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2nd January 2017

Dear Friends

Sunday 15th January 2017 marks the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and as part of the united service to be held at the church of Our Lady and St John the Evangelist at 6.30pm on that day it is planned that we will renew the Churches Together in Sudbury and District Covenant, something that has traditionally been done every 10 years.

The covenant is an agreement made before God and it is made in His power and strength, it is not something that we make or keep by ourselves alone. It is a sign and symbol of our willingness to work together as Christians in this area in the ways that God leads us. Our fulfilling of this covenant will look different to each of us as individuals and as particular churches because God calls us to unity and not uniformity.

The covenant calls us to come together in worship, prayer, fellowship, learning and mission and we fulfil this in a variety of ways; through practical help, hospitality, information sharing, meeting together and above all in our prayer times, both individually and corporately. We are not called upon to do everything, but to offer what we are best able to do and in return to accept and encourage others in their own unique fulfilment of this call. The covenant celebrates our diversity as different members of the body of Christ as well as emphasising our unity in one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

As this new year begins I commend the covenant text to you and to all in your congregations and fellowships. It would be wonderful to see as many people as are able at the service on Sunday 15th January. However if you are unable to attend then please do take the opportunity to sign the covenant, either before the 15th January or during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity itself, please contact Revd Ruth Ridge (contact details above) for more details should you wish to do this.

Blessings.

Gerry Higginson.

Chairman, Churches Together in Sudbury and District.