

COMPANIONS IN MISSION

Reaffirmation of the Covenant between Thika, Cyprus and the Gulf and Exeter Dioceses

Signed in St. Andrew's Cathedral, Thika

October 21st 2016

The Agreement

As Dioceses

- We will explore together our priority for evangelism and witness in the contexts which are both common and unique in our three Dioceses.
- We will commit to developing, encouraging, helping and learning from each other in new and appropriate ministries where the growth of the Church demands.
- We will explore together new models of ministry to best serve God's mission in the varying contexts of our Dioceses.
- We will encourage every Parish or Mission Community unit across our three Dioceses to look towards the future to which God calls them and to prioritise their ministry to achieve our agreed goals of mission.
- We will seek to ensure a lively Christian witness in every corner of every community across our three Dioceses.
- We will seek to teach and nurture Christian men and women to exercise influence and leadership in every sector of every community.

As Bishops

- We agree to be together in prayer and worship: as Bishops we shall pray regularly for each other and commit ourselves to meet with one another as occasion allows. We shall share our cycles of prayer and encourage prayer links between the Parishes of our Dioceses.
- We agree to be together in care for one another: as Bishops we agree to be in regular communication, out of care for one another. Wherever possible, we will respond to each other's needs through loving service. We trust that people who serve in similar functions across the three Dioceses will learn from each other what it means to be God's Church in his world.
- We will explore our faith together: as Bishops we shall share the insights that God has given us for the building up of his Church. Whenever we meet together we commit to building one another up in Christ.

As Anglicans we recognise five core marks of mission:

- to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom;
- to teach, baptise, and nurture new believers;
- to respond to human need through loving service;
- to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, sustain and renew the life of the earth.

As leaders in the Dioceses of Thika, Cyprus and the Gulf and Exeter, we believe God is calling us to walk together to encourage and strengthen each other in these Gospel imperatives.

Declaration of Intent

Gracious God, through Christ you call us to share in your covenant.

In baptism you brought us into union with Christ within the family of his Church.

In bread and wine you bring us the fruit of his obedience.

Give us the power of your spirit, that we may put to death our evil desires, and rise to newness of life in Christ, with thoughts aspiring to the realm above, and wills eager to live and proclaim his Gospel.

The questions to the Bishops:

Do you affirm your commitment to one another as partners in mission, serving your own dioceses?

We do so affirm

Do you believe that you are being called by God to honour all that enriches the Ministry and Mission of the Church through your Diocesan distinctiveness, yet to witness to a new era of cooperation and mutual interdependence in Christ?

We do so believe

Will you give thanks for your common history and tradition within the Anglican Communion and seek to embrace the fullness of the Gospel and the richness of the people of God?

We will give thanks and praise

Will you discern in one another communities of faith, hope and love, shaped by the redemptive act of God in the dying and rising of Jesus, and committed to witnessing and proclaiming the Kingdom of God in our midst?

We will seek and with God's help we will find

Will you therefore enter this covenant with each other trusting the covenant love of God?

By the help of God, we will

God's people, as representatives of the three dioceses answer these questions:

Will you strive to fashion your lives and that of your household according to the transforming way of Christ?

By the help of God, we will.

Will you exercise your ministry in the work of the Gospel as both leader and partner, and so gladly share the gifts you have received with our partner dioceses?

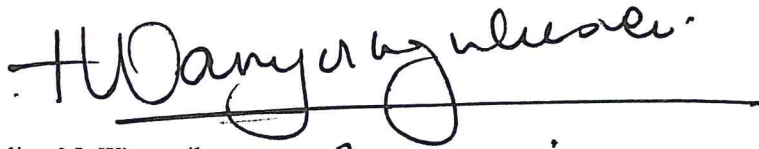
By the help of God, we will.

Will you promote unity, peace and love among all Christian people, and especially amongst those whom you serve in Thika, Cyprus and the Gulf and Exeter?

By the help of God, we will.

Will you then, in the strength of the Holy Spirit, continually stir up the gift of God that is in you and strengthen the gifts of others, to make Christ known to all people?

By the help of God, we will.



Rt. Rev. Julius N. Wanyoike
The Bishop of Thika



Rt. Rev. Michael Lewis
The Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf

Rt. Rev. Robert Atwell
The Bishop of Exeter



Witnessed by:

