

**Sermon Summary**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter**  
**20<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

- On Thursday of last week we celebrated the Tri-Diocesan Covenant.
- It is a reminder of our commitment to work together for unity
- As Anglicans, we sometimes seem have more trouble agreeing with members of our own tradition than members of others.
- We need to remember that unity never means “becoming identical with”
- The NT shows a variety of theological positions which vary, but have very different emphases.
- Consider that each of the four gospels quite a different picture of Jesus.
- Add in the further variety of Paul and Hebrews.
- It can be helpful, when considering unity, to focus on what unites rather than what divides.
- When we do that we find that we share much in common
- Much of what separates us is often secondary, and says more about our preferences rather than necessities.
- In this week of Christian Unity, it is a useful exercise to reflect on what both unites and separates us from our fellow Christians, and assess how significant these different factors.
- We need to do this, not because it is desirable, but because it is at the heart of our Christian calling: called to be one with our fellow Christians as Jesus and his Father shared a unity of purpose and identity

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