

## HOW THEY LOVE ONE ANOTHER

**WE ARE PLEASED** to share this statement on the occasion of Roddy Buchanan's 'Histrionics' exhibition at Glasgow's Gallery of Modern Art (Apr – Oct 07).

**WE ARE DELIGHTED** that this offers us, as Leaders and Representatives of the Christian Churches in Glasgow, a fresh opportunity to witness to the growing respect, cooperation, common prayer and common action among our Churches today.

**WE CALL TO MIND JESUS' WORDS** in the scriptures when he says to his disciples 'By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.' (John 13:35). Later he reinforces his message, saying 'What I command you is to love one another.' (John 15:17). Later still he prays to his Father for his disciples, saying 'May they all be one.' (John 17:20).

**WE REGRET** that, institutionally and individually, many of us have not always lived up to Jesus' example, command and prayer.

**WE LAMENT** the sometimes difficult and painful history among our churches, especially in the language and practice of sectarianism and bigotry.

**WE CONSIDER SECTARIANISM AND BIGOTRY**, like racism and other similar prejudices, to have no place in our Churches today or tomorrow.

**WE VALUE HIGHLY** the gifts and graces of our own traditions and we recognise and respect the gifts and graces of other traditions.

**WE ARE INCREASINGLY BLESSED** in the many ways that our Churches now work and pray together at the local, city and national levels for the benefit of the whole community and in particular for the poor.

**WE ARE GRATEFUL** that God has led us in this path of growing understanding, respect and cooperation.

**WE ENCOURAGE PEOPLE** to recognise and become involved in the life of thye Churches. There is a huge variety in ways of living out one's faith in Jesus: from the private to the community to the public. New and familiar churches complement one another. 'New Scots' from migrant worker, asylum seeker and refugee backgrounds bring us all new challenges and new gifts. We can all learn to grow together.

**WE LOOK FORWARD WITH CONFIDENCE** in the active presence of God who leads and cares for us and in our commitment to do more together to build up God's Kingdom.

**WE LOOK FORWARD WITH HOPE** that working together with all people of faith and goodwill we will make Glasgow a better place, a proud city where all may flourish.

TODAY IS A GOOD TIME  
TO BE A CHRISTIAN.  
LORD, HELP US SHOW  
HOW WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER