

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SAFFRON WALDEN

Tim Hardingham, Priest in Charge at Wenens Ambo, has explored the practice of prayer in many places and forms... Centering Prayer with Basil Pennington of Our Lady of Joy Trappist monastery in Hong Kong, imaginative prayer at Scargill House in Yorkshire, silent prayer at Offa House, Warwickshire, Taize Prayer with Brother Roger Shutz, but most formatively the use of the Jesus Prayer with Brother Ramon of Glasshampton Monastery near Worcester. The use of this prayer helps us to return to a place of quiet in our minds where we can better meet with God.

Paul Hills is a recently retired Baptist minister who has served in pastorates in Tunstall, Bristol, Chippenham and Winchester. His most recent post was as a Regional Minister for the Eastern Baptist Association of the Baptist Union. In this context he engaged much with ecumenical matters at a regional level. He was part of church leaders meetings in Essex, Norfolk and especially Cambridgeshire and Suffolk. He has chaired the Cambridgeshire Ecumenical Council and the East of England Faiths Council. In recognition of his work he was appointed an ecumenical Canon of St Edmundsbury Cathedral and an Etheldreda (ecumenical) Canon of Ely Cathedral. He is presently Etheldreda Canon Emeritus of Ely Cathedral. He is co-chair of the Vellore Link Group which oversees the link between the Cambridgeshire Ecumenical Council and the Church of South India diocese in Vellore.

Paul has a BA in Biology and Psychology and an MA in Biblical Interpretation. Prior to training for ministry he taught in Stoke on Trent. He is married to Sue and they have three children and seven grandchildren, plus being guardians of a somewhat unruly dog.

Birgit Ewald has been a minister for 23 years, initially in the Protestant Church in Germany and since 1998 in the United Reformed Church in the U K. She is the Advocate for Spirituality of the Eastern Synod of the United Reformed Church, and she presently works as a psychotherapist, supervisor and spiritual director.

Janet Scott, a prominent Quaker, was Director of Studies in Religious Studies and Education and Praelector at Homerton College and a member of the faculties of Divinity and of Education in the University, teaching Religious Education and the New Testament. A theologian, she has been involved in ecumenical work for many years. Currently she is a member of the Faith and order Commission of the World Council of Churches and a board member and trustee of Churches Together in England. She has given a Swarthmore lecture to Britain Yearly Meeting: "What canst thou say? Towards a Quaker theology" and last year gave the University Sermon in Cambridge.