

An Introduction to the Anglican Communion

There are nearly 70 million members of the Anglican family in 37 self-governing Member Churches or Provinces in more than 160 countries.

The Anglican Communion has developed in two stages. Following the first stage, which began in the 17th century in Britain, Anglicanism was later established by colonisation in places such as Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Southern Africa, and the USA. The second stage began in the late 18th century. During that era Anglican churches were planted all over the world as a result of the missionary work of the Churches in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, which were joined in this task by the Churches formed in the previous two centuries.

Anglican Churches uphold and proclaim the Catholic and Apostolic faith, based on the Scriptures, interpreted in the light of tradition, scholarship and reason. Following the teachings of Jesus Christ, the Churches are committed to the proclamation of the Good News of the Gospel to the whole creation. Faith, order and practice have found expression in the Book of Common Prayer, Ordinals of the 16th and 17th centuries, and most succinctly in the 'Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral' which was first approved by the Lambeth Conference of 1888.

This document affirms as the essential elements of faith and order in the quest for Christian unity:

The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as "containing all things necessary to salvation," and as being the rule and ultimate standard of faith. The Apostles' Creed, as the Baptismal Symbol; and the Nicene Creed, as the sufficient statement of the Christian faith.

The two Sacraments ordained by Christ Himself--Baptism and the Supper of the Lord--ministered with unfailing use of Christ's words of Institution, and of the elements ordained by Him.

The Historic Episcopate, locally adapted in the methods of its administration to the varying needs of the nations and peoples called of God into the Unity of His Church.

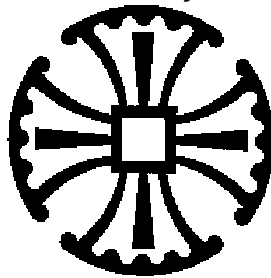
Central to worship for Anglicans is the celebration of the Holy Eucharist (also called the Holy Communion, the Lord's Supper, the Mass). In this offering of prayer and praise are recalled the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Christ, through the proclamation of the word and celebration of the Sacrament. Worship is at the heart of Anglicanism. Its styles vary from simple to elaborate, from Evangelical to Catholic, as well as from Charismatic to Traditional.

The Book of Common Prayer, in its various revisions throughout the Communion, gives expression to the comprehensiveness found within the Church whose principles reflect, since the time of Elizabeth I, a *via media* in relation to other Christian traditions. Baptism, with water in the name of the Trinity, unites one with Christ and the Church. Other rites include Confirmation, Holy Orders, Reconciliation, Marriage, and Anointing of the Sick.

Churches of the Anglican Communion

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia
The Anglican Church of Australia
The Church of Bangladesh
The Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil
The Church of the Province of Burundi
The Anglican Church of Canada
The Church of the Province of Central Africa
The Anglican Church of the Central American Reigon
The Church of Ceylon (Sri Lanka) Extra Provincial
The Province of the Anglican Church of the Congo
The Church of England
The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean
The Church of Ireland
The Holy Catholic Church in Japan
The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East
The Anglican Church of Kenya
The Anglican Church of Korea
The Church of the Province of Melanesia
The Anglican Church of Mexico
The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma)
The Church of the Province of Nigeria
The Church of North India
The Church of Pakistan
The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea
The Philippine Episcopal Church
The Lusitanian Church of Portugal
The Province of the Episcopal Church of Rwanda
The Scottish Episcopal Church
The Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church
The Church of the Province of South East Asia
The Church of the Province of Southern Africa
The Anglican Church of the Southern Cone of America
The Church of South India
The Episcopal Church of the Sudan
The Church of the Province of Tanzania
The Church of the Province of Uganda
The Episcopal Church in the United States of America
The Church in Wales
The Church of the Province of West Africa
The Church in the Province of the West Indies
plus the Extra Provincial Dioceses of Bermuda, Cuba, Hong Kong and Macao, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela. New provinces are also currently in formation.
Churches in Communion include the Mar Thoma Syrian Church, the Philippine Independent Church, and some Lutheran and Old Catholic Churches in Europe. The Church in China is known as a "post denominational" Church whose formation included Anglicans in the Holy Catholic Church in China.

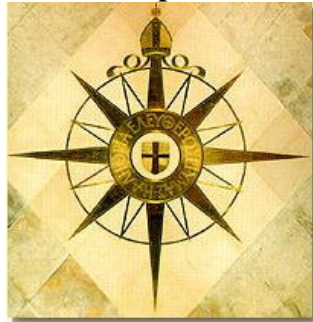
The Canterbury Cross



The original, probably 9th century, was found in St George's St, Canterbury. It is now in the Royal Museum there. It is a bronze cruciform brooch with triangular panels of silver, incised with a triquetra and inlaid with niello. A replica of it is mounted on the wall just inside the South West porch entrance of the Cathedral.

Similar replicas mounted on fragments of stone from Canterbury Cathedral are placed in Anglican Cathedrals in all parts of the world, linking them with the Mother Church of Canterbury.

The Compass Rose



The emblem of the Anglican Communion, the Compass Rose, was originally designed by the late Canon Edward West of New York. The modern design is that of Giles Bloomfield.

The symbol, set in the nave of Canterbury Cathedral, was dedicated by the Archbishop of Canterbury at the final Eucharist of the Lambeth Conference in 1988. The Archbishop dedicated a similar symbol in Washington Cathedral in 1990, and one in the original design in New York Cathedral in 1992, demonstrating that its use is becoming increasingly widespread. The centre holds the Cross of St George, reminding Anglicans of their origins.

The Greek inscription 'The Truth Shall Make You Free' (John 8:32) surrounds the cross, and the compass recalls the spread of Anglican Christianity throughout the world.

The mitre at the top emphasises the role of the episcopacy and apostolic order that is at the core of the Churches of the Communion.

The Compass Rose is used widely by the family of Anglican/Episcopal Churches. It is the logo of the Inter-Anglican Secretariat, and is used as the Communion's identifying symbol.

V The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all ever more.