



**A word from the new chair of Churches Together in Lancashire the Revd Paul Davis**

I welcome this opportunity to contribute to the CTL Newsletter. It is with an awareness of the work of my predecessor Richard Church that I begin this task. I repeat what I said at the Forum. We are indebted to Richard for the gracious way in which he has carried out the role of Chair. He has ensured that we have kept working at working together.

I want to thank him for all that he has done in furthering Churches Together in Lancashire.



I begin at a time when we welcome two new Bishops to the presidents group and I look forward to sharing with Philip North and John Arnold. I shall be present in York Minister on Candlemas for the consecration of Philip North. I am well aware that as we reach Candlemas our attention turns from looking backward to Christmas and instead



onwards to Easter. I pray that as we share together in the future with our new members that we will continue to build on what has been sustained and deepened. I look forward to sharing our discipleship, supporting those who are in need, and wherever possible reaching those who have not yet recognised the blessings of a life lived in communion with Christ.



**From the Ecumenical Facilitator the Revd Anton Müller**

2015 has started well! Churches Together in Lancashire is now a registered charity (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). Our charity number is 1,160,021.



Confirmation arrived just in time to announce at the AGM of Churches Together in Lancashire which took place on 20 January at St Cuthbert's Fulwood. The AGM took place as part of the 'Forum' which was really well attended. Church Leaders and their Ecumenical Officers were present from across the denominations. A range of groups and organisations brought displays and resources for the 'market-stall' area, including Christian Aid, CAFOD, Traidcraft, Together Lancashire and



Longton Community Church. Worship was organised by members of Churches Together in Fulwood and Broughton under the guidance of Stephen Garsed and Patrick Gardner and featured a dramatic presentation of John 4, the woman at the well. Tim Keightley gave an overview of the inspirational work of the Foxton Centre.

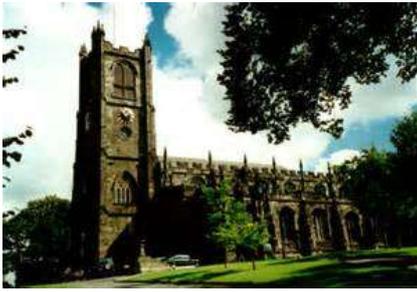


The AGM welcomed three new members (Longton Community Church, the Fence Inghamite Church, and South Lakes 3<sup>rd</sup> Order of St Francis as a 'body in association'). The AGM also agreed that the Forum and AGM would move to May in 2016 and so avoid the wintry weather and dark nights!



The Revd Tim Presswood, Transitional Regional Minister of the North West Baptist Association (NWBA) (right) welcomed Pastor Brian Drury as the ecumenical representative for the Baptist Church in Lancashire. Pastor Brian will join the group of Denominational Ecumenical Officers.

## Adoption and fostering event at Lancaster Priory: 26 February: 6.30pm



Following a meeting earlier last year with Julie Dobson of Lancashire County Council, I am delighted to be able to offer this opportunity for church groups to find out more about the adoption and fostering service that the County Council operates. A small team will give a presentation and there will be the opportunity to hear from those who have been adoptive and foster parents as well to hear from those who have benefited from this important element of care.

The evening will include a time of Christian spiritual reflection on the theme of our own adoption into the family of Christ and the important role that Christians can have in offering a Christian loving home to those in need of adoptive and foster parenting.

Churches Together in Lancashire is pleased to be working in partnership with Lancashire County Council and Lancaster Priory to promote the importance and need for adoptive and foster parents across our county. Adoption is a key theme within the Christian narrative and is the way in which St Paul describes the relationship that all Christians have with their heavenly Father. It is hoped that this event will encourage Christians in Lancashire to consider this vital aspect of love and care in and to the community; to increase the numbers of adoptive and foster parents and to join in prayerful support and encouragement for parents and carers, children and young people as together they build loving and caring families and homes founded upon the same values that define the Christian relationship with the one in heaven who has made sons and daughters of us all.



### From the Social Justice and Inter Faith Development Officer Helen Boothroyd

In January it was my great privilege to visit Pendleside Hospice where I was shown round by Spiritual Care Coordinator Rev Chris Cheeseman who shared something of the inspirational inter faith community engagement work that the hospice is engaged in. I asked Chris to write a piece about the work so that readers can learn about it too. This newsletter also features information about how to engage with the pending General Election and a number of very positive developments in inter faith work.

This is the last edition of the newsletter that I will edit, as I finish this job with Churches Together in Lancashire at the end of February. It has been a joy to be able to share with you through the newsletter over the last year events, good news stories and some of varied work for justice and community, understanding and unity taking place around Lancashire. I pray for God's blessings on your continuing work, and look forward to staying in ecumenical work with Churches Together in Cumbria.

### General Election 2015

The General Election on 7 May is coming up fast. Can your church engage to raise issues of social and climate justice, and highlight the impact of policies on the most vulnerable people and communities? Will your local Churches Together group organise a Hustings to help local people raise their questions with candidates and/or meet directly with candidates to discuss issues of particular concern?

### National and local General Election resources

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland has provided a special General Election website accessed using <http://ctbielections.org.uk> or [www.churcheselection.org.uk](http://www.churcheselection.org.uk) Here you can download: a briefing on organising a local Hustings event; CTBI's '2020 Vision of the Good Society' discussion and election resource, prepared in collaboration with Church Action on Poverty; questions from CAFOD /Caritas Care. You can also subscribe through the site to regular updates during the election campaign, and upload details of events you are organising. During February, CTL will send to all on our contact list an **election pack** which will include these national resources and flag some key local issues.

### Citizens UK

[Citizens UK](http://CitizensUK) is offering to support both those wishing to organise a Hustings and small groups seeking to meet with their local candidates: email [George.gabriel@citizensuk.org](mailto:George.gabriel@citizensuk.org). Their Citizens Commitment invites people to ask their candidates to: (1) Ensure that: care workers are trained to nationally-accredited and evidence-based standards; care recipients benefit from a small and consistent team of care workers, with at least 30 minutes for home care visits; and care workers are paid at least the Living Wage; (2) Put a time limit on adult detention for immigration purposes and end the use of pain-based removal techniques; (3) If elected, meet with the local group within a month of the election.

### Pendleside Hospice: Community Engagement



**Pendleside**  
Hospice Care for Burnley & Pendle

Pendleside Hospice offers care for the communities of Burnley and Pendle and is situated in Reedley. During the past few years it has been exploring ways of developing work within the Asian community. This has been a slow process geared to encouraging people to use the wide range of services which are offered. The Hospice has been especially exploring developing relationships with young people and has been working in partnership with other community programmes to do this as well as through direct access to community colleges and The Faith Centre at the Thomas Whittam Sixth Form Centre. These contacts have drawn a small team of volunteers from the 16+ age group who help in inpatients, especially serving meals at weekends.

All staff at the Hospice undertake training in cultural awareness. This includes 'in house' training as well as visits to mosques, a Hindu temple, a Buddhist centre and a Jewish synagogue. The training is run by Chris Cheeseman who leads the Spiritual Care Team at the Hospice; a team which includes: members of the Christian faith, both ordained and lay; Muslims; Buddhists and a Humanist. In the past two years this increasing involvement has led to more referrals, thus continuing to grow closer engagement.

In order to enhance this further a group has met three times in the past eighteen months to explore this community engagement. The group is drawn from all the communities served by the hospice, and medical, faith and community leaders have attended. If anyone reading this might be interested in becoming involved please get in contact with Chris Cheeseman, the Spiritual Care Coordinator, on 01282 440138 or [chris.cheeseman@pendleside.org.uk](mailto:chris.cheeseman@pendleside.org.uk). The group next meets on Wednesday 25 February at 7 p.m. Meetings finish by 8.30 p.m. New people are always welcome to come and share.

*Chris Cheeseman*

### **Celebrating Faith: Lancashire Forum of Faiths film on YouTube**

Lancashire Forum of Faiths commissioned a short film from Captive North for the 'Celebration of Faith in Lancashire' event in Inter Faith Week 2014. The film is called *Celebrating Faith* and you can view it on You Tube at <http://t.co/lvwlrYTONa>. The previous Churches Together in Lancashire Chair, Rev Richard Church, who stepped down at the AGM, is featured in the film which is just over 5 minutes long and is an excellent celebration of the diversity of faith communities in Lancashire.



**Lancashire Forum of Faiths presents Preston's One Voice Community Choir in concert on Wednesday 4 March 6.30 for 7pm: St Margaret's Church, Ingol, Preston, PR2 3ZU** Light refreshments and raffle. Tickets £5: order in advance from Helen Boothroyd: 07503 931196; [helenboothroyd@ctlancashire.org.uk](mailto:helenboothroyd@ctlancashire.org.uk) - by 20 February please - or buy on door.

### **Safety, security and living well together: Inter Faith Network for the UK statement**

The Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Inter Faith Network for the UK issued a statement following the recent murders in Paris and reported rises in both anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim comments and attacks in the UK and Europe: see [www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/statements-and-messages](http://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/statements-and-messages)

### **bb1 For Life café and shop to open in Blackburn: please donate vintage crockery**

Blackburn Cathedral's Bread for Life project is shortly to open bb1 For Life, a multi-use space and café/bakery on Northgate, central Blackburn. People from different age groups, faiths, and economic and cultural backgrounds will bake bread together, gaining a skill and talking together. Selling the bread, plus arts/crafts, sewing and upscaled furniture, will help create a sustainable small local business. The project is looking for vintage crockery for the café - cups, saucers, plates, tea pots - donate via Canon Shannon Ledbetter: [Shannon.Ledbetter@blackburncathedral.co.uk](mailto:Shannon.Ledbetter@blackburncathedral.co.uk); 01254 503090.



### **Together Lancashire blog site of Christian social action / urban ministry in Lancashire**

Together Lancashire has launched a new blog site to compile some of the best writings about Christian social action and urban ministry in Lancashire: <http://t1storiesandreflections.blogspot.co.uk> If you're not a blogger, Together Lancashire has made it easy for you to get a **regular email** with a digest of the recent blogs; click <http://prestonchristianactionnetwork.blogspot.com> and when the web page opens type in your email address and click the "SUBMIT" button; there is a short verification procedure which is self-explanatory.

**Send a story** for the blog (500-2000 words) from your local work or experience, reflecting on it in the light of the Gospel and the scriptures: [greg.smith@together-lancashire.org.uk](mailto:greg.smith@together-lancashire.org.uk). Articles should: be based on a story or experience in the context of a church, community or faith-based project in Lancashire; concentrate on themes of poverty, vulnerability or human need, and ideally point hopefully to possibilities for redemption and human flourishing; contain theological reflection on the issues that emerge from the story, perhaps linking with scripture, liturgy or prayer; highlight any learning experiences or examples of good practice from your work. Insert hyperlinks to online sources and include a couple of photos or diagrams as jpeg files within your document if you wish.

## Listing of events and resources from local churches and partner organisations

**Mark Drama: 7 February, 7.30pm & 8 February 4.30pm; St Stephen's Church, Preston - Bird Street, Broadgate, PR1 8DY.** This is a wonderful way to hear about the stories of Jesus. There will be 15 members of St Stephen's acting out the whole of the Gospel of Mark over 90 minutes. Entry is by ticket only; tickets are free from: [andrewpratt1@btinternet.com](mailto:andrewpratt1@btinternet.com); 07971 733971.

**Unmasking the dominant myths, weaving new stories of hope for the earth and all beings: 14 February: Tabor Carmelite Retreat House, Preston -** The day will explore the dominant stories that often lack hope and will offer opportunity to envision emerging stories, giving a more promising future. It will look at new ways of being artist and pilgrim activists. Along with time for quiet reflection, as a gathered community, participants will weave a rite of passage from lament and grief to vision and hope. With Chris Halliwell, Jean Lyon, Mark Rotherham and Donna Worthington. Bookings: [tabor@carmelite.net](mailto:tabor@carmelite.net); 01772 717122.

**Church Action on Poverty Sunday: Visions of a Good Society: 15 February -** Information at [www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday). Service materials: [www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/resources](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/resources)

**Silent vigil for economic equality: 21 February; Lancaster Quaker Meeting House -** Meeting House Lane, LA1 1TX. People are invited to drop in and share in this vigil any time between 6am and 6pm in the quiet reflective space of the Meeting Room, in hopeful solidarity for economic justice and equality in the UK. Meet and talk with others over a hot drink and biscuit in the William Stout Room.

**Fairtrade Fortnight: 23 February - 8 March -** [www.fairtrade.org.uk/fortnight](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/fortnight)

**Lent in the Minster 'Being Bound': Monday evenings 23 February and 2,9,16,23 March; 7.15-9pm; Preston St John (The Minster) -** This year's theme will explore various aspects of captivity, taking as its starting point Jesus' arrest and crucifixion. As well as the effects of physical captivity, the series will look at the imprisonment of mind and spirit, especially being 'captive' through our vulnerabilities. Within this, themes for the various evenings, in chronological order, are: poverty, victim, addiction, separateness, dignity.

**Gather North: 3-4 March -** Conference on the future role of Christians and churches in the spiritual, cultural and social transformation of N England for leaders of unity movements / churches and Christians in culture, business, etc: [www.wegather.co.uk/news/Gather-North-March-2015.cfm](http://www.wegather.co.uk/news/Gather-North-March-2015.cfm)

**Women's World Day of Prayer: 6 March -** [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk)

**Inspire 2015: Loving your neighbour: 7 March; 9.30am-4pm; Runshaw College, Leyland -** pdf booking form attached

**Islam Awareness Week 16-22 March -** [www.iaw.org.uk/pages/page.php?id=home](http://www.iaw.org.uk/pages/page.php?id=home)

**William Temple Foundation inaugural annual lecture: 18 March 5.30pm; Leeds Civic Hall -** ++Sentamu on social movements and activism in light of economic pressures: <http://bit.ly/1CXsqYL>