

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2017



Crossing Barriers

*The Week of Prayer is international and offers local opportunities to meet and pray with fellow Christians of different denominations. The theme this year is **Crossing Barriers**.*

The material for 2017 was prepared for worldwide use by the churches in Germany based around the verses 2 Corinthians 5:14-20.

There are fifty million Christians in Germany who, traditionally, have mostly belonged to the Roman Catholic Church or one of the Protestant State Churches. Recent developments, particularly the reception of refugees and asylum seekers, have begun to change this balance and other Christian traditions are finding expression. Whilst that which unites the churches is stronger than that which divides, there are still areas of difference in which the churches remain self-absorbed or construct new walls.

The text from 2 Corinthians announces that God has, in Christ, reconciled the world to himself. The love of Christ compels us to be ambassadors of this reconciliation, which is enacted by dismantling the walls. With the fall of the Berlin Wall, Germany experienced how a seemingly insurmountable wall could be brought down. The fall of this wall is a symbol of hope that, with the love of God, nothing is impossible.

The Week of Prayer is an annual worldwide event. It is a great joy to meet with members of other churches; please come to as many of these days as you can.

For Sudbury & District:

Day 1: Sunday 15th January, 6:30 pm *United Service at Sudbury Catholic Church*

Day 2: Monday 16th January, 12:30 *Sudbury Baptist Church*

Day 3: Tuesday 17th January, 12:30 *St Mary's Church, Bures*

Day 4: Wednesday 18th January, 12:30 *St Andrew's, Great Cornard*

Day 5: Thursday 19th January, 12:30 *St John's Methodist Church, Sudbury*

Day 6: Friday 20th January, 12:30 *United Reformed Church, Sudbury*

Day 7: Saturday 21st January, 8 – 9:30 am *Prayer Breakfast at Suffolk Road Church*

Day 8: Sunday 22nd January *nothing arranged*

Refreshments will be provided after most services.

For those leading worship and for those wishing to follow each day's theme at home, the material for the eight days can be downloaded from www.ctbi.org.uk.