

Being Prepared

-thoughts on the links between CEEC and the DEFs

By Sarah Finch

Being prepared for the future Members of CEEC will know very well the threats that hang over the Church of England, generally, and the Evangelical wing in particular. It's not unusual to hear talk of the CofE collapsing in a few years' time. So it is not being overly dramatic to think, now, about how the Evangelical cause could be upheld, come what may. The people of God, the authentic Church, *will* continue in England, but in what shape?

To act responsibly, CEEC needs to build up its links with the DEFs across the country, in every single diocese. We have talked about this for years, but the need for some strong organization to be built up now seems to be pressing. Some practical ideas are given below, with the aim of constructing a solid network which will bind Anglican Evangelicals together. It would be a joy, as well as extremely useful, if the links between Anglican Evangelicals and Council members could become real, numerous, and strong.

Council members - as individuals Since every member of CEEC lives in some diocese or other, each of us should share in the responsibility for the DEF in our diocese. I believe this should be recognised as an integral part of CEEC membership. It's what we undertake to do, when we stand for election.

- If we come from a diocese that currently has no DEF, we should start one!
- If our diocese does already have a DEF, each of us should decide that we will get involved with it, attend committee meetings, and generally be prepared to put in some time and effort.

This will amount to a change of CEEC culture, but it will be worth it.

A few Council members - as a working party Lack of clarity about the need for DEFs is a major reason why so few of them flourish. Therefore, the working party should:

1. Draw up a list of reasons why local gatherings of Anglican Evangelicals are necessary.
2. Write and design a simple leaflet, explaining these reasons; the leaflet will be usable across the country.
3. Arrange for the distribution of these leaflets among existing DEF chairmen and secretaries, for them to use in their diocese to recruit members.
4. Encourage the formation of new DEFs, ensuring that this happens.
5. Encourage existing DEFs to revitalise their committee and then draw up plans for termly meetings, details of which will go on the website. Relevant topics, fine speakers, enthusiasm among committee members, and good food, seem to be the prerequisites for success!