



Richard Chartres | Christoph Ernst  
Leslie Nathaniel | Friederike Nüssel (Eds.)

## **Reformation Then and Now**

Contributions to the Ninth Theological Conference  
within the Framework of the Meissen Process  
between the Church of England  
and the Evangelical Church in Germany



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# Foreword

The ninth Meissen Theological Conference met in London at the Royal Foundation of St Katherine from 12–16 January 2016 and addressed the topic »Reformation Then and Now, Anglican and German Perspectives«, a title prompted by the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation in 2017. The papers presented reflect the variety of meanings inherent in the title: on the one hand the historical event of the Reformation calls for celebration, remembrance and interpretation and at the same time it calls the Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, no less than in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, to respond to the need for reformation.

The pursuance of a correct understanding of the historical events of the Reformation in our two countries is of great importance. At the conference, papers addressing the question of memory and commemoration in our respective contexts excellently served this purpose as did the ensuing reflections on points of contact and contrast between the ideas of English and Continental Reformers. That some of this took place during a day's visit to Cambridge, where the English Reformation began, was especially stimulating. However, we were also reminded of a danger towards which some of the other papers pointed. Uncertainty about the future, especially in an increasingly secular, unstable and troubled European and wider geopolitical context, might lead us to seek security in examining a past for which we feel we are able to find a stable understanding rather than taking part in a present, which we cannot or do not wish to understand, let alone control.

Contemplating the writings and events of the 16<sup>th</sup> century gives rise to both thankfulness and regret. We can rejoice over the rediscovery of the doctrine of Justification and the return of the Scriptures to their central place in the life of the Church. We have good cause to appreciate the cultural traditions of music, poetry, and even art in some contexts, to which the Reformation gave rise. Yet we continue to lament the irreplaceable losses through iconoclasm, and we continue to sorrow over the divisions

that the Reformation has left between ourselves, our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters and within the Protestant world itself. We must acknowledge with sadness the destruction wrought by the resulting civil war in Europe and the rise of an anti-spiritual enlightenment.

Sadly, not only the divisions but also the temptations of that era are still with us. Competing Christian voices now express themselves through social media in a way which can be every bit as vicious in tone as the polemical pamphlet wars of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The instantaneous nature of modern communication tends to multiply the scope for hurt and offence. Nonetheless these methods of communication continue to be an important element in the Church's mission and witness. Facebook and Twitter are the contemporary »Wittenberg door«.

Perhaps the most significant way in which we can display loyalty to the inheritance of the Reformers is in following their example through direct encounter with the words of Scripture as »alive and active«, animated by the Holy Spirit. Reformation today calls us to rediscover the confidence of the early Church in proclaiming the Good News.

The role of secular authorities in promoting the Reformation was vital in both our countries. However, the centuries since the Reformation have seen a series of paradigm shifts in understandings of church, state and society. The problem we are facing today is an increasing absorption in individualism, the self-preoccupation with biblical reflection buried beneath un-thoughtful ways of understanding ourselves in relation to the world around us. We increasingly lack the tools to dig ourselves out. In the context of our over-legislated, litigious and ideological polities, Protestant and Catholic political thought is challenged to shed greater theological light and offer more hope into the widening distance between the Church and society. We are required to develop a refreshed understanding of the »Godly Citizen« – the Christian venturing into the public sphere and bearing faithful witness to the Gospel.

In light of the above, the Meissen Theological Conference affirms the contribution Meissen needs to make: to encourage our churches to keep telling the Christian story, to find new ways of enabling England and Germany to remind Europe of its formative history and rooted identity and to offer our two countries a different way of looking at the world, thinking about the world and living in the world.

This book with the texts of the ninth Theological Conference is jointly supported and published by the EKD and the Church of England. It contains the texts presented at the Conference in English. Each text contains an abstract of the paper in German. Our thanks go to all those who have offered hospitality and support, in particular the Corpus Christi College,

Cambridge. We thank Leslie Nathaniel and his team of partners, in particular Angeline Leung and James Laing, for the time and energy invested in organising the Conference. We are also grateful to the Co-Secretaries of the Meissen Commission, Christoph Ernst and Leslie Nathaniel, for their efforts in the editorial work of this volume.

*The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Richard Chartres KCVO, London*  
*Prof. Dr. Friederike Nüssel, Heidelberg*  
(The Co-Chairs of the Meissen Theological Conference)

May 2016





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# »REFORMATION THEN AND NOW«

## Programme of the Ninth Meissen Theological Conference

*The Royal Foundation of St Katharine's, London*

*12–15 January 2016*

### ***Tuesday 12 January***

14:30 Coffee/Tea

15:30 Welcome and Introduction by the Co-Chairs Prof. Dr. Friederike Nüssel and the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Richard Chartres KCVO

16:00 Presentation CofE:

**The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Richard Chartres KCVO:** *The Changing Fortunes of »Reformation« in Anglican Self-Understanding*

16:45 Discussion

17:15 Tea

17:30 Presentation EKD:

**Prof. Dr. Friederike Nüssel:** *The 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation in Germany – Theological and Ecumenical Impulses for a Cultural Event*

18:00 Discussion

18:30 Supper

19:30 Presentation CofE:

**The Rt Revd Nick Baines:** *Meissen's Contribution to the Renewal of the Anglo-German Conversation in the Twenty First Century*

20:00 Discussion

20:30 Hymn/Night Prayer in the Chapel

***Wednesday 13 January***

08:00 Breakfast

08:45 Eucharist in the Chapel (President and Preacher: the Bishop of London)

09:15 Presentation EKD:

**Prof. Dr. Michael Weinrich:** *The Church between Contextuality and Catholicity – Protestant Considerations on the Ecumenical Significance of the Reformational Principle*

09:45 Discussion

10:15 Coffee/Tea

10:30 Presentation CofE:

**The Revd Dr Carolyn Hammond:** *Traduttore traditore (»translator traitor«) – Consequences of Vernacular Scripture and Liturgy for Reformation Christianity*

11:00 Discussion

11:30 Presentation EKD:

**Prof. Dr. Gury Schneider-Ludorff:** *Religion and Politics – Reformation Stimuli and their Importance for Today*

12:00 Discussion

12.30 Break

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Presentation EKD:

**Reformationsbotschafterin Prof. Dr. Margot Käßmann:** *The Reformation Jubilee 2017 – Challenges to Be Met*

15:00 Discussion

15:30 Coffee/Tea

16:00 Presentation CofE:

**The Revd Dr Stephen Plant:** *The End of Reformation – The Eschatological Consequences of Luther's Reformation Insight*

16:30 Discussion

17:00 Presentation EKD

**Prof. Dr. Jörg Lauster:** *Understanding the Bible – Perspectives from English and German Theology and their Relevance for the Churches of the Reformation*

17:30 Discussion

18:00 Evening Prayer in the Chapel

18:30 Leave by taxi for the Old Deanery, Dean's Court, London EC4V 5AA – Dinner hosted by the Bishop of London

### ***Thursday 14 January***

07:15 Breakfast

08:00- Prayers in the Chapel (joining in with the community)

08:45 Leave for Cambridge

10:50 Coffee/Tea with Master of Trinity Hall

11.15 Walk to St Edward's Church

11:30 Public Lecture – St Edward's Church:

**Prof Torrance Kirby:** *Faith and Works – Martin Luther and Richard Hooker on Two Kinds of Righteousness*

12:15 Response EKD: Prof. Dr. Friederike Nüssel

12:25 Discussion

12.45 Walk to Trinity Hall

13:00 Lunch at Bridgetower Room, Trinity Hall

14:00 Exposure Cambridge: Visit colleges, Parker Library (approx. 16.00)

18:30 Choral Eucharist at Gonville and Caius

19:30 Dinner in the Parker Room, Corpus Christi College

21:45 Depart Cambridge for London

## ***Friday 15 January***

08:00 Breakfast

08:45 Eucharist in the Chapel (President and Preacher: Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber, EKD)

09:15 Presentation CofE:

**Dr Elaine Storkey:** *Reformation Then and Now – Social and International Dimensions from an Anglican Perspective*

09:45 Discussion

10:15 Coffee/Tea

10:30 Presentation EKD:

**Militärbischof Dr. Sigurd Rink:** *On the Significance of Luther's Ethics in the Light of Current Challenges to Peace Ethics*

11:00 Discussions

11:30 Final Remarks and Communiqué

12:00 Closing Prayers

12:30 Lunch and Departure

### ***Church of England Participants:***

- The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dr Richard Chartres, Bishop of London
- The Rt Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds
- The Revd Dr Carolyn Hammond, Cambridge
- The Revd Dr Stephen Plant, Cambridge
- The Revd Alexander Faludy, Newcastle
- Dr Elaine Storkey, Cambridgeshire
- Revd Dr Andrew Atherstone, Oxford
- Dr Kirsty Birkett, London
- The Revd Canon Dr Leslie Nathaniel, London

*Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland Participants:*

- Bischöfin Petra Bosse-Huber, Hannover
- Oberkirchenrat Christoph Ernst, Hannover
- Reformationsbotschafterin Prof. Dr. Margot Käßmann, Berlin
- Prof. Dr. Jörg Lauster, München
- Prof. Dr. Friederike Nüssel, Heidelberg
- Militärbischof Dr. Sigurd Rink, Berlin
- Prof. Dr. Gury Schneider-Ludorff, Neuendettelsau
- Prof. Dr. Michael Weinrich, Bochum





# The Changing Fortunes of »Reformation« in Anglican Self-Understanding

Richard Chartres

## *Zusammenfassung*

*Vor dem Hintergrund der Beschäftigung der Church of England mit ihrer Identität als Teil der einen heiligen, katholischen und apostolischen Kirche widmet sich dieser Vortrag der Frage, wie Reformation im anglikanischen Selbstverständnis erlebt wurde. Das Gedenken an 500 Jahre protestantischer Reformation(en) eröffnet der Welt und ihren Kirchen eine hervorragende Gelegenheit, gemeinsam in die Zukunft zu blicken und weitere Schritte der Annäherung zu wagen, ohne dass die Barrieren in den zwischenkirchlichen Beziehungen der Vergangenheit unser Handeln belasten. So betont der Vortrag, dass es heute für alle Kirchen notwendig ist, die Rechtfertigung allein durch Glauben mit mehr Nachdruck zu predigen; dies nicht im Gegensatz zu guten Werken, sondern gegen den zunehmenden gesellschaftlichen Trend mit seinen Verheißungen menschlicher Selbsterlösung mithilfe von Wissenschaft, moderner Technologie und selbst geformter Spiritualität, die einen Erlöser nicht mehr kennt. Vor diesem Hintergrund bedenkt der Vortrag die sich ändernden Herausforderungen und Chancen von »Reformation« im anglikanischen Selbstverständnis und erinnert abschließend an die drängende Frage, ob die Kirche bei all ihren Veränderungen bestimmten sektiererischen Visionen folgt oder für die spirituelle Einheit der Welt und den Zusammenhalt der Menschheit weiterhin so einsteht, wie sie in den Prinzipien und der Person Jesu Christi, dem Mensch gewordenen Wort Gottes, in die Welt gekommen sind.*

The Preacher to the Papal Household, Fr Raniero Cantalamessa, was recently invited by the Archbishop of Canterbury to address the inaugural service for the General Synod in Westminster Abbey in the presence of the Queen. Fr Raniero noted that