



170  
years old

whistl



If undelivered, please return to  
Evangelical Alliance, 176 Copenhagen Street, London N1 0ST

evangelical alliance  
better together

## It's our 170<sup>th</sup> birthday! Help us invest for the future

In 1846 – 170 years ago last week – more than 800 evangelical Christians came together and sparked a movement that would spread around the world, changing the fabric of society for generations to come. They heard God's call to unite, to be 'one body in Christ'\*.

That's right, last week was the Evangelical Alliance's 170<sup>th</sup> birthday! With 170 years under our belt, the Alliance is older than colour photography, Alexander Graham Bell's telephone, the lightbulb and the radio. We've survived two world wars and countless other conflicts. We even predate the publishing of *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights*.

And we've had some impressive milestones and achievements of our own since 1846 – have a look at the timeline to the right and enjoy this anniversary special edition of *idea*. I hope you will join us in celebrating, praising God, and in praying for the next 170 years of this crucial work.

As I've taken stock of the long life of the Alliance, I praise God for all of you who've made it possible – our Evangelical Alliance family. I am so grateful for every one of the gifts you give and thank God for His provision for this work through people like you, who see and understand the need.

You've helped make the Church's united voice heard when and where it matters. You've protected religious liberty, supported Christian public leaders, equipped the Church for evangelism, and united local churches to transform their communities. On the centre pages of *idea* you can read our Impact Report for 2015-16 and see all that you've made possible in the last year alone.

**So I hope you won't mind me making a special request of you today – because if you can't ask on your 170<sup>th</sup> birthday, when can you? Will you please prayerfully consider increasing your giving to invest for the future?**

1846

Evangelical Alliance is founded at a meeting of 800 evangelical leaders in London

1857

All 900 delegates at the Alliance's third International Conference in Berlin take a trip to Potsdam at the King of Prussia's expense

1861

Alliance launches the first Universal Week of Prayer – which still continues to this day, now managed by the European Evangelical Alliance

1861-63

Alliance spearheads a successful campaign to obtain the release of Christians in Spain from a nine-year sentence of penal servitude for distributing and preaching from Bibles

1873

15,000 people attend the closing meetings of the Alliance's sixth International Conference in New York, the first ever conference of its kind in the US. Mainstream national newspapers gave the conference extensive daily coverage

1879

A personal visit of Alliance delegates to the Austrian Emperor successfully brings relief from persecution to Christians in Bohemia who have been prevented from meeting for worship or Bible studies

\*'Unum Corpus Sumus in Christo', or 'We are one body in Christ', was the motto of the Evangelical Alliance when it was founded in 1846

Our 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Appeal is simple. If just 170 of you, our wonderful members and supporters, increase your regular gifts to £18.46 a month to commemorate the year of our formation, you could raise an extra £30,000 a year to do this core work of serving and representing the UK Church. That's a 4% increase to our annual income from regular giving – just imagine how much more we could do.

Why, you might ask? *Because God has called the Church to be one, yet we're still far from united. Because God has called the Church to speak out and transform our nations, yet we're in danger of being pushed to the side-lines, wary of making ourselves heard.*

In the aftermath of 'Brexit' and a tumultuous few months in politics, the UK seems more divided than ever. In the uncertainty and often fear that has followed, what we are certain of is that there are wide cracks in our communities; between the rich and the poor, between racial groups, between generations.

**It is time to be united. To pray, to stand and to speak as one Church.**

The call to unity to which my predecessors committed themselves 170 years ago at the formation of the Alliance is as important today as it has ever been – perhaps more so. We cannot allow disunity to distract from the gospel. We cannot allow fear to stop us from speaking.

*I believe God's hand is in this work. I truly believe God is calling the Alliance and leading us to do this work of uniting the Church across the UK so we can speak out to our nations as one people, with one voice and one hope. That's why we need your help.*

**Let me tell you about some of the work we'd love to do in the next few years with your help:**



## Parliamentary advocacy

– since 1846 when the Alliance was founded, friends like you have enabled the Alliance to protect and champion the religious liberty we enjoy in the UK. Without this freedom, we cannot speak out on political matters. Without it, we cannot proclaim the gospel. Without it, the Church has no voice.

The government's Counter-Extremism Bill could see church groups inspected, posing very real threats to our religious freedom. We need your support now as we speak up to defend our freedom to hold and express our religious beliefs.

## Movement Day

– thanks to your generous support, we're connecting, establishing and supporting more than 120 local expressions of unity in towns and cities across the country – churches and Christian leaders coming together to do mission and care for their local communities. With your help, we'd like to host a UK-wide 'Movement Day' in 2017, together with a number of organisations, as a place for church and Christian leaders to plan, strategise, and respond to God's call for unity that brings transformation to the UK's towns and cities.



1914-18

Alliance organises large-scale monthly prayer meetings for the war, attended by the Archbishop of Canterbury

1924

Alliance gives large evangelistic presentations at Wembley Conference Centre, London, as part of the British Empire Exhibition

1939-45

Alliance hosts National Day of Prayer, supported by King George VI, and does significant work among refugees

1951

Alliance co-founds the World Evangelical Fellowship (now the World Evangelical Alliance) and itself focuses newly on the UK

1954

38,000 people come to faith at the Harringay Crusade with Billy Graham, sponsored and led by the Alliance. Around two million people attended the three-month crusade, and 400 churches held live broadcasts via phone lines

1973

The Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund (TEARfund) is released and takes on charity status

1983

Clive Calver is appointed general secretary of the Alliance – membership grows vastly as a result of his response calls at Spring Harvest and other festivals

1987-92

Evangelical Alliance Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland are launched

2008

Alive and Kicking pro-life coalition successfully campaigns against the liberalisation of abortion laws in the UK

2009

Steve Clifford is appointed as general director of the Alliance

2014

Home for Good is released and takes on charitable status

2015

Assisted Dying Bill is successfully campaigned against by the Care Not Killing coalition

2016

Evangelical Alliance turns 170!

THE FUTURE



**Great Commission** – this autumn, with your help, we will launch the Great Commission project to equip the UK Church to communicate the gospel clearly, confidently and powerfully to those who don't know Jesus. Your support will help us produce and share weekly videos over the next few years of people coming to faith, changing the narrative to show that God saves; it will help collate and categorise evangelism resources and initiatives for easy access; it will enable training videos and articles to be distributed to build the confidence and ability to powerfully spread the gospel.



GREAT  
COMMISSION

**threads** – we'd love to hold regular training days for church leaders to equip them to reach out to the 'missing generation' of young adults in their congregations and communities. We need your help to enable us to hold a minimum of three training days a year to train more than 100 church leaders around the country.



**Public Leadership** – thanks to your previous support, aspiring and established public leaders are being equipped and supported at training conferences, networking breakfasts and through one-to-one mentoring across our nations. But with your increased support, we would like to produce two key resources for the Church:

- 1** a small group course called *Change the World*, with videos and printed materials to help churches look at why and how public leadership is an important aspect of living out faith, and
- 2** a training course for use by local Public Leadership networks, to help leaders live out and understand their leadership roles as part of God's mission.

But to do all this, we need your help. In our 170<sup>th</sup> year, could you consider increasing your gift to £18.46 a month – signifying the year of our foundation – to make this work possible?

**If just 170 supporters and members increase their regular gifts to £18.46 a month, together you could raise an extra £30,000 a year to do this core work of serving and representing the UK Church. Could you be one of the 170?**

You'll find over the page a Direct Debit form to enable you to increase your regular gift – please prayerfully consider completing this to generously support this vital work, and return it to us in the enclosed Freepost envelope. And please do not hesitate to ring if you need assistance – call us on 0207 520 3845.

Thank you so very much for reading this far and taking my request seriously – I am grateful for your prayers, commitment and generous support.

What a privilege it is for me to serve you as general director of this great organisation.

With every blessing,

**Steve Clifford**  
General Director



*P.S. May I personally appeal to those of you who might not have thought of increasing your regular giving to the Alliance for some time, to please consider being one of the 170 – if 170 supporters and members increase their regular giving to £18.46 a month or more, together you could raise an additional £30,000 towards the Alliance's core work; money which could be put towards protecting religious liberty, equipping the Church for evangelism, or uniting local churches to work together to transform their communities. Thank you.*