

8.1.80
9.0 p.m.

ARCIC 217/A/2

1. Christ's will and prayer is that his followers should be one. Visible unity is therefore an essential property of the Church. This unity has however been impaired by 400 years of mutual intolerance and polemical theology. Nevertheless, in spite of appearances to the contrary Anglicans and Roman Catholics have remained united by receiving the same Spirit, sharing the same faith in the same Lord, and undergoing the same baptism. Although this unity has been weakened by schism it has not been totally destroyed. Yet Christians cannot without disobedience to Christ acquiesce in this schismatical situation.

2. Disagreement between our two communions has principally centred on the nature of the Eucharist, the office of the eucharistic minister, and the nature of authority in the Church. Our three Agreed Statements represent our conviction that substantial agreement in these three matters is now possible. Nevertheless we remain unable to come together to the altar of God because since the Reformation Rome has not recognised the full ecclesial status of the Anglican Communion nor the validity of its ordinations and celebrations of the eucharist; and Anglicans for their part have not acknowledged the primacy, authority and jurisdiction of the Bishop of Rome. The full organic unity which is our goal can be restored only by mutual acceptance of ordained ministers and of the validity of their sacraments, together with the common recognition of a universal primacy within a complementary pattern of conciliarity (V23).

3. Underlying our agreements and our conviction that remaining disagreements can be resolved is our understanding of the nature of the Church, the Body of Christ, as koinonia.