

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2012

THEME: We will all be changed by the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15: 51-58)

GUIDELINES FOR ORGANISERS

Which dates?

The traditional period for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is **18-25 January**. Those dates were proposed for the first observance of the 'Church Unity Octave' in 1908 to cover the days between the feasts of St Peter and St Paul, and therefore have a symbolic significance. In the northern hemisphere this tradition has continued, although in the southern hemisphere churches often find other days to celebrate the week of prayer, for example around Pentecost which is also a symbolic date for the unity of the church.

You are, however, welcome to use the material at any time which is suitable for your local community or throughout the year to express the degree of communion which the churches have already reached, and to pray together for that full unity which is Christ's will.

Using the Week of Prayer material

The British and Irish resources are based on material compiled this year by the churches in Poland. The writers group has put together materials suitable for use in our four nations, but you are welcome to further edit or adapt them for use in your local situation. Ideally any such adaptation should take place ecumenically.

- For churches and Christian communities which observe the week of prayer together through a single common service, an order for an ecumenical worship service is provided. The international version of the service is offered this year as an alternative option.
- Churches and Christian communities may also incorporate material from the week of prayer into their own services. Prayers and items from the ecumenical worship services, the 'eight days', and the additional material can be used as appropriate.
- Communities which observe the week of prayer in their worship for each day during the week may draw material for these services from the 'eight days'.
- Discussion groups are encouraged to use the 'eight days' material for bible study, reflection, prayer and possible ecumenical action.
- Those who wish to study and pray privately may also find the material helpful, being mindful that they are in communion with others praying all around the world for the greater visible unity of Christ's church.

The main ecumenical worship service and reflections for the eight days are available to buy as a printed booklet, as are a bilingual Welsh/English version, a large print version and a publicity poster, from <http://www.chbookshop.co.uk>

These are also available as free downloads from www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer along with a variety of additional resources.