

message needs to go out that the historical understanding of the Uniqueness of Christ, as expressed in Dr Davie's paper, linked to our current situation, is needed for the church to have a prophetic, as well as a salvific witness as it seeks to 'preach the gospel afresh in each generation' .

Secondly, there are many things 'assumed' about Anglican doctrine and belief - much of which, of course, is contained implicitly in our liturgy, the Articles of Religion and in the Ordinals. However, my motion is not calling for an 'implied' understanding of the Uniqueness of Christ by the House of Bishops, but an 'explicit' one.

Dr Davie's paper has been prepared for and on behalf of the House of Bishops' Theological Group, and this does not imply, implicitly or explicitly, that it carries the agreement of the House of Bishops. Synod has often heard in recent debates that the Bishop is the 'source or focus of Mission' in the dioceses. This motion provides a specific opportunity for the House of Bishops, collectively, and individually, to declare the Uniqueness of Christ, through endorsing wholeheartedly Dr Davie's foundational work, applying it to today's situation and then going on to offer examples and commendations of good practice in sharing the gospel of salvation through Christ alone with people of other faiths and of none.

Reflections on 'Staying Present and Engaging Faithfully' GS 1720

Thursday's 'Take Note' debate will give Synod the opportunity, the P&E Working Group suggests, to 'consider whether the approach adopted to date by the Group the way Synod wants it to proceed in the future'. I am greatly encouraged by this update and again, wish to thank all involved for their faithful and painstaking work on our behalf.

From reading both the record of the debate which led to P&E, and of course GS1577, the 'father' of GS1720, I do have a concern which is that evangelism, along with many other Christian 'distinctives' is greatly in danger of being lost amongst the overall desire for people of all faiths (and of none) to work together to build greater community coherence.

What we are witnessing on a monthly, if not weekly basis, here in the UK, is the politicised marginalisation of Christianity in the public arena. Dedicated citizens who offer themselves in public or vocational life for the good of others are being forced out if the faith, which provides the motivation and compassion for their work, is in any way made 'public'. We have examples of Christian students, magistrates, foster parents, Registrars, and nurses - to name but a few - falling foul of such marginalisation.

My concern with P&E at present is that the driving force behind it is that the Church should be at the heart of community cohesion - which leaves a very clear issue as to how evangelism can be carried out in parallel?

My motion is not in competition with P&E in any way. In fact, I hope, through strategic work being undertaken on developing good practice, not only for Inter-Faith dialogue at diocesan or town-wide level, but for parish and personal evangelism, the Church of England may find a clear way of offering Jesus Christ with gentleness and respect as the only means of salvation, whilst also working for the good of all within the community.

Conclusion

I therefore submit this paper for your consideration and prayers and look forward to a debate from which we can all share and learn from the good work and ministry already being carried out in this area, and together, help chart a way forward which honours Christ as Saviour and Lord of all,

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