



Dear Friends,

What a wonderful Service of thanksgiving and celebration we had at Trinity URC on the 12th September as we welcomed Bromley Baptist Church and Cornerstone Christian Centre into the fellowship of Churches Together in Central Bromley.

In a dramatic reading of a very imaginative version of 1Corinthians 12:14-26, in which Paul likens the Church to a body with its many parts, we were reminded of his words, "You are the Body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

Who says Paul hasn't a sense of humour? Whoever heard of a speaking hand, or foot, or ear, or eye? Nevertheless, his picture of the body with its different limbs and organs with their variety of shapes, sizes and functions, is a good one as he reminds us that each part has an important task to fulfil within the life of the body. Each part does it's own work, and the body is only healthy and efficient when each part is functioning perfectly.

From this Paul draws a picture of the unity which ought to exist inside every church, and amongst the churches, if the Church is to fulfil its function of being Christ's Body. "You are the Body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

This means, at the very least, that we need each other. There can be no such thing as isolationism in the Church of Jesus Christ. We need each other because, even though we are one in Christ, in

some ways we are different from each other and have different gifts to offer and to share.

There is the wonderful gift of our different traditions both within our churches and running across the denominations – the high and the low, the charismatics and the contemplatives, the experimental and the traditional.

There are the different gifts and preferences of individual Christians - the speakers and the listeners, the up fronters and the behind the 'scenesers', the activists and the reflectivists, the administrators and the visitors, and so on.

We rejoice in these differences. They are colourful, exciting, and so important in the life of that community which is the Body of Christ. And we rejoice the more knowing that '...we are no longer strangers but pilgrims together on the way to (God's) Kingdom.'

The Lord be with you.

*John Bown*

Minister of  
Bromley Methodist Church

COMMON  
GROUND

In this edition John Bown writes our leading article. It also appears in the magazines of Bromley Methodist Church & Bromley URC