; Dr Paul D. Murray, Director of the Centre for Catholic Studies, Durham University; Rev. Dr Paul Collins, Secretary to the Ecclesiological Investigations Research Network; Rev. Dr David Cornick, General Secretary of Churches Together in England & former General Secretary of the United Reformed Church, UK; Mgr Mark Langham, Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, Vatican City
- 4.15pm Liturgy/worship – to involve the voices of: Rev. Rowena Francis, Moderator of the Northern Synod of the United Reformed Church; Rev. John Claydon, Regional Minister (Pastoral) for the Northern Baptist Association & Moderator of North East Christian Churches Together; Rt. Rev. Dr Tom Wright, Bishop of Durham; Rev. Ruth Gee, Chair of the Darlington District of the Methodist Church; Rev. Leo Osborn, Chair of the Newcastle upon Tyne District of the Methodist Church; Canon Seamus Cunningham, Bishop-designate, Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle.
- 4.40pm Opening Address – *Spirituality of Unity and Receptive Ecumenism*  
Rev. Dr C. Callan Slipper, Ealing Focolare Community and Focolare International Study Group
- 5.00pm Act of Dedication  
Photograph
- 5.15pm Process to Refectory for
- 5.30pm Opening Dinner
- 7.00pm **Session 1**  
*Receptive Ecumenism and Ecclesial Learning: Opening Thoughts and Agenda in View*  
2 x 25 min. papers followed by plenary discussion (panel to include Rev. Dr C. Callan Slipper)  
  
Mgr. Donald Bolen, Nash Chair of Religion, Campion College, University of Regina, Canada & former staff member of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, Vatican City State  
Rev. Dr John Gibaut, Director of the Faith and Order Commission, WCC, Geneva, Switzerland & Faculty of Theology, St Paul University, Ottawa, Canada  
  
Chair: Dr Paul D. Murray, Director of the Centre for Catholic Studies, Durham University
- 8.30pm Small Groups  
Introductions, Initial Thoughts & Hopes & Night Prayer  
Small group sessions and associated processes to be directed by Dr Nicholas Adams, Academic Director of the Cambridge Interfaith Programme, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge, UK in consultation with morning reflector, Dr. Catherine E. Clifford, Assistant Professor (Systematic Theology), Faculty of Theology, Saint Paul University, Ottawa, Canada
- 9.30pm Bar

## Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January

- 7.30am Morning Prayer  
Jn 17:20-24 Keynote Reflection: Jn 17:20-24, 'Spiritual, not Spiritualized, Ecumenism'  
Dr. Catherine E. Clifford, Assistant Professor (Systematic Theology), Faculty of Theology, Saint Paul University, Ottawa, Canada
- 8.00am Breakfast
- 9.00am **Session 2**  
Chair: Rev. Dr Michael Sharratt, Ushaw College  
*Scripture and Receptive Ecumenism*  
Rt Rev. Dr Tom Wright, Bishop of Durham (25 min's with 5 min's clarifying points)
- 9.30am *Scriptural Reasoning and Receptive Ecumenism*  
Prof. David F. Ford, Regius Professor of Divinity & Director of the Cambridge Interfaith Programme, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge, UK  
*Scriptural Reasoning in Practice*  
Prof. David F. Ford & Prof. Peter W. Ochs, Edgar M. Bronfman Professor of Modern Judaic Studies, University of Virginia, USA  
Plenary clarifications
- 11.00am Refreshments **in Small Groups**  
Scriptural Reflection / Ecclesial Reasoning through Scripture
- 12.30pm Plenary Discussion of Morning's Work (with Rt Rev. Dr Tom Wright also on the panel)
- 1.15pm Lunch
- 2.15pm **Parallel Short Papers Session 1**
- 4.00pm Refreshments
- 5.00pm Eucharist – Catholic Presidency (*Rt. Rev. Terence Drainey, Bishop of Middlesbrough, UK*) with Prof. John Barclay, Lightfoot Professor of Divinity, Department of Theology & Religion, Durham University, UK to preach
- 6.00pm Bar
- 6.30pm Dinner
- 7.30pm **Session 3**  
Chair: Julie Clague, Lecturer in Catholic Theology & Deputy Head of Department, Department of Theology & Religious Studies, University of Glasgow  
*Receptive Ecumenism and the Sensus Fidelium: Expanding the Categories for Catholic Ecclesial Discerning*  
Rev. Dr Ormond Rush, St Paul's Theological College, Banyo, Australia  
*Developing Catholic Understanding and Practice of Ordained Ministry through Receptive Learning*  
Rev. Prof. Richard Lennan, Professor of Systematic Theology, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, Boston, USA  
Plenary Discussion
- 9.00pm Move to St Cuthbert's Chapel for
- 9.10pm Night Prayer (Taize/Iona)
- 9.40pm Bar

## Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January

- 7.30am Morning Prayer  
Keynote Reflection: Phil 2: 1-9 'Kenosis and the Church'  
Dr. Catherine E. Clifford, Assistant Professor (Systematic Theology), Faculty of Theology, Saint Paul University, Ottawa, Canada
- 8.00am Breakfast
- 9.00am **Session 4**  
Chair: Very Rev. Dr John Arnold, former Dean of Durham Cathedral and former President of the Council of European Churches  
*Receptive Ecumenism and the Dynamics of Development within Lutheranism*  
Rev. Dr William G. Rusch, Yale Divinity School, USA  
*Receptive Ecumenism and the Dynamics of Development within Pentecostalism*  
Prof. Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, Professor of Systematic Theology, Fuller Theological Seminary, USA & University of Helsinki, Finland  
Plenary Discussion
- 10.30am Refreshments
- 11.00am **Session 5**  
Chair: Rev. Mark Woodruff, Secretary to the Society for Ecumenical Studies, UK  
*What Prevents Christian Churches from Learning?*  
Rev. Prof. Jeff Astley, Director of the North of England Institute for Christian Education, Durham, UK  
*Ecclesial Impasse: What Can We Learn from Our Laments?*  
Prof. Bradford E. Hinze, Professor of Theology, Fordham University, New York, USA  
Plenary Discussion
- 12.30pm Eucharist – Anglican Presidency (Rt Rev. Dr Tom Wright, Bishop of Durham) with Rev. Tom Bruch, General Secretary of the Lutheran Council of Great Britain, UK, to preach
- 1.30pm Lunch + free time (*Ecclesiological Investigations Steering Group – Douai Room*)
- 3.30pm Refreshments
- 4.00pm Small Groups  
Scriptural Reflection / Discussion of the day's work
- 5.30pm Bar
- 6.00pm Dinner
- 7.30pm **Session 6**  
Chair: Dr Kirsteen Kim, Associate Senior Lecturer in Theology, Leeds Trinity and All Saints, UK  
*Unity and Universality, Locality and Diversity in Anglicanism*  
Most Rev. Dr Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, to be presented *in absentia* by Rev. Canon Jonathan Goodall, The Archbishop of Canterbury's Chaplain and Secretary for Ecumenical Affairs  
*Unity and Universality, Locality and Diversity in Baptist Life*  
Rev. Prof. Paul Fiddes, Professorial Research Fellow, Regent's Park College, University of Oxford, UK  
Plenary Discussion
- 9.00pm Chapel for Night Prayer
- 9.30pm Bar

## Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January

- 7.30am Morning Prayer  
Keynote Reflection: Jn 14:25-31 'The Learning Church'  
Dr. Catherine E. Clifford, Assistant Professor (Systematic Theology), Faculty of Theology, Saint Paul University, Ottawa, Canada
- 8.00am Breakfast
- 9.00am **Session 7**  
Chair: Prof. Susan A. Ross, Chair of Faculty of Theology, Loyola University, Chicago, USA  
*Unity and Universality, Locality and Diversity in Orthodoxy*  
Metropolitan Kallistos Ware, Ecumenical Patriarchate & Emeritus Spalding Lecturer in Eastern Christian Studies, University of Oxford  
*Unity and Universality, Locality and Diversity in Catholicism*  
Sr Prof. Susan K. Wood, SCL, Department of Theology, Marquette University, USA  
Plenary Discussion
- 10.30am Refreshments
- 11.00am **Session 8**  
*Receptive Ecumenism and the Local Church: The Anatomy of a Project*  
Dr Paul D. Murray, Director of the Centre for Catholic Studies, Durham University; Dr Marcus Pound, Assistant Director of the Centre for Catholic Studies, Durham University; Prof. Geoff Moore, Professor of Business Ethics, Durham Business School; Rev. Prof. Jeff Astley, Honorary Professor of Christian Education, Department of Theology & Religion, Durham University & Director of the North of England Institute for Christian Education; Prof. Tom Redman, Professor of Human Resource Management, Durham Business School  
Plenary Discussion
- 12.30pm Lunch in small groups (identifying any one issue and/or comment to be offered to final plenary)
- 2.00pm **Parallel short papers session 2**
- 3.20pm Refreshments
- 3.50pm **Session 9 – Final Plenary**  
Chair: Dr Paul D. Murray, Director of the Centre for Catholic Studies, Durham University  
Speakers (each for 5-7 min's max): Rt. Rev. Joe Aldred, Bishop in the Church of God of Prophecy, Chair of the Council of Black Led Churches & Secretary of Minority Ethnic Christian Affairs (MECA) for Churches Together in England; Ms Jenny Bond, Field Officer for the North and Midlands, Churches Together in England; Prof. Richard Gaillardetz, Margaret and Thomas Murray and James J. Bacik Endowed Chair Professor of Catholic Studies, University of Toledo, Ohio, USA; Dr Tamara Grzdelidze, Faith and Order Commission, WCC, Geneva, Switzerland; Rev. Prof. James Haire, Executive Director & Professor of Theology, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Charles Stuart University, Canberra, Australia & the Joint International Commission for Dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and the World Methodist Council; Dr Janet Soskice, University Reader in Philosophical Theology and Fellow of Jesus College, University of Cambridge, UK.

- 5.30pm Move to Chapel for
- 5.45pm Methodist Covenant Service/Eucharist, presided over by either Rev. Dr Roger Walton, Director of the Wesley Study Centre, Durham, with Rev. Elizabeth Welch, former Moderator, West Midlands Synod of the URC, Birmingham, UK, to preach.
- 7.00pm Bar
- 7.30pm Final Dinner
- After-dinner speeches:  
Rev. John Marsland, President of Ushaw College  
Rt. Rev. Terence Drainey, Bishop of Middlesbrough, UK  
A.n.other – TBC
- Final word:  
Prof. Chris Higgins, Vice Chancellor, Durham University, UK
- Blessing:  
Rt. Rev. Terence Drainey, Bishop of Middlesbrough, UK
- 9.00pm Celebration

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January**

- 7.30am Breakfast
- 9.00am DEPART