

Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue Report

Secunder: The Revd Katharine Poulton

The Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue has a working group looking at Anglican and Ecumenical Affairs and so I wish to use this opportunity to say a little about The Anglican Consultative Council which concluded its' 17th Meeting on Sunday 5th May.

It was held in Hong Kong in a venue some distance from the centre. Members were involved in a very tightly packed agenda and programme and the Church of Ireland was represented by Wilfred Baker, myself and the Primate as a member of the Primates' Standing Committee. The meeting was opened and closed by services at St. John's Cathedral Hong Kong, where the music, under the Cathedral's director Felix Yeung was amazing. Felix also looked after the daily worship in the venue, where there was Morning and Evening Prayer and Eucharist. The theme of the Conference was "Equipping God's People, Going Deeper into Intentional Discipleship" and amongst the presentations were some on this theme with the launch of many new documents encouraging the provinces to engage in Intentional Discipleship and in particular to encourage members to lead a Jesus shaped life.

The meeting also heard about the very thorough work which has been carried out in relation to Safe Church. Whilst we have been familiar with Safeguarding in the Church of Ireland for many years, it is the case that for some provinces in the Communion this is quite new and help is now at hand to help these places ensure their churches are safe places for activities to take place. This was just one of the areas where it is evident that Churches within our Anglican Communion are in many different places.

For some, like us, we are used to structures and to matters of compliance. For others, it is a case of trying to fill their tummies and those of people around them. Simply hearing some of the stories from members who travelled to Hong Kong was one of the undoubted highlights of the week and beginning to learn something of the very diverse situations from which our brothers and sisters come is very important as we travel together. For many of us, the words "climate change" are simply words, for our brothers and sisters in some places in the Anglican Communion it is a reality, with a real and lasting impact on their lives. When the Networks of the Communion held their short seminars, there was a great deal more to learn.

Much has been written about the ACC meeting in the *Church Times* and through the online Episcopal News Service and in these few minutes it would be impossible to convey anything much more than the bare bones of what was for the most part a very interesting and joyful meeting of Anglican Christians from around the world. The next meeting was announced for 2022 in the Province of West Africa with that in 2025 in the Province of Ireland. It is vitally important that we participate fully in the life of the Communion and continue to see the Church in a much wider context than that in which we live and work.

I am delighted to second the report of the Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue.