



**A word from the Ecumenical Facilitator**  
**The Revd Anton Müller: a thought about Pentecost**  
**and the Ecumenical Journey**



We have just celebrated the birthday of the Church and this is a good time to reflect on what it means to be Church. I am always struck by the account of the first Pentecost in Acts, the rushing wind, the tongues of flames, the speaking in tongues. Most of all, it is the amazement of the people that stands out for me. They have come from different places and spoke different languages and they are amazed because, perhaps for the time, they are hearing about what God is doing in their own language. The gift that came at Pentecost enabled the disciples to speak the language of those around them; the gift was not one that enabled the people to understand one tongue, but a gift of many tongues for many people. God did not come down with a spirit of conformity but a spirit of infinite diversity. The important point is that the message is the same - they all heard about the great deeds of God in their own language.



The calling upon the Church is no different today. It is a calling to proclaim what God is doing every way we can. Our task is not to try and make people understand us, but that we should use every means we can to enable the Gospel of God to be understood. This is the outward flow of mission, a pouring out of ourselves into the communities we are called to serve. Our different churches, our different styles of worship, our different ways of doing things may have been born out of conflict and disagreement in the past but each tradition of the Christian Faith represents a different way of expressing and experiencing our relationship with God and making known his great work of salvation through the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. The Pentecost event is a reminder that no single church has a monopoly on salvation. Salvation belongs to God and we are called to be the channels and conduits of his amazing grace.

When Joshua expresses his concern that some of the elders are prophesying in the camp away from Moses and the others, Moses replies "Are you jealous. I wish that God would make prophets of everybody". *Numbers 11 (reading for Pentecost: Anglican Lectionary)*

Often people think that prophecy is only about seeing the future; mostly it is about seeing the present. It is about seeing the world as God sees the world and speaking up. It means speaking words of comfort and compassion, kindness and hope, but it can also mean speaking words of discomfort, challenging the unjust structures of society where so many people rely on food banks, face persecution, live lonely and depressed lives, have no hope.

# Churches Together in Lancashire

## Newsletter No 3

### June 2014



To be a prophet is often to be an advocate, to be a voice for someone with no voice. And so like Moses, I wish that God would make everyone a prophet so that everyone has someone standing up for them in love and support. There is a word for just such a society..... it is you, the church of all God's people.

During this month in particular there are a number of exciting Pentecost moments, by which I mean the opportunity to proclaim what God is doing in the world, and particularly in Lancashire.

If you have not signed up to attend the **event at Longton on June 17<sup>th</sup>** then please take a look now:

Date: 17th June

Time: 7.00p.m—9.30 p.m.

Venue: Fulwood Free Methodist Church, Lightfoot Lane, Preston, PR2 3LT

Funds are available to support your mission and ministry from the **Cinnamon Network** across a range of twenty-five project areas. Check out..... to see if you meet the criteria to have your own funds boosted by this charity:

[www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk](http://www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk). Event booking:

[www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk/event/cinnamon-network-regional-events](http://www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk/event/cinnamon-network-regional-events)



I have been asked to share at this event what God is doing through you in Lancashire and would be delighted to hear from you with news and possibly a picture to share. Email: [antonmuller@ctlancashire.org.uk](mailto:antonmuller@ctlancashire.org.uk)

I am receiving a number of invites to come and speak or preach to church and Churches Together groups. I am available on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays each month and am happy to visit a number of churches or groups throughout the day.



I am also looking forward to meeting with more groups during the week.



**Lancashire Sings Christmas** is back! This will take place on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December** in partnership with Radio Lancashire.

In addition to the 100+ venues it is planned to have five denominational venues around the county representing the ecumenical journey in which we share with an invitation from that church to all comers.



**Resources and information from the Social Justice and Inter Faith Development Officer: Helen Boothroyd**

My aim in the sections that follow is to provide information and articles that will help local churches, together with other local faith communities, respond to the needs of your communities across a wide range of issues. I hope you find them useful and would be glad of feedback.

There is also information about exciting events across Lancashire bringing together people of faith from around the county. I'm privileged to have been asked to be a panel member for the Blackburn Cathedral exChange programme Dialogue event on 19 June 'Is Britain Really a Christian Country?' Hoping to meet many of our readers there....

**Elections**

The European elections were held on 22 May. Church Leaders in Lancashire issued statements urging everyone to use their vote. The statement from the 3 Church of England Bishops in the Diocese of Blackburn is at [www.blackburn.anglican.org/news\\_more.asp?news\\_id=1081&current\\_id=1](http://www.blackburn.anglican.org/news_more.asp?news_id=1081&current_id=1) Bishop Michael Campbell (RC Diocese of Lancaster) circulated statements by [Bishop William Kenney](#) (Bishops' Conference rep) and the [European Catholic Bishops](#) (COMECE). Church Leaders have consistently spoken out against voting for extremist parties. It was good to see that Nick Griffin of the British National Party (BNP) did not secure enough votes to remain as an MEP for the North West.



In the run up to the general election 2015, faith communities may like to partner with their local food bank to run a Question Time event with candidates on food poverty and benefit changes: [www.church-poverty.org.uk/walkingthebreadline/act/questiontime](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/walkingthebreadline/act/questiontime). Do contact me for any help: [helenboothroyd@ctlancashire.org.uk](mailto:helenboothroyd@ctlancashire.org.uk); 07503 931196.

**Hold a Good Society Conversation**

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) and Church Action on Poverty have produced a report and short guide for local groups to have a conversation about what makes a good society to help inform what the Churches say together nationally in the run up to the General Election: [www.agoodsociety.org](http://www.agoodsociety.org); E: [info@agoodsociety.org](mailto:info@agoodsociety.org); 0845 680 6851



**Quaker statement on economic inequality**

At its April Meeting for Sufferings, the representative body of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain agreed a new statement on economic inequality, particularly highlighting the detrimental impact of the welfare cuts: <http://quaker.org.uk/inequality-and-welfare-cuts>

**Resources for Poverty Sunday, 22 June: [www.cuf.org.uk](http://www.cuf.org.uk)**



#### **Volunteers wanted to support prison chaplaincy: HMP Kirkham**

Faith in prison can be incredibly important to its residents, and perhaps nowhere more than in an open prison like Kirkham, near Blackpool. Some of our men have been faith members for most of their life; some come to faith whilst in prison. What they have in common is that they come to Kirkham as the last step before re-integration into the community and their families. Helping to resettle into an active and supportive faith community can make a huge difference as to how successful this return to the outside world will be.



The Chaplaincy does far more than just pastoral care, though it can be particularly tough for men when serious illness or death strikes their families. Chaplains are available as a 'listening ear' and are able, sometimes, to help with domestic problems. Most Chaplaincies run various courses and activities, which may or may not have a religious theme. Every prisoner has the right to follow their religious practices and attend worship pertaining to their declared faith. The Chaplaincy is able to organise faith activities for all main religions and contact faith representatives to visit individuals or groups of prisoners for the purpose of religious activities. The chaplaincy can also intercede on matters of religious dress, diet and artefacts. Kirkham can forge links with outside faith groups so that, in certain circumstances, men can worship in the community. Community involvement is welcome, and indeed, **what Kirkham Chaplaincy needs most at the moment is a bank of volunteers, willing to assist with administrative tasks.** I would be delighted to hear from anyone who feels called to this work: *Brian Mayne, Managing Chaplain:* [brian.mayne@hmps.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:brian.mayne@hmps.gsi.gov.uk); 01772 675416

#### **Volunteers wanted for Circles of Support and Accountability**

Circles UK is a national charity working to reduce substantially the risk of future sexual abuse by assisting those who are committed to not re-offending in safely integrating back into the community and leading responsible, productive and accountable lives. Cumbria Circles has set up 6 circles of support and accountability and supported 19 ex-offenders. Cumbria Circles is looking to expand its work into Lancashire. Identifying suitable volunteers to together monitor and support a sex offender in the community has proved to be an extremely effective way of reducing risk.

Volunteers need a belief in restorative justice, communication skills, team work, boundaries and empathy, and are trained, supported and supervised by professionals throughout. Each circle, consisting of 4-6 volunteers, is matched with a suitable ex-offender (core member) with whom they commit to work for no less than one year. If you might be interested in volunteering contact Co-ordinators Margaret O'Brien or Janet McCormick: 07824 350227 or 07917 790485; [jmc.cumbriacircles@gmx.com](mailto:jmc.cumbriacircles@gmx.com)

#### **Together Lancashire web page: volunteering opportunities**

[www.cuf.org.uk/together-lancashire/get-involved](http://www.cuf.org.uk/together-lancashire/get-involved)

Church-linked social action projects looking for volunteers:

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/volunteersneededinLancashire](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/volunteersneededinLancashire)





### **Independent Age: offering a befriending service for older people**

I've been asked by charity Independent Age to pass on news of a service they offer to older people who might be lonely. They write: "If you're older - and particularly if you're living alone - it can be difficult to stay in touch with family or friends. 1 in 10 older people says they are often or always lonely, and it can be worse if you're unwell, have moved or have recently lost a friend or partner. But what if there was someone who could visit when you needed a chat? Who'd stay in contact for as long as you want and perhaps help you develop the confidence to get out more? At Independent Age we can provide local support through our network of volunteer befrienders: friendly, caring people with a genuine interest in older people's lives who bring friendship and conversation through one-to-one befriending visits in the comfort of your own home.



advice and support for older age  
**Independent  
Age**

Our services are entirely free and our volunteers are fully trained, checked and supported by a team of paid staff locally and nationally. Founded over 150 years ago, Independent Age is a growing charity

helping thousands of older people through the ABC of advice, befriending and campaigning. To find out more about receiving a volunteer and the services we offer please contact Sian Burgess, Area Manager for Lancashire, on 0151 513 3837 or [sian.burgess@independentage.org](mailto:sian.burgess@independentage.org)"

### **Job vacancies: Lancaster Quaker Meeting House**

Closing date: Monday 30 June. Details and application forms: Alistair Gault, Warden: 01524 62971; [lancasterquakers@btinternet.com](mailto:lancasterquakers@btinternet.com)

**Cleaner** 10 hours/ week, 8-10am Monday to Friday. £7.70 per hour. Interview: 10 July.

**Deputy Warden** 2 days/week, Friday & Saturday, 5 hours per day to cover warden duties in absence of resident Warden: opening & closing the building, ensuring cleanliness & maintenance, dealing with building users, administration re room hire, bookings, invoices, enquiries. £8.73 per hour. Interview: 23 July.

### **Commemorating World War 1 centenary**

As the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Britain's entry into WW1 approaches (4 August), many faith communities are thinking about how to appropriately commemorate the terrible events of a century ago. Churches are being asked to consider opening their doors on 4 August with an invitation to pray. Resources:

[www.cte.org.uk/Groups/235035/Home/Resources/World\\_War\\_1/World\\_War\\_1.aspx](http://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/235035/Home/Resources/World_War_1/World_War_1.aspx)

[www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/203992/HOPE/Mission\\_Moments/Remembrance/Remembrance.aspx#.U48QACgVe0x](http://www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/203992/HOPE/Mission_Moments/Remembrance/Remembrance.aspx#.U48QACgVe0x)

<http://quaker.org.uk/ww1map>

[www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship/latest-updates/world-war-one-liturgy.aspx](http://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship/latest-updates/world-war-one-liturgy.aspx)

[www.book-of-phd.com/index.html](http://www.book-of-phd.com/index.html)



### **Blessing on the Beach - a joyful celebration of loaves & fishes: 9 June**

On the day after Pentecost Sunday, about 250 people from schools and churches



around Morecambe Bay gathered in St James, Arnside to celebrate the gifts of God's Spirit, which animates the whole of Creation, and the wonders of Morecambe Bay. Church Leaders from Lancashire and Cumbria blessed freshly-caught fish and locally

baked bread. Local schoolchildren and church members participated in the service. Afterwards many stayed to picnic together. Schools, churches and community groups around the Bay have hosted local Loaves and Fishes meals/events throughout the week.



### **7th Lancashire Churches Sponsored Ride and Stride: Sat 13 September**



The National Churches Trust bike ride and stride has become an annual event. Riders and striders are sponsored to visit churches across their county; the money raised being divided between the Trust and their chosen church. In 2008 a group of cycling enthusiasts from different churches in Preston set up the first such ride in Lancashire, and it has been steadily growing since. It is an opportunity to get out on your bike or

walk, with friends, family, as a church group, or alone; to have a nice day cycling or walking on quiet roads in lovely surroundings in the country or town; to visit some interesting churches; to plan a prayer walk/ride; and to raise money to help with the upkeep of our local churches. The event is part of the Hope initiative, encouraging local churches to work together to serve their local communities and to live out more actively the good news of God's love. Riders will receive a warm welcome in the churches, and some will have refreshments and toilet facilities available. Since the event began in Lancashire the Guild Wheel, a 21 mile cycle route around Preston, has opened, and several churches are located close by the wheel. As last year, we plan to hold a service of thanksgiving on the Fylde - details to follow. Churches will be open to welcome riders and walkers and sign them in 10am-5 pm. There will be 2 or 3 suggested routes or you can devise your own, joining your church with others close by. Map and list of churches from mid-June: [www.rideandstrideuk.org/counties/Lancashire](http://www.rideandstrideuk.org/counties/Lancashire); [pjlumsden58@gmail.com](mailto:pjlumsden58@gmail.com); 0792 9270753



### **Scriptural Reasoning: a tool for interfaith dialogue**

At the recent Christian Muslim Dialogue symposium at Lancaster University I attended a workshop on scriptural reasoning; a tool for shared exploration of our faiths, which I think might be valuable in helping faith communities across Lancashire engage together and build understanding, trust and mutual respect. It can be used for starting and deepening both interfaith and ecumenical conversations. It was good to note the involvement of Preston Area Churches in 2 scriptural reasoning evenings in early June.

Support is available from the *Cambridge Inter-faith Programme* for local inter faith or church groups who would like to explore Scriptural Reasoning, so I asked *Nadiya Takolia, Scriptural Reasoning Co-ordinator* to explain more:

**What is scriptural reasoning?** A practice of inter-faith reading. Small groups of Jews, Christians and Muslims, and sometimes people of other faiths, gather together to read short passages from their scriptures.

**Why do scriptural reasoning?**

Scriptural reasoning is not about seeking agreement, but rather increasing understanding about one another's traditions and deeper exploration of the texts



and their possible interpretations across faith boundaries. The result of this is often a much deeper understanding of your own and others' scriptures. Beyond this, many people develop strong bonds within and across faiths and end up working together to tackle some of the really fractious issues affecting their communities.

**How does it work?** CHOOSE- One person from each faith chooses a text from their scripture- they may be around a common theme; READ- Everyone has a copy of the different selected texts. One is chosen, read out loud and some context may be given; DISCUSS- Some time is spent discussing the text and sharing reflections.

**Who can do it?** Anyone can take part; you don't need a religious education or academic background. The only essential component is a passion for your religious scripture.

**Help and information:** The Cambridge Inter-faith Programme can give you support to set up scriptural reasoning in your community. To find out more please visit [www.scripturalreasoning.org](http://www.scripturalreasoning.org) or email [info@scripturalreasoning.org](mailto:info@scripturalreasoning.org)

### Free community tours: Farington Waste Recovery Park



I have been asked to pass on to local faith communities an invitation to find out more about the recycling of our waste in Lancashire and see it in operation. Free community tours are being offered at Farington Waste Recovery Park, Leyland, built as part of Lancashire County Council and Blackpool Council's joint waste contract.

Waste and recycling from Lancashire households goes directly to this facility, aiming to divert as much waste as possible from landfill. Visitors move through the operational plant and observe what happens to their waste from a fully enclosed, clean walkway with no need for protective clothing. Tours available 2.30 - 4.30pm during term time and all day in school holidays. Why not organise one for your local faith community? See [www.globalrenewables.co.uk](http://www.globalrenewables.co.uk). Sonia Edwards, Adult and Community Programme Manager, Global Renewables Lancashire Operations Limited, is happy to provide more information about the tours and to offer presentations about the recycling facility at local meetings: [Sonia.Edwards@globalrenewables.co.uk](mailto:Sonia.Edwards@globalrenewables.co.uk); 01772 642 870.





## Pending Events

**The New Universe Story: Faith in Lancaster AGM: 17 June, Lancaster**  
7.30-9.30pm; Lancaster Friends Meeting House, LA1 1TX. Light refreshments.

**Is Britain Really a Christian Country? 19 June, Blackburn**

How is Christianity manifesting itself on the ground? How does this impact on people of other faiths and no faith? Dialogue event organised by Anjum Anwar of the Blackburn Cathedral exChange programme. Panellists: Canon Chancellor; Community Canon; Rev Kevin Logan; former Chair SACRE; CTL Social Justice and Inter Faith Development Officer. Thursday 19 June; 6.30pm; Blackburn Cathedral. Free event, but please book a place: [anjum.anwar@blackburncathedral.co.uk](mailto:anjum.anwar@blackburncathedral.co.uk); 01254 503081; 07903 731106.

**Diocese of Blackburn Summer Festival: 21-22 June, Lytham St Annes**

Weekend of celebration at Arnold KEQM School, Clifton Drive South, FY8 1DT. Exhibitions, workshops, food and family fun from 10am onwards on Saturday 21, with Eucharist at 12 noon. On Sunday 22 June the Bishop of Blackburn will lead a walk south from the coastguard station along the beach, while the Bishop of Burnley will lead one from the Lytham Windmill north along the sea wall path. Both gather at 3pm, are about 2.5 miles, and finish at the school for the start of **Pilgrim Praise** (songs of praise): 5pm

**Christian Muslim Encounters in Lancashire lecture: "The Covenants of the Prophet Muhammad with the Christian world": Dr John Marrow: 26 June, Burnley**

A follow-up to the superb symposium event at Lancaster University in May, which brought together academics and grassroots practitioners. Bishop Geoff Pearson (of Lancaster Anglican) will respond and moderate the lecture. Thursday 26 June; 6.30pm; Burnley & Pendle Faith Centre, Barden Lane, BB10 1JD. [Booking through Eventbrite](#).

**CAFOD Campaigns Energiser Day: Tackling poverty in the face of climate change: A 1<sup>st</sup> hand view from Kenya: 28 June, Preston**

Speaker: Antony Mbandi, Director of Caritas Kitou, Kenya. Workshops. Free event. Lunch provided. Saturday 28 June; 10.30am-4pm; Fulwood Methodist Church, Watling Street Road, Preston, PR2 8EA. Bookings: [www.cafod.org.uk/Events](http://www.cafod.org.uk/Events); 01772 733310.

**Germinate! growing and equipping rural mission: 11 October, Coventry**

Major national day conference on rural mission for lay, clergy and regional church leaders 10am-4pm, Coventry. Info/booking: [www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk](http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk)

**Inter Faith Week: 16-22 November**

I'm compiling information about all the events that will be taking place around Lancashire for Inter Faith Week 2014 - which will be widely distributed to enable maximum participation. If you're helping organise an event please send me information now and update details later: [helenboothroyd@ctlancashire.org.uk](mailto:helenboothroyd@ctlancashire.org.uk); 07503 931196

**Churches Together in Lancashire Forum meeting: 20 January 2015: 7pm**

For all the churches in Lancashire to celebrate together all that is happening in the life of the Church around the county. **Please put this date in your diaries.**