



**A word from the Ecumenical Facilitator,
The Revd Anton Müller**

It has been good to get out and about in different parts of Lancashire and in particular to meet with the various Denominational Ecumenical Officers (DEO) in the county. There will be a meeting of that group in the near future when we will have the opportunity to share and celebrate what God is doing through the different denominations and explore what may be done best together.

I am rebuilding the contact lists of Churches Together groups and have already received a number of responses which have helped me update the records. Thank you. There is a lot more to come and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

I am now looking forward to receiving invitations to visit your Churches Together groups, or to share in Sunday worship with you in your particular denomination. I am happy to speak, preach, be interviewed, quizzed and challenged with groups of all ages! I am willing to come to a single event or service or for the whole day if different things are going on.

Please do also share what you are doing, as part of the role that I have is to make known what God is doing in Lancashire through you and your Christian community. This newsletter is your space as is the website which will come online again soon. In the meantime please continue to 'Find and Friend' us, share news, prayer requests, photos and comments on the Churches Together in Lancashire FACEBOOK page.



This week I met with a group at the Longton Community Church and have news of an exciting event which Churches Together in Lancashire

Longton
COMMUNITY CHURCH

is sharing with Longton CC and the Fulwood Free Methodist Church to promote the work of the Cinnamon Network. A separate flyer will follow this newsletter but in the meantime **please note the date: 17th June 2014; the time: 7.00p.m– 9.30 p.m, the venue: Fulwood Free Methodist Church, Lightfoot Lane, Preston, PR2 3LT!** Book a place at: www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk



Fulwood Free Methodist
Church

Pilgrim Praise: Sunday 22nd June 5pm,
Arnold KEQM School, Lytham... walking the talk (or you could cycle!)





**A word from the Social Justice and Inter Faith
Development Officer: Helen Boothroyd**

"I am very excited as I continue to meet people and make contacts around Lancashire to discover just how much great work the Church is engaged in across the county on social issues, social justice, inter faith and community development."

The events and opportunities detailed below give a flavour of some of the things that have come to my attention already. I hope that among them readers will find something you would like to engage with or attend. I know that there will be lots of exciting things happening that I haven't heard about yet - but I would love to do so and to receive invitations to visit your projects, so that I can share your good news stories to help ever more of our churches and church members engage locally with this inspiring work. It would be great to feature what you do in future editions of the CTL newsletter. Please get in touch with me at: helenboothroyd@ctlancashire.org.uk 07503 931196.



The European elections are being held on 22 May; the same day local elections are being held in some parts of Lancashire. As Christians we are called to prayerfully consider the importance of voting, how we might cast our own vote, and how we might speak out on the issues and help our communities to understand them better and so exercise their vote responsibly.

Nick Griffin, currently an MEP for the North West, is again standing here for the British National Party (BNP) in this European election. Church Leaders have consistently spoken out against voting for extremist parties. This is a chance for Christians in our region to cast their vote to try to make sure that extremists are not elected again this time.

The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) has produced a short resource to help reflect on some key issues, with possible questions for candidates: www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/european-elections-22-may-2014

Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches working together...

joint public issues team

...to live out the gospel of Christ in church and society

Other useful resources produced by the church community can be found at:

<http://ecumenicalvoices2014.eu>

www.churchofengland.org/our-views/international-affairs/european-affairs/parliamentary-elections.aspx

www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Home/News/COMECE-Statement

Loaves & Fishes: Celebration of community & creation around Morecambe Bay: 7-15 June; Blessing on the Beach: Monday 9 June: 12 noon: Arnside Promenade
In Pentecost week Christian people celebrate the gifts of God's Spirit, which animates the whole of Creation, our own life and that of the creatures that share the world with us. We want to celebrate the wonders of Morecambe Bay by encouraging every coastal community and school around the Bay to host a Loaves and Fishes meal, open to people of all faiths or none; sharing fish, seafood and bread in a shore-side picnic, school meal or local church party. There are [online resources](#) to help you. Register and email details of your event: loavesfishes2014@yahoo.co.uk. All are invited to the **Blessing on the Beach** on Arnside promenade at 12 noon on Monday 9 June. Lancashire and Cumbria Church Leaders will bless newly-caught fish and fresh bread with local schoolchildren. Bring your own bread-and-fish picnic and enjoy the company of others against the glorious backdrop of the Bay. You are invited to travel by foot, bike or public transport.



Faith and Climate Change: an evening with Alistair MacIntosh: 12 June, Lancaster: The author of *Hell and High Water: Climate Change, Hope and the Human Condition* will speak at this evening event in central Lancaster on Thursday 12 June, followed by discussion, refreshments and networking. Venue to be confirmed. More information: hkadmin@phonecoop.coop

Together Lancashire: new web page to link volunteers with local poverty and homelessness projects: Greg Smith, Development Co-ordinator at Together Lancashire, has notified us of a new page on their web site where people wanting to give some time to help people struggling with poverty or homelessness can make contact with a Church-linked project that needs volunteers: <http://www.cuf.org.uk/together-lancashire/get-involved>. If you are involved in a church-linked social action project looking for volunteers, complete an online form about your work, send in your logo, and Together Lancashire will include your volunteering opportunity on the new web page; see: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/volunteersneededinLancashire>



Good Society Project: Over the past 2 years, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) and Church Action on Poverty have asked communities, 'What does a good society mean for you?', encouraging church-based and faith groups to tell their own story. Project launch: 21 May, London with Cardinal Vincent Nichols: <http://agoodsociety.eventbrite.com>. Groups are encouraged to gather views on what makes a good society to inform what the

Churches say together nationally in the run up to the *General Election*. **Report and short guide to holding your own Good Society conversation:** www.agoodsociety.org. Contact: info@agoodsociety.org; 0845 680 6851.

The Book of Plans, Hopes and Dreams: letters from the Bridge of Time

Blackburn Cathedral is one of the partners in this initiative to give people in the UK and Germany the chance to record their passions in memory of all the lost schemes from World War One and as a gift to the future.

Participants are invited to write two letters:

1. A letter to 1914 - Find someone, famous or not, from the First World War, who you are curious about and write them a letter, explaining why you chose them and what your life is like now.
2. A letter to 2114 - Outline your favourite plan, hope or dream in a letter, poem or short story.



The competition has 2 age categories: under and over 19. Open to anyone living in the UK or Germany. Closing date midnight 14 August. 1st prize includes a trip to Germany. Entries by email only: info@book-of-phd.com. Information: www.book-of-phd.com

A variety of resources have been published to help churches and communities appropriately commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of World War One:

www.cte.org.uk/Groups/235035/Home/Resources/World_War_1/World_War_1.aspx

A few extra items:

Come and Sing with Churches Together in Hoghton, Higher Walton and Brindle
All welcome. 6.30pm Wednesdays at Holy Trinity, Hoghton. Concerts raise money for charity.
Contact: [Donna Jones](mailto:Donna.Jones@ctlancashire.org.uk) 01772 330941.

Dying Matters Week, 12-18 May, Lancaster

12 May: Dying Matters: Engaging individuals and communities to plan for the future - Film by Sarah Thomas showing a different approach to burial. Katherine Froggatt of Lancaster University will introduce an approach to individual and community preparation for future changes in personal capacity, through ageing or illness, and ultimately our own dying and death. Part of Transition Café series, with food and drink available at the bar. Cost £3. 7.30-9.30pm; Gregson Centre, 33 Moorgate, LA1 3PY. Further information on all events:

www.sjhospice.org.uk/dyingmatters

Housing Justice Roadshow: 22 May, Liverpool: 9.30am to 4.00pm; Quaker Meeting House, 22 School Lane, Liverpool, L1 3BT. Cost £10. To book: 020 3544 8094 or <https://hroadshow-liverpool.eventbrite.co.uk>.

Women and the Veil: a cross-cultural and historical perspective: 2 June, Lancaster

Talk/workshop by Dr Mary Searle-Chatterjee. 6.30-8.30pm; Lancaster Library. Free, but booking essential: 0845 6001331 or www.lancashire.gov.uk/adultlearning.

Is Britain really a Christian country? 19 June, Blackburn

Dialogue event organised by the Blackburn Cathedral exChange programme; speaker: Fr Kevin Logan. 6.15 for 6.30pm; Blackburn Cathedral. More information:

anjum.anwar@blackburncathedral.co.uk