

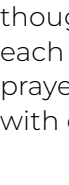
WHAT IS THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION?

ANGLICAN
COMMUNION
IN OVER 165 COUNTRIES

MINISTRY & RESOURCES SIGNPOSTING GUIDE

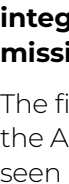
Your 'At a Glance' Guide to ministry around the Anglican Communion

From the Lambeth Conference



WELCOME

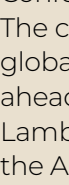
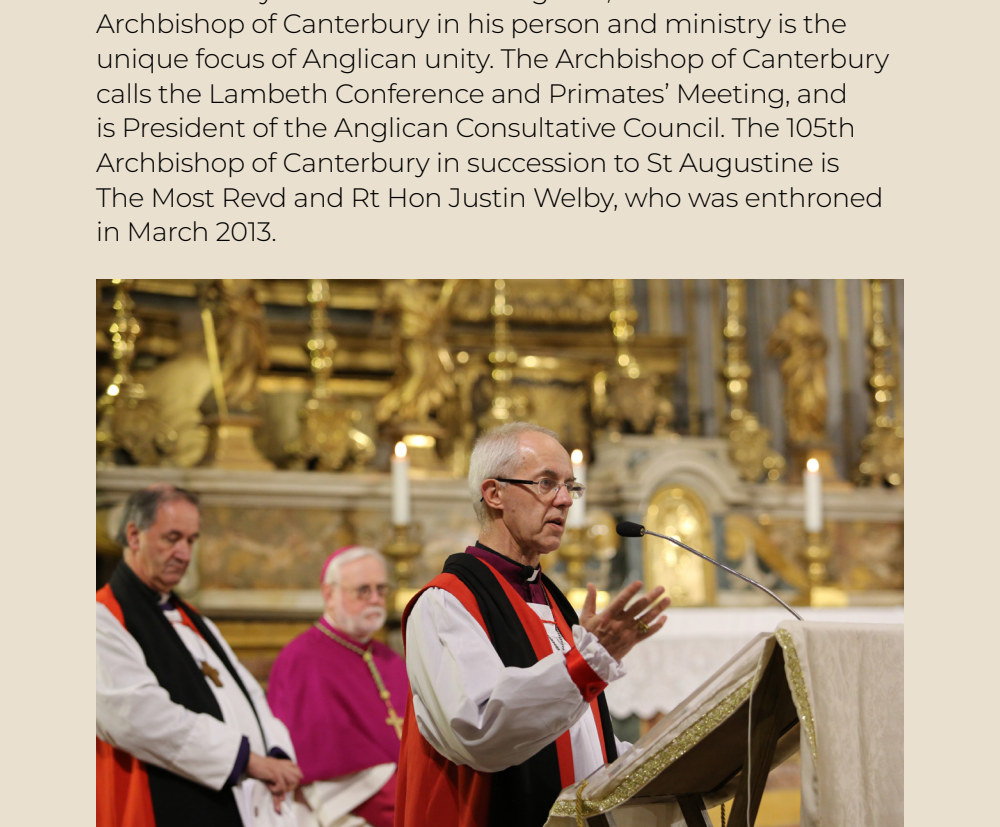
Welcome to your 'at a glance' guide to the Anglican Communion. Here are the basics and a selection of resources that are freely available for you and your diocese.



SETTING THE SCENE

The Anglican Communion is a fellowship, within the one holy catholic and apostolic church, of those duly constituted dioceses, provinces or regional churches in communion with the See of Canterbury' (Lambeth Conference 1930 Resolution 49. Nb, a 'See' is a diocese). In practice the Anglican Communion is a family of 42 Churches found in over 165 countries of the world with an estimated membership of around 85 million people. They include four United Churches from the Indian sub-continent. Even though the Churches are autonomous and different from each other they have much in common – a shared life of prayer and worship, a shared history, ongoing relationships with each other and a shared mission.

In practice the Anglican Communion is a family of 42 CHURCHES found in over 165 COUNTRIES



ACTION

The Five Marks of Mission:

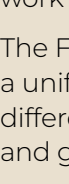
In recent years the unity and purpose of these Churches has become increasingly identified with the Five Marks of Mission. They summarise what the Churches are called to do. They express the Anglican Communion's common commitment to and understanding of God's holistic and integral mission: that the mission of the Church is the mission of Christ.

The first Mark was identified with personal evangelism at the Anglican Consultative Council in 1984 (ACC-6) and is now seen as a summary of what the whole life of the Church is about, including worship, because it is based on Jesus' mission (Mark 1.14). Here are the Five Marks in full:

The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Since ACC-16 in 2016 this focus on mission has found particular expression in the **Season of Intentional Discipleship**, an initiative planned to run for ten years, described as a growing movement across the whole communion to encourage every Anglican and every Anglican member Church to live, love and be like Jesus – in every part of life – for the sake of the whole creation and to the glory of God. This was re-affirmed at ACC-17 in 2019.

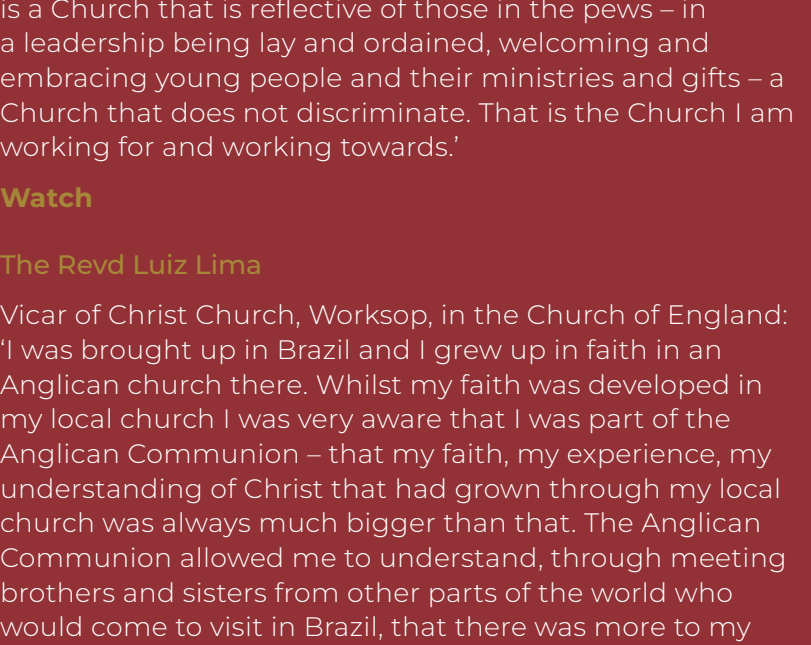


HOW IS THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION ORGANISED?

The Churches of the Anglican Communion have traditionally expressed their common life through the four Instruments of Communion: the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lambeth Conference, the Anglican Consultative Council, and the Primates' Meeting.

The Archbishop of Canterbury:

Member Churches are all in communion with the See of Canterbury in the Church of England, and thus the Archbishop of Canterbury in his person and ministry is the unique focus of Anglican unity. The Archbishop of Canterbury calls the Lambeth Conference and Primates' Meeting, and is President of the Anglican Consultative Council. The 105th Archbishop of Canterbury in succession to St Augustine is The Most Revd and Rt Hon Justin Welby, who was enthroned in March 2013.



The Lambeth Conference:

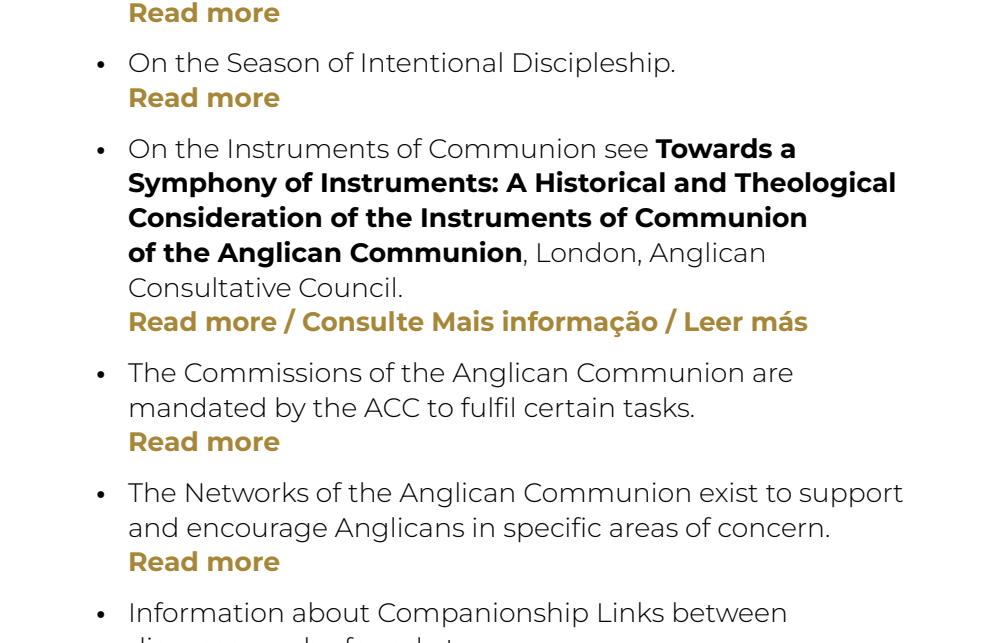
Convened by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lambeth Conference is an international meeting of Anglican bishops. The conference discusses church and world affairs and the global mission of the Anglican Communion for the decade ahead. Meeting around every ten years since 1867, the Lambeth Conference is one of the four Instruments of Unity in the Anglican Communion.

The Anglican Consultative Council:

In 1968 the Lambeth Conference requested the establishment of a body representative of all sections of the Churches (bishops, clergy and laity) to coordinate international Anglican ecumenical and mission work. With the consent of the legislative bodies of all the member Churches, the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) first convened in 1971, and has met regularly since.

The Primates' Meeting:

Since 1979 the Archbishop of Canterbury has invited the primates (i.e. the presiding bishop, archbishop or moderator of each member Church of the Anglican Communion (currently 42) to join in regular meetings for leisurely thought, prayer and deep consultation.



These bodies have been likened to musical instruments – each has its own distinctive voice but their role is to work with each other to contribute to the symphony of the whole. Furthermore, in recent years Anglicans have interpreted this movement outwards in terms of the Five Marks of Mission. The Instruments of Communion are intended to serve them: the Marks are the proper horizon towards which the Instruments are directed.

Other bodies work for and on behalf of the Anglican Communion, including its Commissions, working parties, Networks and Companionship Links. All of these are supported by the **Anglican Communion Office (ACO)** which is the permanent secretariat of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC), based at St Andrew's House in London and governed by UK charity law. It especially serves the Instruments of Communion and is also home to the Anglican Alliance and the Lambeth Conference Company.

The staff are led by the Secretary General, who has an ambassadorial role on behalf of the ACC and the ACO as well as being its senior officer. All activities undertaken by ACO staff are reported to the ACC. Staff are employed by the Anglican Consultative Council and are accountable to the Standing Committee of the ACC whose members are the trustees and governing body of the charity.

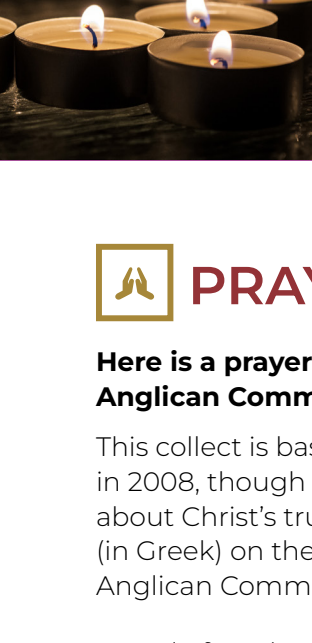
Some staff are based in other regions of the Communion, connecting with colleagues online and through occasional travel. The secretariat is heavily involved in organising meetings of the Instruments. Funding comes from the Inter-Anglican budget to which member Churches contribute according to their means, and from the Compass Rose Society and other trusts.

Responding to requests from the Standing Committee and the Instruments of Communion, the office is currently organised into these areas:

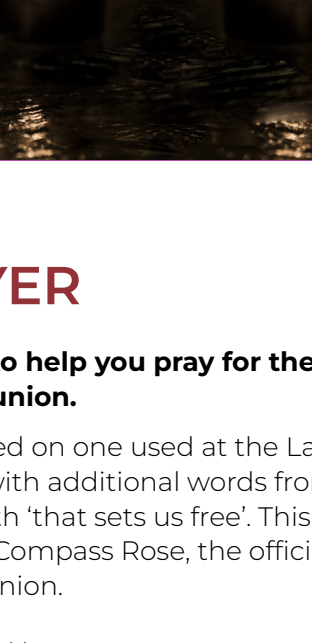
- **The Secretary General's Office**
- **Administration and Logistics**
- **Communications and IT**
- **Finance and Facilities**
- **Unity, Faith & Order**
- **Theological Education**
- **Gender Justice**
- **The Anglican Communion Office at the United Nations**

The Anglican Alliance and Lambeth Conference Company are separately organised with their own management structures and occupy office space at St Andrew's House. They share facilities with the Anglican Communion Office and staff work together.

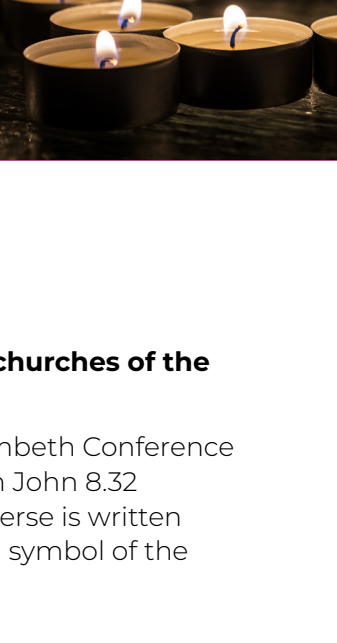
The Five Marks of Mission guide each work stream, providing a different influence and encouraging collaboration across the different departments. The Marks of Mission provide the vision and goal for all that the ACO does.



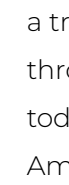
Bishop Vincentia Kgabe



The Revd Luiz Lima



Catherine Pate



TESTIMONIES

Bishop Vincentia Kgabe

The Bishop of Lesotho in Southern Africa: 'For me being part of the Anglican Communion means that I am part of the body of Christ spread throughout the world, as colourful and interesting as it is, with the mission and ministry of making God's love known and experienced to those in our care. By being part of the Communion I have received the gifts of ministry and the gifts of friendship and the gift of learning and sharing resources throughout the breadth and length of the Communion and I think that we are stronger and I am stronger because of these gifts and bonds that this Communion has shared freely with all of us.

I hope for a Church of God that reflects God's love, that is welcoming, that is affirming, that is inclusive – that is the Church that I hope for. And what I am working towards is a Church that is reflective of those in the pews – in a leadership being lay and ordained, welcoming and embracing young people and their ministries and gifts – a Church that does not discriminate. That is the Church I am working for and working towards.'

Watch

The Revd Luiz Lima

Vicar of Christ Church, Worsop, in the Church of England: 'I was brought up in Brazil and I grew up in faith in an Anglican church there. Whilst my faith was developed in my local church I was very aware that I was part of the Anglican Communion – that my faith, my experience, my understanding of Christ that had grown through my local church was always much bigger than that. The Anglican Communion allowed me to understand, through meeting brothers and sisters from other parts of the world who would come to visit in Brazil, that there was more to my faith than what I had experienced – that there was more of God to be known – that he was working in a much bigger context than the one that I lived in, and that was really exciting ... It brought a global understanding of the body of Christ. It really enlarged the horizons of my faith, and that is something really special, something that has reached my experience of faith.'

Watch

Catherine Pate

Director of Communications for the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia, Canada.

'Being an Anglican means that I belong to a worldwide community of believers held together by our rich tradition, our heritage of biblical faith, reason, liturgy, bishops and synods. Being an Anglican certainly doesn't mean uniformity, of course. In fact, we are strengthened by our diversity. But through prayer and presence we hold each other up, we bind ourselves one to the other, across geography and time and culture and ethnicity. We worship, generation by generation together, confident in the Holy Spirit's ability to do either more than we can ask or imagine and more than we could do on our own. Being an Anglican I have received a sense of belonging that I have taken for granted most of my life. Having never belonged to a non-liturgical church I don't know what it would be like Sunday by Sunday to not know that the words that I speak, the prayers and confessions that I offer, are being echoed by fellow Christians around the world who also call themselves Anglican. I am proud to be an Anglican.'

Watch

RESOURCES

Here are a list of helpful web sites, resources and films.

- **Being Anglican 1: Learning from our History, TEAC 2021.**

A handy guide to Anglican spirituality, church life and holistic mission, including the Instruments of Communion, in the past and the present.

Read more / Lire la suite / Consulte Mais informação / Leer más

Printed copies in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French are available from the Anglican Communion Office stand in the Resources Centre.

- On Anglicanism today see **Being Anglican Part 2 – Learning from Global Perspectives**

A collection of short video testimonies from all kinds of Anglicans across the Anglican Communion with additional video commentaries from scholars and church leaders, on six different dimensions of Anglicanism.

Read more

See more

- On the Five Marks of Mission.

Read more

- On the Season of Intentional Discipleship.

Read more

- On the Instruments of Communion see **Towards a Symphony of Instruments: A Historical and Theological Consideration of the Instruments of Communion of the Anglican Communion**, London, Anglican Consultative Council.

Read more / Consulte Mais informação / Leer más

- The Commissions of the Anglican Communion are mandated by the ACC to fulfil certain tasks.

Read more

- The Networks of the Anglican Communion exist to support and encourage Anglicans in specific areas of concern.

Read more

- Information about Companionship Links between dioceses can be found at

Read more

- More information about the Anglican Communion Office can be found at

Read more

PRAYER

Here is a prayer to help you pray for the churches of the Anglican Communion.

This collect is based on one used at the Lambeth Conference in 2008, though with additional words from John 8.32 about Christ's truth 'that sets us free'. This verse is written (in Greek) on the Compass Rose, the official symbol of the Anglican Communion.

God of earth and heaven
the One in whom we live and move and have our being,
guide and equip the Churches of the Anglican Communion
as they proclaim the Good News of your kingdom
in faith and life,
and so reveal the truth of your loving presence,
a truth that sets us free;

through your Son and in your Spirit

today, tomorrow and in years to come.

Amen.

NEED SUPPORT?

Please contact the Anglican Communion Office

www.anglicancommunion.org/structures/anglican-communion-office.aspx