

CEEC

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EMBARGOED until 0001 on 20 October 2020

****** PRESS RELEASE ******

Church of England Evangelical Council (CEEC) appoints Rt Revd Keith Sinclair as its National Director at this critical time for the Church of England's future

CEEC announces the appointment of the Rt Revd Keith Sinclair, currently Bishop of Birkenhead in the Diocese of Chester, as its National Director.

Bishop Keith's retirement from the See of Birkenhead in March 2021 was announced earlier this month. He will assume this new role on 27 April 2021, the 100th anniversary of the birth of CEEC's founder, the late Revd Dr John Stott CBE.

The appointment of a National Director represents a significant development in the level of CEEC's activities in terms of CEEC's ability to engage with the issues facing the Church of England from the perspective of evangelical Anglicans who subscribe to the Authority of Scripture and the historic formularies of the Church.

For the Church of England, this is a time of both great challenge and opportunity. However, it would be wrong to ignore the fact that theological differences and tensions exist within the Church which threaten to fracture the life and witness of parishes and dioceses up and down the country. For this reason, CEEC believes that this is an appropriate time to invest in additional personnel resources to ensure that traditional Christian teaching, as found in Scripture, is heard as clearly as possible through the mission and witness of evangelical Anglicans. It is noted that such evangelical Anglicans represent a very significant portion of Church of England weekly attendance.

As National Director, Bishop Keith will lead a staff team covering strategy & operations, communications and administrative support. This team will draw upon the services of consultants, advisers and volunteers from across the evangelical constituency, under the governance oversight of the CEEC Board of Trustees, including the President and Chairman.

In welcoming Bishop Keith's appointment, **the President of CEEC, the Rt Revd Julian Henderson**, Bishop of Blackburn, said: *"I am delighted to welcome Keith as our first National Director for many years. Keith and I have long worked together as episcopal colleagues, and I know that he will be a National Director whose heart's desire is for the Church of England to be strengthened through the clear teaching of mainstream Christian doctrine, as found in Scripture, and thus be equipped for the re-evangelisation of England."*

In addition, **the Chairman of CEEC, the Revd Hugh Palmer**, commented: *“Bishop Keith’s leadership of CEEC will undoubtedly be characterised by his habitual graciousness, underpinned by a deep love of Jesus Christ and the Scriptures. He has always been willing to stand firm and give a clear account of his faith, and I thus have every confidence that he is just the person we need as our National Director at this challenging time for the Church of England.”*

In accepting his appointment as CEEC’s National Director, **the Rt Revd Keith Sinclair** said: *“I am delighted and humbled to be afforded the opportunity to contribute to the ministry of CEEC at this critical time for the Church of England. I thank God for our Anglican inheritance which I believe is a rich expression of the Apostolic faith, taught in the Scriptures, which was once for all entrusted to Christ’s church. My over-riding objective will be to ensure that CEEC affirms our belief in the truth and goodness of this inheritance, embraces it as a gift from God our Father for the flourishing of all humanity, and that a deeper commitment to evangelism and discipleship will be a consequence as we serve Christ together in the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

Ends

Notes to editors

CEEC was first created by John Stott to provide a "collective" evangelical voice within the Church of England, was registered as a UK charity in December 1969 and incorporated in September 2003.

CEEC exists to provide for the continuing need for an overarching group to which evangelical organisations, networks, institutions and churches can belong, based on common understanding of the Christian faith and its Anglican expression, and united by a common vision to promote and maintain orthodox evangelical theology, ethics and liturgy at the heart of the Church of England. DEF’s (Diocesan Evangelical Fellowships) are the *de facto* representative bodies of CEEC in each diocese.

CEEC aims to encourage evangelism, bible-based and Christ-centred formation of discipleship, evangelical leadership within the Church of England, and evangelical unity within and outside Anglicanism.

Evangelical networks which are member organisations of CEEC include Church Society, CMS, CPAS, Crosslinks, Fulcrum, Junia Network and New Wine.

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