

101 Ways to Foster Christian Unity in your Parish

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Diocese of Westminster

1. If the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service is not attracting attendances, change it, and change how you devise it. Also try a joint Christmas Carol Service or New Year Service, with a fund-raising supper in aid of the homeless or Children in Need
2. Keep Ash Wednesday together in some way
3. Hold Lent prayer services or study groups together
4. A joint holiday, with a spiritual, pastoral or mission theme
5. Support or create local projects to help those in need or at risk
6. Fast together
7. Women's groups meeting together occasionally
8. Be active in the local Churches Together
9. Association of Inter-Church Families
10. Supporting together your local state schools with volunteering
11. Joint event on Mothering Sunday
12. Marriage preparation
13. Computer and literacy classes, especially to help young people not keeping up with school
14. Support and understanding for teenage mothers
15. Joint music events
16. Volunteering together in nursing homes and hospices
17. Bible study
18. Bonfire Celebration for All Saints Day
19. Holiday or away days for children, especially those with difficult home lives
20. Emmaus or Cursillo groups
21. Mentoring support for youths at risk of offending or drugs
22. Working with resettlement-after-prison schemes and Community Chaplaincy
23. Mutual support for the fund-raising activities of the churches' children's societies
24. Supporting each others' Bazaars and Fairs, and other fund raising events
25. Working together to discuss Alpha, RCIA and adult confirmation formation, to find possibilities for joint sessions and mutual learning
26. Family Baptism preparation
27. Church textile and embroidery
28. Exchanges of preachers
29. Offering adult education courses and facilities
30. Church history courses or events
31. Stations of the Cross
32. Common Celebrations of Harvest thanksgiving, with Harvest supper
33. Working together with environmental charities - recycling, safe transport, woodlands, responsible gardening and agriculture, healthy living - to promote the Christian respect for creation and concern for the environment
34. Plant trees and small natural environments as places for reflection and enjoyment
35. Support or accommodate AA, Al-Anon, NA groups
36. Network for baby-sitting and childcare

37. Phone network to support churches' elderly and housebound people
38. Network to support each others' members in hospital or in crisis
39. Bereavement support
40. Clergy support group and mentoring
41. Joint Churches' liaison with local political representatives and officials, MPs, MEPs - especially on matters of social justice, community development and Christian ethics and bio-ethics
42. Shared news and publicity - magazine and newsletters
43. Audit the skills and interests of each others' members and share these with other churches
44. Prayer and support for each others' overseas mission links
45. Prayer and support for members of congregations who are teaching in schools
46. Pastoral support of the unborn child and mothers in difficulties
47. Working with other churches and faith groups towards ethnic and cultural inclusion, especially among migrants and refugees
48. Evangelistic projects
49. Church involvement in Neighbourhood Watch or community safety projects
50. Christian leadership for neighbourhood renewal and urban regeneration
51. Church support for community restorative justice programmes
52. Joint pilgrimages - to Lourdes, Walsingham, Aylesford, historic Cathedrals, the Holy Land, Rome, Assisi, Eastern Christianity
53. Joint retreats or quiet days at a monastery or convent
54. Drama and creative writing
55. Together supporting community enterprises and social development projects
56. Youth inclusion, space for young people to meet safely
57. Offering churches and congregations to schools as living RE resources
58. Programmes to support youth spirituality and worship celebrations
59. Collaborating on young people's organisations and youth projects
60. Joint liaison with the police and local authorities
61. The Women's World Day of Prayer
62. Groups and activities to promote reconciliation, justice and peace
63. Penitential or preparation services in Lent and Advent
64. Joint services in Holy Week
65. Joint Good Friday or Palm Sunday service or procession
66. Attend each other's services – Anglican Evensong, Orthodox Saturday Vigil, Sunday Free Church services, as well as their Eucharistic liturgies
67. Imaginative new ways of celebrating the days of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
68. Joint celebration in honour of the Sacrament of Baptism after Epiphany
69. Joint liaison with local leaders of other faiths and ethnic minorities
70. Emergency food bank
71. Furniture bank
72. Support for new parents, especially those on their own
73. Joint observance of Remembrance Day
74. Choir for leading worship on special ecumenical occasions
75. Branch of the Ecumenical Society of the Blessed Virgin Mary
76. Combined recycling scheme
77. Joint efforts in energy saving and renewable energy

78. Sharing Eucharistic spirituality, including Benediction
79. Inviting other Christians to Third Order or other Catholic societies' meetings
80. Set up a credit union
81. Co-ordinate charitable responses for third world relief
82. Pray for those on each others' lists of sick and departed church member
83. Network for welcoming new neighbours
84. Joint meetings of lay representatives from each others' church councils or finance committees to share problems, advice, plans
85. Joint media/press relations for publicity
86. Joint diary planning - to minimise clashes and to promote mutual prayer support
87. Ecumenical library, with a strong spirituality collection
88. Promoting household spirituality - prayer at mealtimes, prayer in the home
89. Contemplative prayer groups – such as Julian Meetings
90. Intercessory prayer meetings or services
91. Arrange with each other to be kept churches open in turn as ‘sacred space’
92. Establish Thursday as the special weekly day to pray for the unity of Christians
93. Pray for vocations to the ordained ministry of all churches
94. Pray for vocations to the religious life
95. Pray for vocations to lay ministry and volunteering, especially for work with children and young people at risk
96. Pray for the humility that removes barriers to unity and for the chance to make reparation for the sin of disunity
97. Learn [Avery Dulles' 10 Principles of Ecumenism](#)
98. Work as though the result depends on you
99. Pray in the knowledge that the result depends on God
100. Joint Christian Aid and CAFOD house-to house collection
101. Fill in your own ideas