



# GLASGOW CHURCHES TOGETHER

**Participants** Church of Scotland    Methodist Church    Roman Catholic Church    Salvation Army  
Scottish Episcopal Church    United Free Church    United Reformed Church

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## **GCT REPORT 2009** October 2008-September 2009

### **Margaret Long, Ecumenical Officer**

#### **Introduction:**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Church Leaders and their denominational authorities for their commitment to the work of GCT and to the continued resourcing of the work of GCT, particularly in the current difficult economic environment.

I commend the Committee members who have given so generously of their time and energy. I would like to express my thanks to the outgoing Chair, Rev Mary Buchanan for her service to GCT and to me in particular, gently 'inducting' me to the life of GCT and in anticipation of his new role, I want to thank Major Stephen Huyton who as my line manager is always at the end of the phone or mobile!

GCT is about encouraging and promoting ecumenical activity across the City and Beyond and whilst there may be some now well known and well attended Public Manifestations, in the presence of the civil authorities, recognition must firstly be given to those men and women who under a variety of names, bring ahead ecumenical life in their local areas. The representatives of these groups present here this evening, and those who have sent their apologies, are a tangible sign of the vitality of ecumenical life which GCT seeks to support.

#### **The GCT Committee:**

The Committee continues to promote the work of GCT especially through the programme of GCT services. During the year it met 4 times during the year: Nov, Feb, April and August, with members of the Committee taking responsibility to find further funding for the work of GCT, engaging with the initial City Council informative meetings regarding Commonwealth 2014 and Mungo Museum Flourishing Glasgow project.

It was agreed to co-opt Rev Laurence Whitley in order to strengthen links with St Mungo's Cathedral and Rev Paul Romano, chaplain to the Lord Provost's office in order to foster links with the Council.

In the light of changes on the committee over the year, and forthcoming resignations, it was decided to write to all member churches inviting them to confirm their representatives and to fill their number. It was indicated in the letter that subject to the responses, there might be a proposal to the 2010 AGM regarding an adjustment to a more realistic number of members on the committee.

## **Church Leaders**

Church Leaders met 3 times during the year. These meetings permit the sharing of concerns which may or may not be common to all the churches.

During this past year considerable time was spent in devising a common Emergency Response in consultation with Mr Ron Cowan of the Strathclyde Emergency Planning Unit. There is ongoing interest in the Commonwealth Games 2014, and the possibilities of collaboration so that the Games might be a positive structure for respectful engagement and to put something in place which remains a legacy.

A fruitful meeting took place in Belfast of church Leaders from Glasgow, Liverpool and Glasgow. Glasgow will be host to the group in April 2009.

## **Work of the Ecumenical Officer**

The EO prepared 6 Updates and Events Lists over the past year which were emailed to 640 contact addresses. A further 2 postal Updates/Events Lists were sent to 150 people. In addition the EO has kept the database and files up to date as well as answering telephone calls to the office.

During the past year the EO has visited 12 Local Churches Together Groups participating in a service, meeting or an event. These are significant moments in which to appreciate the faithfulness of people who are collaborating so as to help bring about Jesus' prayer for unity: that all May be One, so that the world may believe (John 17,21).

Whilst engaging in the life of the member churches through Ecumenical Relations Committee (CofS), AGM (S.A), Celtic Connections Mass(R.C) the EO has also participated in the inauguration of the Romanian Orthodox Church , encouraged participation of the Korean Presbyterian Church in the services of GCT , attended a Conference of the Mountain Fire Ministries and attended a Prayer Breakfast of the Victory Christian Church.

Conscious of the role of young people in the life of GCT, the EO has participated in the informal gatherings at the Presbytery Youth Office and in her work for the Archdiocese of Glasgow has visited the Youth Office of the Archdiocese.

Among the many initiatives being supported by the churches in the city the EO visited Unity Enterprise, Lodging House Mission, Faith in Community Scotland and took part in meetings of Unlock, Alpha and Poverty Alliance.

The EO also participated in meetings of Scottish Migrant Network, Equality and Human Rights Commission and Citizens for Sanctuary in order to show the concern of the churches in these issues.

Much preparatory work is taking place in view of Commonwealth Games 2014. The EO attended meetings of Glasgow East Clergy with Rev John Bouyers who was chaplain to Commonwealth Games in Manchester and another with Rev Duncan Green who is coordinating the Faith Contribution to London 2012. These are important meetings so that the lessons from other areas can be learnt as preparations are being made for Glasgow 2014.

A very fruitful meeting took place with Rev Alastair Cherry who was involved in chaplaincy for the Special Olympics in Glasgow 2005.

Also significant was the meeting with Elizabeth Schulz from St Mungo Museum who is coordinating Let Glasgow Flourish, an exhibition in preparation of Commonwealth 2014.

The EO continues to be part of Strathclyde Regional Advisory Group and was much encouraged by the variety of partnerships presented at the Annual LEP day held in Paisley.

Working for the Archdiocese of Glasgow and for the Scottish Bishop's Conference, the EO has the possibility of networking with many different groups: of particular significance was the National Prayer Breakfast and SCoT, the local co-ordinating team for the Centenary event marking Edinburgh 1910, in June 2-6<sup>th</sup> 2010.

Ian Stewart, the Inter Faith worker for Presbytery of Glasgow met with the EO in order to explore avenues for encouraging the churches in this important dialogue in the city. Sr Isobel Smyth has also contact GCT so that the Faith Communities might be involved in any preparations for Commonwealth 2014.

In order to keep abreast of Ecumenical dialogue generally, the EO was encouraged by the ACTS/Church of Scotland Autumn conference on Spirituality and the informal discussion on Receptive Ecumenism organised by Julie Clegg at Glasgow University.

#### Looking Forward

Continued contact with Local Churches Together Groups  
Supporting the Website.  
2010  
2014