

NEWSLETTER No 19

Spring 2019

Welcome!

Welcome to this, the latest of the newsletters from Churches Together in Cheshire. As before I seek to include both news items and notices of ecumenical activities and events that are taking place within Cheshire, and also information relating more widely to the ecumenical scene across the country. .

You will find my contact details at the end of this Newsletter, and if you wish any future edition to include reports of what has been happening in your neck of the woods, or to advertise any forthcoming event I would be pleased to hear from you

Andrew Taylor

Thy Kingdom Come

This national – now global- call to prayer will again be held during the period between Ascension Day and Pentecost, which in 2019 will fall between 30th May and 9th June.

Plans are already being made in relation to events across the county and Diocese, and within the next two weeks the Thy Kingdom Come website will have available the resources that have been prepared for 2019. This will include materials relevant for individual prayer, for churches and other larger gatherings, for families and for schools. Much of the information and ideas

CHURCHES TOGETHER
IN CHESHIRE



are free to download, Those which are to be purchased are likely to have discounts for bulk orders. Therefore please visit: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>



Activities and events are being planned around Cheshire. These include prayer walks in a number of Deaneries, walks and prayer times in Chester, ecumenical prayer events in Macclesfield, Latchford, Ellesmere Port and Audlem, as well as activities across Churches Together groups and in individual churches, who are then offering open invitations to their neighbours. The Chester Diocesan Website is building up a catalogue of these, and a special edition of the Churches Together in Cheshire Newsletter will be produced at the beginning of May giving details of all the activities that have been notified.

If you would like your activity listed please contact Andrew Taylor, whose details can be found at the end of the Newsletter

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Churches Together in Cheshire service was held at The Chapel, Tarporley, and was hosted by Churches Together in Tarporley. A full church heard from the invited Preacher, Fiona Bruce, MP for Congleton and a Lay Canon of Chester Cathedral, who spoke to the theme selected by the churches of Indonesia: 'Justice, only justice shall you seek' from the perspective of a committed Christian working in Parliament.

Next year, 2020, the service on Sunday, 19th January will be held at Chester Cathedral when the preacher will be Lord David Alton of Liverpool and the theme and material will have been selected by the churches of Malta. More details will be given later in the year.



A number of items have come from Churches Together in England in recent weeks:

A Vision for the Future

As has been previously reported, Churches Together in England has a new general Secretary, Revd. Dr. Paul Goodliff, and he

has been setting out a new vision for Churches Together, and to some degree for the ecumenical landscape across the country.

He identified the following as priorities for the organisation and the ecumenical movement:

Promoting common witness and collaboration in mission.

Encouraging deepening discipleship amongst English Christians.

Speaking with one voice into the public square.

Undertaking holistic mission in the power of the Holy Spirit

Making our unity-in-diversity visible to a watching world.

Embracing churches yet to join CTE,

Addressing the threats from climate change, populism and migration.

He also proposed the following measures as the means of addressing those priorities:

Strengthening the work of ecumenism at the level of intermediate bodies and in its local, town-wide/village-wide embodiment that is the ecumenical currency for most Christians;

Resourcing that local ecumenism with stories, imaginative

experiments, and personal support from County Ecumenical Officers and church leaders;

Building strong relationships with the emerging informal ecumenism of, for instance, *Gather*;

Encouraging the kind of theological conversation that addresses the differences between traditions with mutual respect and our finest minds;

Finding ways of continuing to provide the financial resources we need to fulfil our mandate, while demonstrating to those who give generously that engaging *together* in mission, witness and worship is much more cost-effective than attempting to do so in isolation from one another.

Staff changes

There have also been changes in the staffing of Churches Together in England.

Captain Jim Currin of the Church Army retires in July 2019, having served with Churches in England for 14 years as Evangelisation and Mission co-ordinator and media officer. To replace Jim two appointments have been made:

Rev'd Dr Ben Aldous will be a full-time member of the team, with responsibility for Evangelism and Mission. Ben has been in Anglican ministry in Durban (2010–2013) and, most recently, Cape Town in South Africa (2013–2018) and has recently completed a doctorate at The University of Stellenbosch exploring an ethnographical

study of Fresh Expressions in The Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

Lucy Olofinjana has been appointed to a half-time post as Communications and Media Officer. She comes with experience in this area working for the Evangelical Alliance (2012–2019) leading a range of mission, unity and research projects to resource churches across the UK, including the evangelism website:

www.greatcommission.co.uk.

She also previously worked for the Salvation Army in London and attended SOAS University.

Call to Prayer

The Presidents of Churches Together in England, together with our partners Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, are calling the churches to prayer as we approach the date when the United Kingdom is scheduled to leave the European Union.



From Wednesday 27th March to Sunday 31st March the Presidents urge churches in our nation to find ways to pray, and to enable church buildings to be opened for any in their communities seeking a space for prayer. Churches Together in England

supports every opportunity for local churches to pray together and urges Churches Together Groups and other expressions of Christian unity to take hold of this moment to pray together for our nations.

This builds on other calls to prayer from member churches over recent months and reflects the increasing urgency of the moment as Brexit approaches.

In particular, it is suggested that as the Presidents of Churches Together in England and other church leaders meet to pray at 10.30 am on Saturday 30th March in central London, churches throughout the nations may wish to join in similar expressions of prayerful concern for the future of the peoples and nations in the British Isles and Ireland, and beyond, during that morning.



Get ready for Christian Aid Week 12-18 May, 2019

If already registered, churches will be getting their Christian Aid Week edition next month. The improved pack contains an order form for Christian Aid Week materials and essential information to help

you plan for the week.

This year our stories focus on two strong mums - Jebbeh Konneh and Tenneh Bawoh who share their experiences about giving birth in Sierra Leone.

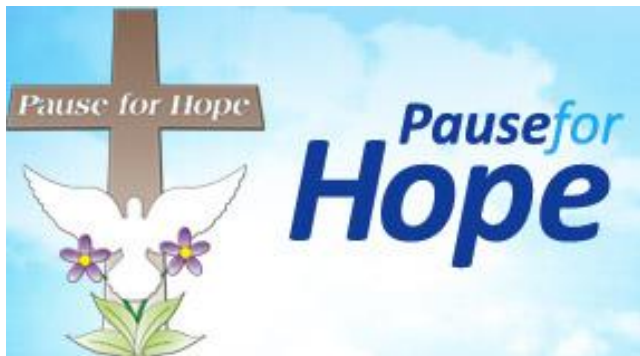
The pack also contains lots of fundraising ideas including practical information about adapting house to house and our new envelopes designed to support both your church and house-to-house collections.



Movement for Justice and Reconciliation

At their recent meeting in January the trustees of MJR decided to defer the Zong voyage, reported in the last newsletter, for 12 months until the summer of 2020. As part MJR's larger Zong project, the plan is to sail a C18th square rigger fitted out as a replica slave ship around Britain. The aim remains to provide the ship as a free resource to support local groups in developing associated activities and long term follow-up projects to build awareness and educate about the legacy of slavery.





The annual Pause for Hope service will this year be held in Chester Cathedral on Sunday, 16th June at 3.00 pm.

The service is for all whose lives have in any way been touched by cancer, and members of all religious dominations and faiths are welcome as well as those with little or no religious faith. Further details will be circulated.

Salt Sunday



Salt Sunday is being held again at the Lion Salt Works, Marston on Sunday 19th May.

This is an afternoon for all the family, with talks, demonstrations, children's activities and worship. Please mark the date and further details will be circulated very soon.

Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy



Saturday, 23rd March, 2019.

Winterley Brass Band is putting on a concert in aid of the Agricultural Chaplaincy at 7.30 at St. Peter's Church, School Lane, Elworth. CW11 3HU

Tickets: £10, including coffee, tea, cake and raffle Obtainable via:

events@agchap.com, or from 07762614768

EYE WITNESS - stories from the West Bank and Israel



Chester Quaker Meeting House invites you to come and hear first-hand from John Chapman and Hannah Larn, two Ecumenical Accompaniers who have recently returned from the West Bank

- what is daily life under occupation like?

- what is the Israeli peace movement doing?
- what can we do to promote a just peace in Israel-occupied Palestine.

The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme (EAPPI) is an initiative of the World Council of Churches, managed by Quakers in the UK.

Thursday 21st March, 7:30pm
Quaker Meeting House, Frodsham
Street, Chester CH1 3LF

Radio Stoke

On the first Sunday of each month, Robert Mountford, the Ecumenical Officer for Stoke, Staffordshire and the Black Country, or Andrew Taylor, the equivalent officer for Cheshire, has the opportunity to flag up on the station's Sunday programme any significant church events that are happening in the Radio Stoke area in the coming month. If you have something coming up and would like it mentioned please let Andrew Taylor know

Easter....

...approaches and many churches and groups will be planning local acts of witness. We pray for all those occasions when the Good News of Easter can be shared. Any pictures received could be included in the...

Next Edition

As previously mentioned, the next issue of the Newsletter will be issued soon after Easter and will focus on the events and activities planned for the period of Thy Kingdom Come.

The issue after that will be in September. If you have any items you would like to be included, not least reports of services and Acts of Witness from Easter and Pentecost please send them in by 31st August, 2019.

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