

CENTRO

The Journal of The Anglican Centre in Rome

St John Henry Newman Doctor Of The Church

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FOREWORD

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Rt Revd Michael Burrows, Bishop of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe



During this past busy year at the ACR, the year of Jubilee in the Eternal City, I have had the joy of being on location in Rome in three occasions.

In January we gathered to celebrate the fruitful and devoted ministry as Director of Archbishop Ian Ernest, prior to his return homewards to Mauritius with his wife Kamla. The events of those days included what in retrospect turned out to be a very poignant and memorable visit to Pope Francis.

In May I returned for the joyous occasion that was the Commissioning of Bishop Anthony Ball as our new Director. As it happened this was just days before the election of Pope Leo.

In November, we had a residential meeting of the Governors at the Centre and enjoyed seeing recent changes and enhancements of our facilities there, not least the relocation of the chapel.

It is really self-evident that these visits reminded me how the ACR operates in a context of continuing change and draws its energy and vision from responding to such changes. Our work depends very much on relationships and conversations and networking ... and this year, some of the key relationships upon which our work is built have changed. Of course, a key relationship is that between the Holy Father and the Archbishop of Canterbury. As the photographs on the walls of the Centre amply testify, there has been a particular and distinctive quality to the bonds formed between each Archbishop of Canterbury and each Pope going back to the foundation of the ACR. So we wait with hope and expectation for the first occasion on which Archbishop Elect Sarah Mullally and Pope Leo will meet in fellowship and friendship, we presume, during the coming year.

Our work is all about relationships, sharing insights, building trust, and creating bonds of affection. In 2026, we celebrate sixty years of fruitful dedication to this work. Over those decades, so many lives have been touched, deep friendships have formed, and bonds have been established. As we celebrate next year all that has been, we pray that the anniversary year will be a time of renewed vision and indeed exciting events. We hope that many of our Friends and readers will join us ... whether in person, online, in spirit, and especially in prayer. Thank you for all you do to help us make our ecumenical dreams and hopes continue to come true.

‘ANGLIANS REMEMBERED AT PAPAL ‘COMMEMORATION OF NEW MARTYRS’



Image of ecumenical representatives with Pope Leo on 14 September 2025
(CNS photo/Lola Gomez)

On the evening of 14 September, the Feast of the Holy Cross (and his 70th birthday), Pope Leo XIV presided at an ecumenical commemoration of martyrs and witnesses of the faith in the twenty-first century at the Major Papal Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls. The service was jointly organized by the Vatican’s Dicastery for the Causes of Saints and Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity. Joining other representatives from various Christian denominations and communities, the Director, Bishop Anthony Ball, represented the Anglican Communion and occupied the place immediately to the Pope’s left-hand side, with the Orthodox representative of the Ecumenical Patriarch at the pontiff’s right – in line with established protocol. The event used the Beatitudes from Matthew’s Gospel to highlight the lives of martyrs from the last century and their witness to Christian values, with different members and representatives of the various churches and communities reading the prayers.

Among those martyrs remembered by name was Brother Francis Tofi of the Melanesian Brotherhood – an Anglican religious community of men in simple vows based primarily in the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea. The following text was read aloud during the liturgical commemoration:

‘Brother Francis Tofi, an Anglican and member of the Melanesian Brotherhood, led the process of disarmament and reconciliation among the factions that had unleashed civil war on the island of Guadalcanal [Solomon Islands]. A meek and silent man, before departing for a peace mission, he said to his spiritual father: “I am not afraid of dying while doing good.” He was killed alongside another six confrères, at the hands of a guerrilla chief, on 24 April 2003. Many Christians have had their lives violently cut short while they were gathered in prayer: [...] All of them are in God's heart and in ours.’

In his homily, alongside recalling those Melanesian Brothers, Pope Leo reiterated a message from the recent Synod: the ecumenism of blood unites “Christians of different backgrounds who together give their lives for faith in Jesus Christ. The witness of their martyrdom is more eloquent than any word: unity comes from the Cross of the Lord.”

UPDATES FROM FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD



Australia

This year has been one of change and transition for the Anglican Church of Australia as well as for the Anglican Communion. Consequently, the focus has been to maintain communication with the Australian Friends, encouraging participation in ACR services, promoting learning opportunities and sharing news. We watched with interest the gathering of Primates earlier in the year and shared in the experience through the Primate of Australia's reflection. We added our prayers to the global faith community, mourning the loss but celebrating the wonderful life of Pope Francis, an example to us all.

We look forward to 2026 being a time of capturing the past stories and passion of the faithful long supporting members of the Anglican Centre in Rome and increasing awareness to a new generation. We are also hopeful that next year will bear the fruit of strengthened relationships in areas such as the Mother's Union and Ministry and formation. We have a **new contact e-mail**: AusfriendsofACR@gmail.com

The Revd Deborah Jeanes, Co-ordinator, Australian Friends of the ACR

Hong Kong

I was honoured to be appointed as a Governor of the ACR in 2023. Since then I have learned a lot from the Centre about its meaningful mission and the importance of its presence in maintaining the relationship between Anglicans and Roman Catholics. I am touched by the gesture of Pope Paul VI putting his ring on the finger of Archbishop Michael Ramsey before the Centre was established.

So I was proud to gather my friends who share the same passion to form the HK Friends. The ACR Charity Concert (report below) was the first project that we arranged to promote the ACR and to raise funds for the Centre. I am sure we will put on more events for the ACR in the coming future.

Ms Angel Hon, Chair, Hong Kong Friends of the ACR



Archbishop Chan welcomes guests

United Kingdom

The UK Friends of the Anglican Centre in Rome enjoyed an encouraging year of engagement and generosity. In October 2025, we were honoured to host the Annual Lecture in Westminster Abbey, delivered by the Church of England's outgoing ecumenical adviser, Dr Jeremy Morris, who reflected on sixty years of Anglican–Roman Catholic unity and the achievements of that shared journey. The lecture, followed by a reception hosted by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster and a dinner with friends of the Centre, was a fitting expression of the vitality of our common life. Financially, UK support in 2024 totalled over two hundred thousand pounds, including donations, grants, and the final tranche of the Virginia Johnstone bequest, all of which have been essential in sustaining the Centre's work and staff.



Bishop Ball, Canon Morris and Canon Hawkey in Westminster Abbey

While some major grant applications in 2025 were only partially successful, this moment underscores the importance of broadening our donor base and strengthening regular giving. Looking ahead, plans are underway to simplify how Friends can join and engage, and to welcome a new generation through proposed visits to Rome in 2026, ensuring that the mission of friendship, dialogue, and shared witness continues to flourish.

The Revd Canon James Hawkey, Chair, UK Friends of the ACR

United States of America

The American Friends of the Anglican Centre in Rome continue to build strong momentum and renewed focus as they move toward the Centre's 60th anniversary. At their October 2025 quarterly meeting, newly appointed and returning trustees gathered for the first time, affirming new leadership, establishing three standing subcommittees to strengthen fundraising, communications, and engagement around the Presiding Bishop's visit, and setting clear priorities for the year ahead. The launch of a new, streamlined AFACR website has already enhanced visibility and made online giving more accessible, supporting the Board's goal of reaching \$100,000 in annual fundraising.

Plans are also underway for a major fundraising event hosted by the Presiding Bishop in New York, anticipated to coincide with Bishop Anthony Ball's U.S. visit and designed to introduce new supporters to the Centre's mission. As the 2025 Annual Appeal prepares to launch and trustees work to renew donor connections, American Friends are laying the groundwork for sustained generosity, deeper participation, and a strong presence at the 60th Anniversary celebrations in Rome in October 2026.

The Revd Clint Wilson, Chair, American Friends of the ACR

Bishop Ball & the Revd Charleston Wilson



ACR BENEFIT CONCERT IN HONG KONG

The Hong Kong Friends of the Anglican Centre in Rome offered an inspiring example of local leadership and generosity through the ACR Charity Concert held on 25 September 2025 at St John's Cathedral. It was organised by the Hong Kong Friends and hosted in partnership with the Cathedral under the patronage of the Most Revd Andrew Chan, Primate of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui.

The evening brought together church leaders, musicians, supporters, and members of the wider community in support of the Centre's ecumenical mission. The concert raised significant awareness of the Anglican Centre in Rome as a bridge between the Anglican Communion and the Vatican, while also generating a remarkable net donation of HK\$612,700 destined to support a project for the digitisation of the Centre's library. With an audience of over 360 people, distinguished ecumenical guests, and performances from choirs, soloists, and ensembles drawn from across Hong Kong, the event reflected both the depth of commitment and the creative energy of our Hong Kong Friends.

Their efforts stand as a powerful testament to how local initiative can strengthen the Centre's global witness and sustain its work.



Amelia Chan and Nicolette Wong performing



Group photo of all the guests at the concert in St John's Cathedral

STATE VISIT TO THE HOLY SEE OF KING CHARLES III AND QUEEN CAMILLA

With excerpts from an address by Cardinal Harvey, Archpriest of the Major Papal Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls

The State Visit of His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty Queen Camilla to the Holy See, which took place on 23 October, was a landmark in the continuing journey of reconciliation between the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England.

They met Pope Leo XIV in the Vatican's Apostolic Palace before proceeding to an ecumenical service in the Sistine Chapel. The Service was led jointly by the Pope and the Archbishop of York, the Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, and included singing of the Sistine Chapel Choir, the Lay Vicars of St George's Chapel, Windsor, and the choristers of the Chapel Royal of St James's Palace.



The Royal choir rehearses in the Sistine Chapel

In the afternoon a central moment of the visit took place at the Major Papal Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls, where His Majesty was formally welcomed in a ceremony rich with symbolism, history, and hope for Christian unity.

In his address, His Eminence James Cardinal Harvey, Archpriest of the Basilica, declared, "The significance of this event cannot be overestimated ... It represents a soul-stirring new chapter in the long history of relations between the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England of which you are the Supreme Governor."

The visit took place during the Jubilee Year proclaimed by the late Pope Francis, a context that framed the encounter as both pilgrimage and witness. Cardinal Harvey noted the resonance of the Jubilee theme: "We rejoice that you wished to come to Rome during this Jubilee Year. In choosing the theme, Peregrinantes in Spem – Pilgrims in hope, the late beloved Pope Francis spoke of the Jubilee as a time 'when once more the Holy Door will be flung open to invite everyone to an intense experience of the love of God that awakens in hearts the sure hope of salvation in Christ.'"

Speaking to the spirit of fraternity that defines the Jubilee, Cardinal Harvey situated the visit within a much older tradition of connection and mutual responsibility: “With people coming from so many different places and backgrounds, the Jubilee is a time of profound solidarity and fraternity and it is in this spirit of fraternity that we welcome you to Saint Paul’s today. In doing so, we are recalling a very old bond between the English monarchy and this place. For centuries following the mission of monks such as Saint Augustine of Canterbury and Saint Paulinus of York, Saxon kings provided for the upkeep of the tombs of Saints Peter and Paul.”

Speaking of Their Majesties’ meeting with Pope Leo earlier in the day, Cardinal Harvey noted that, “Though it is no longer unusual for a British sovereign to meet with the Bishop of Rome, today saw a new step along the road of reconciliation. For the first time since the separation of the sixteenth century, Pope and Monarch shared in an act of worship.”

In recognition of these developments, and of His Majesty’s longstanding commitment to Christian unity, the visit was marked by a distinctive and enduring sign. Cardinal Harvey explained the decision to confer upon the King a historic title, renewed for the present day: “Desiring to re-establish the historic bond between Your Majesty’s kingdom and this place in a manner that is appropriate for the present day, the Abbot of the Benedictine community and I therefore proposed to confer the title of Royal Confrater on Your Majesty.”



HM King Charles III is installed as a Royal Confrater

Referring to the chair prepared for the King within the Basilica, Cardinal Harvey highlighted its theological and ecumenical meaning: “Your Majesty, the chair in which you are seated is yours and is now your permanent place in this Basilica. As befits a king’s chair, it is adorned with your coat of arms – but not only with your coat of arms. It also bears a phrase in Latin from Saint John’s Gospel... ‘that they may be one’ (cf Jn 17:21). As we join our prayers to the prayer of the King of kings, Your Majesty’s presence with us today is both an expression of the desire represented by that prayer and a sign of our hope that it will be fulfilled – Ut Unum Sint!”

The State Visit thus stood as a moment of prayerful witness to the continuing call to unity among Christians. Rooted in history yet oriented toward the future, it affirmed that reconciliation is not merely a theological aspiration, but a lived commitment—expressed through encounter, shared worship, and enduring signs of hope.

LATIN PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM AT ACR ON 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF NOSTRA ÆTATE

In a moment marked by both historical significance and contemporary urgency, His Beatitude Pierbattista Cardinal Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, was honoured by the UK Council for Christians and Jews (CCJ) with its Bridge Award at the Anglican Centre in Rome. The ceremony and reception took place on 28 October, the 60th anniversary of *Nostra Ætate*. This landmark Second Vatican Council declaration reshaped the Catholic Church's relationship with Judaism and set a new course for interreligious dialogue.

On receiving the award, His Beatitude reflected on the urgency of dialogue in the present moment, stating: "I am honoured to receive this award from CCJ, an organization which models the kind of dialogue and hard work we need in the world today. The pain and destruction in the Middle East are very real, but there is hope for a better future. Now is the time to begin building bridges, and I hope Christians can play a key role in this."

Bishop Sarah Bullock, Chair of CCJ, underscored the wider significance of the award, particularly in light of the anniversary being marked: "His Beatitude is a courageous advocate for interfaith dialogue, peace and safety for all in the Middle East. In this anniversary year of *Nostra Ætate*, we need this vision of hope again."

Established in 2017 to mark CCJ's seventy-fifth anniversary, the Bridge Award is given in recognition of exceptional and leading contributions to building bridges between peoples, whether in a Christian-Jewish or wider interfaith context. Past recipients include His Majesty King Charles III, former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, scholar Amy-Jill Levine, Lord (Jacob) Rothschild, Rabbi Lord



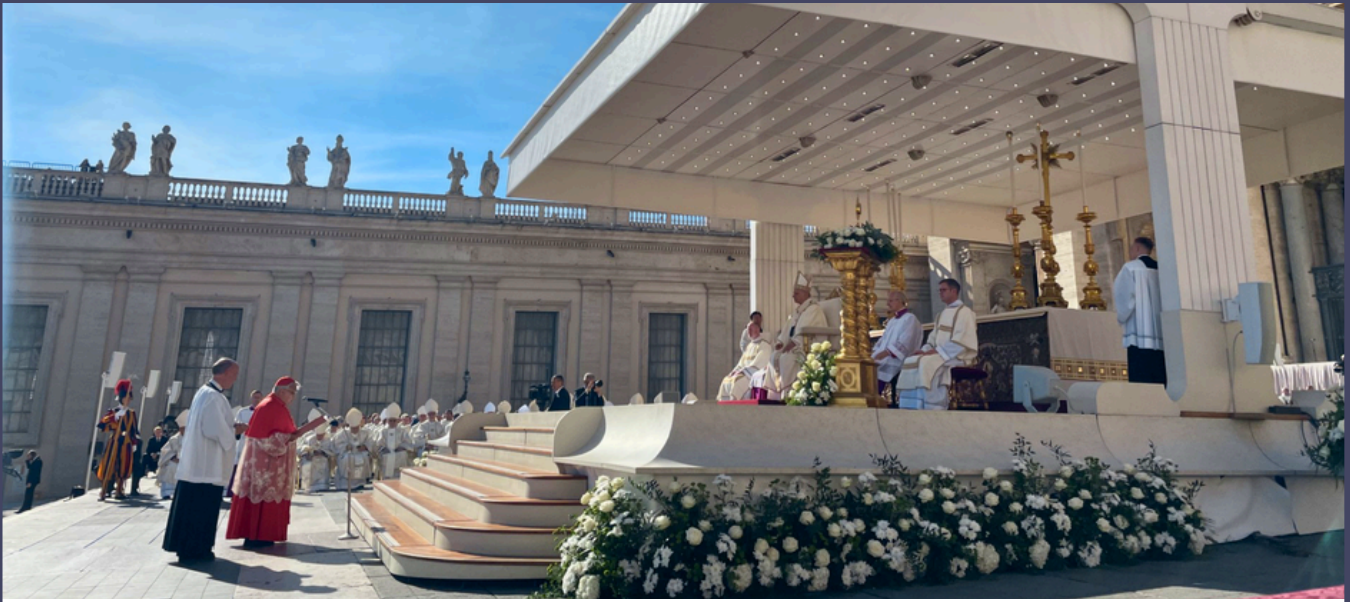
Presentation of Bridge Award 2025 to Cardinal Pizzaballa
image from CCJ website

Jonathan Sacks, and Holocaust survivor and educator Mala Tribich MBE.

A Franciscan friar whose ministry is marked by a commitment to presence, dialogue, and pastoral leadership amid ongoing conflict and instability, Cardinal Pizzaballa has led the Catholic communities across Israel, Palestine, Jordan, and Cyprus since 2016. He was appointed Latin Patriarch in 2020, having previously been the Custos of the Holy Land.

The award ceremony at the Anglican Centre in Rome highlighted the Centre's long-standing role as a space for encounter and engagement. It also served as a reminder that the spirit of *Nostra Ætate*—with its call to mutual understanding, respect, and cooperation—remains deeply relevant and affirmed the necessity of bridge-building as an essential expression of Christian witness in a fractured world.

ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN PROCLAIMED ‘DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH’



Cardinal Semeraro petitions the Pope to declare St John Henry Newman a Doctor of the Church,

“Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom...” The familiar words of John Henry Newman echoed across St Peter’s Square on All Saints’ Day as Pope Leo XIV declared Newman a Doctor of the Universal Church. With this proclamation, Newman became the thirty-eighth Doctor of the Church and only the second English figure to receive the title, after the Venerable Bede.

Among those present was a delegation from the Church of England, given seats of honour. The delegation was led by the Archbishop of York, the Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, and included the Bishops of Chelmsford, the Rt Revd Guli Francis-Dehqani and the Bishop of Chichester, the Rt Revd Martin Warner. Reflecting on the moment, Archbishop Cottrell described the declaration as one of deep thanksgiving for Newman’s life and thought, and for his lasting influence on theology, spirituality, and education. Yet he also posed a vital question: why should this moment matter to Anglicans?

The answer, he suggests, lies not simply in Newman’s intellectual stature, but in the way this recognition came about. The process of declaring a Doctor of the Church is exacting, requiring global episcopal support and rigorous theological scrutiny to ensure that a candidate’s writings can “guide the faithful in the deepening of their life in Christ.” Newman’s vast body of work includes hundreds of sermons and much of his most formative theology written while he was still an Anglican priest in Oxford—among them *Lead, Kindly Light*.

For this reason, Archbishop Cottrell, together with the then Archbishop of Canterbury, wrote to Pope Francis in February 2024 expressing support for Newman’s recognition as “an act of ecumenical fraternity and ecclesial charity.” The declaration marks a historic moment: for the first time, theological work produced by a Church of England priest has been formally recognised as part of the Roman Catholic Church’s teaching tradition.

As Archbishop Cottrell notes, this recognition is “a step on our journey towards the unity that is Christ’s will for his Church,” a sign of mutual recognition and growing understanding. The significance of Anglican involvement was publicly acknowledged during the ceremony itself. HE Marcello Cardinal Semeraro, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of the Saints, explicitly cited the support voiced by the Church of England—a possibly unprecedented contribution to Roman Catholic decision-making. The ecumenical resonance extended further. One of the scholarly contributions supporting Newman’s declaration was written by a priest of the Episcopal Church, and Pope Leo XIV himself noted the presence of the Church of England delegation, describing it as an expression of “our shared joy in the proclamation of St John Henry Newman as a Doctor of the Church,” following the historic prayer gathering with King Charles III in the Sistine Chapel days earlier.

Newman, who wrote so powerfully about the *sensus fidelium*—the shared discernment of truth by clergy, and laity—now appears to be teaching the Church once again, through his writings and their reception. As Archbishop Cottrell reflects, there is here “a glimpse of the healing of division... and of the flickering light of unity that we find in Christ.” Joy indeed. Not only for the recognition of a great theologian, but for the hope that, even amid the gloom of a fractured world, the Church may still be gently led toward unity: Lead thou us on.



St John Henry Newman’s coat of arms
with his moto “heart speaks to heart”

AUTUMN AT THE ACR

The preceding pages have given a flavour of the life of the Centre and Anglican involvement in the life of the Catholic Church in Rome, but there has been a great deal more since the last edition of Centro News. Offered below are some additional highlights of what we have been up to as we deliver on our mission as a place of encounter, learning, and hospitality in the cause of Christian unity alongside the witness provided by the two local Anglican churches. The regular pattern of a Eucharist on Tuesday followed by lunch has continued, we have built a good following for our (at least) monthly seminars – both in person and online – and it is heartening to see that our reputation as a venue to host or facilitate groups and meetings of Anglicans grows, reinforcing the impact and reach of the Director’s ambassadorial role for the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Anglican Communion.

The seminars are recorded, and we are currently exploring the best way to make those recordings available – possibly on a renewed website, with an exclusive area for Friends (those committed to regular support of the Centre). Please be in touch (media@anglicancentre.it) if you have expertise in this field, you can offer or would like access to the recordings.



Bishop Brian Farrell addresses the Precentors' Conference Dinner in the Salone

16-18 September – We hosted the **Church of England Precentors** (of the English cathedrals) Conference, including offering the Conference Dinner at which Bishop Brian Farrell, former Secretary of the (now) Dicastery for the Promoting Christian Unity (DPCU) was the guest of honour and speaker. The group attended a General Audience with Pope Leo and had a group photograph with him afterwards. Fr Browne hosted them at DPCU and gave an introduction to the Dicastery's work.

18 September – Seminar – The Rt Revd Jonathan Baker, Bishop of Fulham and Chair of the Church of England's Council for Christian Unity, gave a paper on ***John Henry Newman and the Sensus Fidelium: Lessons for Synodality?*** to which the Revd Dr James Hanvey, Secretary for the Service of Faith in the Society of Jesus (Jesuit) curia, offered an engaging response, drawing on his experience of the recent Synod. The discussion included contributions from Archbishop Flavio Pace, DCPU Secretary, and Sr Nathalie Becquart, undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops.



3 October – Lecture – Professor Torrance Kirby of McGill University, Montreal gave the Tillard Lecture at the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas. The lecture, titled '***The Sapiential Theology of Richard Hooker***', was a collaboration between the Angelicum and the ACR with our Director offering an introduction with the moderator being the Revd Prof Hyacinthe Destivelle (Director of the Angelicum's Institute for Ecumenical Studies and on the staff of DCPU).

19 October – Lecture – The Director spoke about the ACR at the UK Friends' Annual Lecture and attended the reception and dinner afterwards in honour of the speaker, the Revd Canon Dr Jeremy Morris (see p. 5). The excellent lecture can be watched at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=98HFFdyce98>

27 – 28 October – The Director participated in various events around the 60th Anniversary of **Nostra Aetate** and the annual International Encounter for Peace organised by the St Egidio community following the event first held by Pope John Paul II in Assisi (in 1986). Bishop Ball gave an address in the Italian Senate as part of an interreligious panel organised by the Italian branch of Religions for Peace and another to one of the St Egidio fora on the theme of “The World Suffocates Without Ideals”. At the closing ceremony of the International Encounter, this year under the motto “Daring Peace”, following an address by Pope Leo, the Most Revd Thabo Makgoba, Archbishop of Cape Town and Primate of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, represented the Anglican Communion as one of the religious leaders to light a candle for peace. (photo above)



9-11 November – The annual **informal Anglican-Roman Catholic talks** were hosted in Rome by DCPU, with meetings at their offices and the ACR. We were able to arrange a private meeting between Cardinal Koch, DCPU Prefect, and the Rt Revd Anthony Poggo, Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, who was accompanied by the Director.

12 November – Seminar – **Representing Anglicanism** was the theme of a seminar in which the Bishop Anthony Poggo chaired a panel of speakers who shared their distinct experiences and vision of representing the Communion and our Anglican heritage. The panel consisted of the Rt Revd Robert Innes, Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe and Co-Chair of the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission, Canon Dr Christopher Wells, the Director for Unity, Faith and Order at the Anglican Communion Office and the Rt Revd Anthony Ball, Director of the ACR and Archbishop of Canterbury’s Representative to the Holy See.



The seminar took place in the context of the Centre hosting the annual 2-day residential meeting of its Board of Governors. At a dinner for the Governors and their guests after the seminar a presentation was made to The Very Revd Kurt Dunkle, himself a distinguished representative of Anglicanism, who stepped down as a Governor after many years of invaluable service in that capacity.

24 November – Seminar – In a valedictory of his time as Scholar-in-Residence at the ACR, the Revd Johnathan Denson presented some of his research under the title *'Atheist Artists & Anglican Aesthetics: The Late Romantics in the History of Theology'*. In gratitude for several years' service to the ACR as well as his 5 months as Scholar-in-Residence (during which he also developed our communications and social media presence), we offered a Farewell Dinner for Fr Johnathan and several friends following the seminar.

6-11 December saw over 30 people gather in Rome for a meeting of the Inter-Anglican Standing Commission on Unity Faith and Order (IASCUFUO). The ACR team was much involved in preparing their programme and hosting the Commission at the Centre.

Alongside the working sessions, there was a general audience, individual greetings and a group photograph with Pope Leo (opposite), a discussion at DCPU presided over by Cardinal Koch, a visit to the Centro Pro Unione and cultural visits (including football and the foundations under St Peter's Basilica). After a seminar (see below) the Centre hosted a dinner for the Commission members and their guests, who included His Eminence Mario Cardinal Grech, Secretary General of the Catholic Church's Synod of Bishops. A communique about their meeting is on the Anglican Communion Office website.



11 December – Seminar – On the final evening of the IASCUFUO meeting the Commission Chair, the Rt Revd Graham Tomlin, chaired a distinguished panel to discuss *Currents in Anglican Ecclesiology: the Nairobi-Cairo proposals* and to answer questions on the topic from those present in a packed Seminar Room at the ACR as well as from on-line participants. The Anglicans on the panel were Canon Andrew Khoo, Chancellor of the Diocese of West Malaysia, the Most Revd Dr Samy Shehata, Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Alexandria and the Revd Dr Katherine Sonderegger, faculty member at Virginia Theological Seminary, USA with a Roman Catholic response and perspective offered by Professor Kristin Colberg, a member of ARCIC and associate professor at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University, USA.

Flexible spaces:
The Director's Salone
rearranged for the
IASCUFUO meeting



PREPARING TO CELEBRATE 60 YEARS



Archbishop Michael Ramsey gives Pope Paul VI a pectoral cross in March 1966

5 October 2026 will see the completion of 60 years since the Anglican Centre in Rome was inaugurated and we are preparing to celebrate that significant landmark in our work to develop friendship and deepen mutual understanding between Anglicans and Roman Catholics and pursuit of the vision of Christian unity. For six decades we have been a place of encounter, learning and hospitality in the Eternal City, resourcing learning and collaboration alongside the promotion of ecumenical dialogue. The Centre has welcomed pilgrims, theologians, clergy, and lay visitors from across the Anglican Communion and beyond, nurturing relationships rooted in prayer, study, and shared service. This anniversary offers an opportunity not only to give thanks for the Anglican Centre's rich history, but also to look forward with hope and imagination to its continuing vocation in a changing world.

To mark this milestone we are organising several events during October 2026 and a broader 60th Anniversary programme. There will be a Birthday Dinner in the Centre itself on 5th October and others throughout the anniversary year including a **60th Anniversary Gala Dinner** to be held on **26 October 2026** in the splendid surroundings of the Galleria Doria Pamphilj and the company of several Primates of the Anglican Communion and other friends, partners, and supporters for a celebration of friendship, generosity, and shared commitment to the Centre's mission. Alongside good food and convivial company, the dinner will serve as a key fundraising moment (with tickets priced and donations invited accordingly!).

We will release more information in the coming weeks about this event and ways support and celebrate the Centre's ongoing work for connection, collaboration and community. We look forward to your joining us! You can contact us at info@anglicancentre.it to receive updates on weekly events, volunteer opportunities, and news from the Centre as well as learn more about our 60th Anniversary programme and plans for expansion and development of the Centre.

MEET OUR TEAM: NEW STAFF AT THE CENTRE



The Revd Jules Cave

The Revd Jules Cave-Bergquist was appointed to a new interim role as Chaplain in October. She is a Church of England priest who has also spent more than two decades engaged in ecumenical work in Italy at both regional and national levels.

Educated in both evangelical and Anglo-Catholic traditions, she studied theology at St John's College, Durham, before undertaking postgraduate research at the Antonianum in Rome, where her longstanding interest in Franciscan and Poor Clare history was formed. She has served in parish, collegiate, and diocesan ministries across Canterbury, St Albans, London, and the Diocese of Europe, including as the first woman Chaplain of Trinity College, Cambridge, and in pastoral roles in Norway and Naples. A former National Vocations Officer for the Church of England, Diocesan Director of Ordinands in Oxford and a Franciscan specialist, she has studied and taught Spirituality for many years in both Italy and England. Her current research focuses on religious communities in Assisi and Umbria after Italian unification.



Rebecca Porter

Rebecca Porter has joined us as Director's Assistant and is also supporting our communications.

She is a graduate of Macalester College, where she earned a dual degree in Classical Studies and International Studies, with a minor in Middle Eastern Studies. Rebecca is a member of the Young Adult Service Corps and recently completed a year of service with a refugee agency in Massachusetts. She has lived in Jerusalem and worked with the Order of St John, experiences that have shaped her commitment to ecumenism, community service, and cross-cultural engagement. Reflecting on her vocation, she writes: "Meaningful service is never done alone. Faith is not just a personal anchor, but a shared language that connects us across backgrounds, beliefs, and borders. Service rooted in community and compassion has become central to my understanding of leadership and mission."

2026 PRORAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, 29 January, 18:00 - Seminar

The Napoleonic Concordat: Model or Deterrent in Nineteenth-Century Britain?

We examine the impact of the Napoleonic Concordat on British debates over church–state relations in the early nineteenth century. In the context of the Act of Union (1801) and the “Irish Question,” we explore how British politicians and intellectuals assessed the Concordat as a potential framework for managing religious pluralism in a multi-confessional kingdom and analyse how far the Concordat influenced British conceptions of religious tolerance, freedom, and state religious policy.

Dr Aude Attuel-Hallade is Lecturer in Modern British and French History and Associate Researcher at the Centre d’Histoire du XIXe siècle (Sorbonne Université/Panthéon-Sorbonne). A specialist in nineteenth-century liberal thought, her research focuses on religion, freedom, and political ideas in post-revolutionary Europe.

Dr Peter Hicks is a historian of the Napoleonic period and Head of International Affairs at the Foundation Napoléon, Paris. A former Visiting Professor at the University of Bath, he is a trustee of the Masséna Society and the British Napoleonic Bicentenary Trust.

Monday, 23 February, 18:00 - Seminar

Unity in the Communion: Anglicanism’s Impossible Dream?

We explore persistent debates over “unity” within the Anglican Communion, situate them within the Communion’s colonial history and ask how Anglican identity has been shaped, challenged, and reimagined in a post-colonial context. We consider whether meaningful and hopeful forms of unity are possible, what such unity might entail, and whether Anglicanism can articulate a viable future beyond inherited models.

The Revd Dr Charlie Baczyk-Bell is a Church of England priest and Associate Vicar of St John the Divine, Kennington. He is a Visiting Scholar at Sarum College, an Associate Tutor and Research Fellow at St Augustine’s College of Theology, and a Fellow in Medicine and Public Theology at Girton College, Cambridge. He also works full-time as a forensic psychiatrist.

Monday, 9 March at 18.00 - Seminar

How To Say Words With Things: eloquent gesture and the languages of ecumenism

The Oxford philosopher J. L. Austin observed that language doesn’t just say things, it does things. We will discuss, in the context of ecumenical encounter, the mirror-image of Austin’s idea. Gestures, gifts, and practical arrangements say things. Pope Paul VI’s gift of his own episcopal ring to Michael Ramsey in 1966 is a famous example of an “eloquent gesture”. We explore just what it says, alongside the relationship between the language of such eloquent gestures and the carefully calibrated language of formal ecumenical texts or the magisterium. How are these different kinds of language to be understood? What is the relationship between them? What are we to make of it when they appear to say different things?

The Revd Dr Anders Bergquist is the Vicar of St John’s Wood, London. He was previously a Residentiary Canon at St Albans Cathedral, and Vice-Principal of Westcott House, Cambridge. He has served on the Church of England’s Liturgical Commission since 1999 and is a member of its Porvoo Panel. He has been involved over many years in grass-roots ecumenical projects in the Marche region of Italy.

Tuesday, 26 – Friday, 29 May - Course***St Paul in Rome: An Ecumenical Study-Pilgrimage to St Paul's sites***

A prayerful journey in the footsteps of St Paul in the city of Rome, where he came to share the Gospel and was martyred. We will engage with the books of the bible that Paul wrote, and visit sites in Rome related to what he did; those related to the Jewish community, the places where the early Christian communities he supported met together, and the places that saw the consummation of his love for Christ in his martyrdom. A variety of voices, both Christian and Jewish, will shine light on our joint pilgrim path.

Fr Scott Brodeur, SJ has led several well-received pilgrimages in the steps of St Paul for the ACR and, by popular demand, returns to lead this one. Fr Scott is a Professor of Biblical Theology at the Gregorian University in Rome and an internationally renowned scholar of the life and writings of St Paul.

The Revd Jules Cave Bergquist is the ACR Chaplain as well as, for the Church of England, Area Dean of Italy and Bishop's Officer for Ecumenism in Italy. See p 16. She will flank Fr Scott and be available to participants as a sounding-board for their experiences.

Monday, 5 – Friday, 9 October - Course***ARCIC I, II, and III***

During each of the core three days of this residential course, we will review and discuss in turn the mandates, work, final reports and agreements of the three phases of the official dialogue undertaken by the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC). Each day will include seminar work at the Anglican Centre and a visit to a site related to the work of the phase of the dialogue being explored. Alongside Canon Hawkey's teaching, we will have contributions from eminent Roman Catholic scholars.

The Revd Dr James Hawkey is Canon Theologian at Westminster Abbey and a Governor of the ACR as well as being a Bye-Fellow of Clare College, Cambridge, and Visiting Professor of Theology at King's College London. He has served on international Anglican-Reformed and Anglican-Roman Catholic dialogues and is a member of the Church of England's Faith and Order Commission.

Monday, 2 – Thursday, 5 November - Course***Empresses, bankers, heretics, and kings: a study pilgrimage to Ravenna***

Ravenna's priceless churches are a UNESCO World Heritage site. Built and decorated within little more than a century, from the 430s to the 540s CE, they bear witness to remarkable political transformations, as Ravenna moved from being the seat of the last Western Roman Emperors, to becoming a key city in Theoderic's (Ostrogothic) Kingdom of Italy, to being the "capital" of Justinian's attempt to revive the old Roman Empire in the west. Each generation of rulers and their courts commissioned their own churches and adapted the buildings of their predecessors. We will visit (and pray in) all the main churches, explore the carefully constructed theological schemes that order their dazzling mosaics, and set them in their political, religious, and social context. Ravenna was also the last home of Dante Alighieri, the poet of The Divine Comedy, who is buried there; so the study pilgrimage will extend beyond Byzantine glories when we visit his tomb and hear the extraordinary history of his bones. There may even be time for a bonus visit to the newly opened Byron Museum (another local poet-resident, briefly, in 1819-20). *The study-pilgrimage will be led by The Revd Dr Anders Bergquist* (biography p 17), who has a formidable knowledge of and deep affection for Ravenna.

CENTRO

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