

**REPORT ON THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND EVANGELICAL COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL RESIDENTIAL MEETING HELD ON 14-15 JANUARY 2020**

Forty leaders from across the breadth of the orthodox evangelical constituency met for their annual 2-day conference at the start of this important year for the Church of England. Five years since the Council was reconstituted, the growth in confidence and depth of unity in our working together was clearly evident as we planned the further development of joint action across our evangelical member networks and Diocesan Evangelical Fellowships.

The Council began with an exposition of Mark 9:33—50, encouraging us to “*Salty Peace*”; having salt amongst ourselves and being at peace with each other as we contend for the faith.

Council welcomed new members - including three additional episcopal colleagues, thus strengthening links with the evangelical bishops. It also received reports from evangelical Anglican in Wales and Scotland, highlighting the opportunities for mission, albeit within some very difficult circumstances.

In advance of the forthcoming publication of the Church of England’s ‘*Living in Love and Faith*’ resources, the Council was delighted to welcome Dr Eeva John to give an overview of the work to date. This gave Council an opportunity to ask questions and also to express concerns.

Following the publication of ‘*Glorify God in Your Body*’ a year ago, the Council was pleased to receive a new Study Guide to accompany the book, trusting that it will prove useful for leaders and small groups in churches. Both documents are available for free download from the CEEC website ([www.ceec.info](http://www.ceec.info)).

Building on previous work, members received a comprehensive paper on possibilities for evangelicals within the Church of England in the years ahead. After discussion, the emergent themes were referred to the Council’s Working Group for further development over the course of 2020.

Following its meeting for the leadership teams of Diocesan Evangelical Fellowships in November 2019, the Working Group will continue to focus on resourcing DEFs to develop their unity and their vital ministry of encouraging parishes. It will also seek to support those involved in education in schools.

Preparing for the General Synod 2020 Elections will continue to be a major focus for the Working Group and, as it looks forward to those elections, the Council gave an enthusiastic welcome to the new dedicated website, [www.ceecgs2020.co.uk](http://www.ceecgs2020.co.uk) and the resources available there. It is keen to commend the following prayer for the Church of England in respect of this year’s General Synod elections:

*Loving God, look with mercy upon the Church of England, that she may remain faithful to the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. We pray for our bishops and clergy that they would teach and lead your people in accordance with the historic, apostolic doctrine and teaching of Scripture and the Church. Raise up candidates for the elections to the General Synod in 2020 who know and love you and your Word. May those elected in 2020 work to lead the Church of England into all truth for the benefit of your Church, your people and our land. For we ask this in and through the name of your Son, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen***

We remain grateful to God for the fellowship we enjoyed and His directing in our deliberations and trust Him for what lies ahead.

**Monday, 20 January 2020**