



## **PRESS RELEASE**

11<sup>th</sup> January 2008

For Immediate Release

### **A Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at Canterbury Cathedral.**

Canterbury Cathedral will be holding a special Christian Unity Service in the Cathedral on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 6:30 pm. 2008 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The service at the Cathedral this year will concentrate on the themes of unity, both within the Christian traditions, and between students and other parts of the community. The preacher will be the Revd Stephen Williams, Senior Chaplain for Higher and Further Education in the Diocese of London. Mr. Williams has well established connections to Canterbury and he is very much looking forward to the service in the Cathedral. The hour-long celebration will feature local church and student choirs as well as special performances from the University of Kent's Gospel Choir and the Salvation Army Band.

First marked in 1908 in the USA by Father Paul Wattson, an Episcopalian Franciscan Priest, churches throughout the world commit themselves in the Week of Christian Unity to "Pray without ceasing". The Week of Prayer offers opportunities to meet and pray with fellow Christians of different denominations in the locality.

E N D S

Notes to Editors.

- (1) The Week of prayer for Christian Unity traditionally takes place internationally between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January (the feasts of St Peter and St Paul). However, it may be observed over a different period. It lasts for 8 days and was originally called an Octave of prayer.
- (2) A Church Unity Service will also be held in St Thomas' Roman Catholic Church, Burgate, Canterbury, on Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> January at 12:45 pm.
- (3) For more information about the Cathedral's service, please contact Lisa Rowe on 01227 865221 or Christopher Robinson on 01227 865282. For more information about local churches and congregations taking part in this Week of Prayer locally, please visit [www.canterburychurches.org.uk](http://www.canterburychurches.org.uk)