



From the Ecumenical Facilitator Revd Anton Müller

I trust that you have enjoyed a good summer and are now looking forward to a bountiful harvest. I am looking forward to visiting and sharing with the Longton Community Church in their services at Penwortham Priory Academy at 9.30am and 11.30am on Sunday 21 September. On Sunday 28

September I will be sharing the harvest celebrations at Wheatley Lane and Briercliffe Road Methodist Churches in Burnley. I look forward to further invitations to Sunday worship and to the opportunity to sharing and exploring the ecumenical journey with you.

During the summer I met with Julie Dobson at County Hall in Preston to learn about the Adoptive Parent and Fostering programmes. This is vital work. I was encouraged to learn that a large proportion of adoptive parents and those who foster have a faith background. There is a real need to recruit in this area and I would like to encourage you to raise this with your church groups. Making a difference in people's lives comes in many forms but perhaps none so transformational as the provision of a loving home rooted in the Christian faith. This is the current recruitment campaign which I warmly commend to you:



Could you be a role model?

Lancashire County Council is currently recruiting foster carers across Lancashire. If you are over 21 and want to work with children in your own

home, becoming a foster carer for your Local Authority could be a real option for you. A generous allowance and training is available to the right people for the job.



We look after around 1,600 children and young people who aren't able to live at home for certain periods of time. In most cases, we do this by working with trained and caring foster carers who give their time, support and their homes when it's really needed. Our foster carers often say that working with us is the best thing they've ever done. "I wanted to have a rewarding career, something where I could give my all and feel good about what I was doing. I also wanted to be there for my own children whenever they needed me." Joanne, Foster Carer

We are looking for good role models who are warm, nurturing, energetic, and determined to give our children the best start in life.

To find out why fostering is the best job in the world visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/fostering or call our friendly team for a chat on 0800 195 1183.



Bon Voyage: We say goodbye to David and Hanna Brown on September 21. David is retiring from ministry at Scorton and moving to pastures new. David writes:

"I am 70 on the 17 September, the normal age for stipendiary priests to retire.

I came to the area in 1984 and worked for 25 years as a Hospital Chaplain in Lancaster. 8 years ago, I came to this Parish first as a House for Duty Assistant Curate, but after I retired from the hospital as Vicar. You will all know how happy and fulfilled I have felt here. For Hanna and myself it has been a wonderful time and we have felt very much loved. But, I still feel that I would like a real challenge.

Thomas Paine said, "Life is a dangerous journey or nothing" and I still passionately want people to know how much they are loved, to live their lives fully, to become the people God created them to be, and, by loving and giving, to know the Joy and Peace which is beyond all our human understanding.

Amazingly, I have been offered a post as Chaplain to the Anglican Church in Warsaw. It will be very exciting and demanding... and I am absolutely terrified about it. But I go with Hanna, for me the most wonderful wife in the world, and I know and believe that I will receive the Courage and Vision to work with the good people there, so that the Church Family may shine out with God's Love and the fruits of the Spirit."

David starts in Warsaw on 1 October and will be licensed on Sunday 19 October. We wish them both well and that God may bless them in this new and exciting venture.



It's good to talk! This long gone advertisement remains a good adage! Helen and I will be meeting soon with the various ecumenical officers from the Christian denominations in order to listen, to talk and to share thoughts and ideas for nurturing and growing in partnership. The phrase I want to focus on is "authentic ecumenism" where, as churches, we seek to come

together in mission and service to the community because we want to not because we need to. If you have thoughts and ideas that you would like us to discuss and explore please drop me a line at antonmuller@ctlancashire.org.uk. Similarly, Helen and I are convening a consultation and sharing meeting for all chairs and representatives of the some sixty-five Churches Together groups across Lancashire. This will take place at St John's Minster in Preston on Monday 20 October. Again, if you would like any issue or topic raised please drop me a line.



Lancashire Sings Christmas is back! It will take place on Thursday 18 December. Let's beat the shops to it and get ourselves ready for Christmas! Listen out for the launch on Radio Lancashire on Sunday 14 September.

95.5 MHz, 103.9 MHz, 104.5 MHz, 855 MW, 1557 MW, RDS: BBC LANCS



From the Social Justice and Inter Faith Development Officer Helen Boothroyd

It has been a troubled summer around the world with distressing news of war, atrocities and the persecution of minorities. It is vital that we both pray for peace and build good inter faith relations in our own country and local communities. Some positive local and national responses are featured below. There is news too of a variety of events, resources, opportunities and initiatives.

PLEA FOR PEACE

4 August 2014

We the undersigned

- Call for the immediate cessation of all fighting in the Middle East particularly in Israel/Palestine and other areas of conflict in the world.
- Demand that differences are resolved through dialogue.
- Expect world leaders to take immediate action to achieve the above.

Signed -



Joginder Bhamra Chair, Blackburn with
Darwen Interfaith Forum
(Sikh, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim and
Christian faiths)

Rev Richard Church, Chair, Churches Together in Lancashire



Mr Andrew Pratt, Chair Lancashire Forum of Faiths

Mr Abdul Hamid Qureshi, Chair Lancashire Council of Mosques



Prayers for Peace at Blackburn Cathedral: Wednesdays at 10.30
Blackburn Cathedral is conducting a 'Universal Prayers for Peace Interfaith Service' on a weekly basis on Wednesdays at 10.30am whilst the crisis in the Middle East and Africa is so severe. The Cathedral clergy hope this time for contemplation and reflection helps to unify our communities and send out a signal of support to suffering groups around the world. It is hoped as many people as possible of all faiths will support this service. A peace candle is lit during the service. Please contact me if you would like a copy of the service to use locally at this time: helenboothroyd@ctlancashire.org.uk; 07503 931196.

Preston Churches gather for Prayers for Peace

The Preston Area Churches Liaison Group brought together Christians from across denominations in the city on the evening of 2 September at the Salvation Army Worship Hall to pray for the renunciation of violence and for the victims of violence in Iraq, Syria, Israel/Gaza, the Ukraine and elsewhere.

Inter Faith Network for the UK

The Co-Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Inter Faith Network for the UK (020 7730 0410) issued two messages in August to its member bodies - mostly local inter faith groups - regarding UK inter faith relations and the impact of overseas events, particularly the situations in first Gaza then Iraq, and the importance of inter faith bonds of friendship and trust in this country :

<http://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/statements-and-messages>

Diocese of Jerusalem appeal for its Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza

<http://www.jmecca.org.uk/work-we-support/featured-projects/al-ahli-hospital-appeal-2014>. The Jerusalem and Middle East Church Association (JMECA) is organizing the UK appeal: 01252 726 994; information@jmecca.org.uk. Cheques payable to The Jerusalem



and the Middle East Church Association; post to:
The Secretary, JMECA, 1 Hart House, The Hart, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 7HJ.

Appeals for donations for the Iraq crisis

<http://cypgulf.org/iraq>

<http://frrme.org>

[Christian Aid](#)



Resources: national Church Leader statements, prayers

[www.cte.org.uk/Articles/411103/Home/News/News_articles/Statements Prayers and.aspx](http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/411103/Home/News/News_articles/Statements_Prayers_and.aspx)

rcdow.org.uk/cardinal/news/cardinal-vincent-issues-iraq-appeal

www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/topical-prayers/prayers-for-the-people-of-mosul.aspx

Inter Faith Week: 16-22 November

I am compiling a leaflet listing all the events planned for Inter Faith Week 2014 in Lancashire - **please send me details of your local events a.s.a.p:** 07503 931196; helenboothroyd@ctlancashire.org.uk.

The national [Inter Faith Network](#) has produced a helpful resource *Inter Faith Week: Celebrating 2013 and planning for 2014*, downloadable from www.interfaithweek.org, which includes planning tips and ideas.

There will be a county-wide celebration event on 20 November as well as the many great local events - details on next page.

A Celebration of Faith in Lancashire: 20 November, 7pm, Preston



Lancashire Forum of Faiths celebration for Inter Faith Week at County Hall. Local inter faith groups from around the county will share stories of their work over the past year. Keynote speaker: Councillor Jennifer Mein, Leader of Lancashire County Council. More information: andrewpratt1@btinternet.com

Preston area events for Inter Faith Week

Sun 16 Nov; 1-5pm: Voices of women in faith: sahara.inpreston@btinternet.com

Mon 17 Nov; 7pm; UCLan: Christian Muslim Relations - opportunities & challenges: johndrummondclark@gmail.com

Tues 18 Nov; Tabor Retreat Centre: The Labyrinth: donna@carmelite.net

Weds 19 Nov; 9am-2pm; **Faith and Finance** - CTL is involved in the planning of this event; details and bookings: greg.smith@together-lancashire.org.uk

Fri 21 Nov; 7-9pm: Fellowship and food: andrewpratt1@btinternet.com

Jesus and Muhammad: Is their message still relevant? 20 November, 10am-3pm, Blackburn Cathedral

A Blackburn Cathedral exChange programme event. Please book with Anjum Anwar: anjum.anwar@blackburncathedral.co.uk; 01254 503081 or 07903 731106.

Events co-badged or organised by CT Lancashire

Afternoon of prayer on climate change: 1 November, 1-5pm, Lancaster Cathedral

Public event of prayer and reflection to coincide with a national event in London. 1 November marks the launch of a Year of Prayer and Fasting for the Climate whereby people are asked to pray for all those making decisions about climate change on the 1st of each month until the UN climate conference takes place in Paris in December 2015. More details from Chris.Halliwell@Blackburn.Anglican.Org.

Faith in the Community Morecambe: 4 November, 9.30am-3.15pm, The Platform

Bringing together churches, voluntary groups and the public sector to listen to the needs and issues of the local community, explore how we can work better together to tackle poverty in the town and district, and showcase the contribution of churches and faith-groups to the common good. Keynote Speaker: Major Drew McCombe, Commander, North Western Division, The Salvation Army. Other speakers from Lancaster City Council, North Lancs CAB and the University of Lancaster. Participatory workshops on food poverty, welfare benefits, health and well-being, theology and values. The Platform, Station Buildings, Marine Road W, Morecambe LA4 4DB. To ensure your place and your lunch please book a ticket online via



www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/faith-in-the-community-morecambe-tickets-12429130865
or phone Greg Smith: 07726 177044.

Churches Together in Lancashire Forum celebration: 20 January 2015, 7-9pm

The main annual opportunity for Churches Together Groups, Local Ecumenical Partnerships and all Lancashire churches to celebrate together the great things that they are doing around the county to grow God's kingdom through mission and service. The event will take place in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and include a 'market place' of stalls, inspiring worship and CTL's AGM.

Please book the date and time in your diaries now; venue details to follow.

Other Events

Can the Prevent agenda eradicate "politically motivated violence?" 10 September, 6.30pm, Blackburn Cathedral

A free event from Blackburn Cathedral exChange programme. Please book with Anjum Anwar: anjum.anwar@blackburncathedral.co.uk; 01254 503081 or 07903 731106.

East Meets West group Eid Party: 10 September, 7-9pm, Lancaster

Women of all faiths welcome to join this inter faith group and this event. Please bring food and drink to share. Lancaster Boys' and Girls' Club, Dallas Road.

Ride & Stride round the Preston Guild Wheel: 13 September

Sponsor money divided between the National Churches Trust and participant's chosen church. If you would like to be led on the ride round the route by an experienced cyclist, meet by 10am at Central Methodist Church or St Walburge's. Information: pjlumsden58@gmail.com; 0792 9270753. Resources: www.rideandstrideuk.org/counties/Lancashire.



Book sale to support church-based social project: 21&22 September, Morecambe

Your help is sought to donate books for this sale which is to support Phil Blundell in his upskilling project to facilitate new work with West End Impact clients - described in CTL's July/August newsletter (p.3/4) and at www.facebook.com/pages/Help-Phil-to-help-others/1471477566428139?id=1471477566428139&sk=info. Phil is happy to pick up book donations from churches: morecambe7@msn.com. You are also invited to the sale at The Arndale Centre, Morecambe; during the day on both Sat 21 and Sun 22.



CAFOD 'One Climate One World' NW launch: 20 September, Manchester

www.cafod.org.uk/Events/North-West-launch-event

Through The Leaves of The Green Tree: 18-26 September, various venues

Play by Donna Worthington about the life journey of Etty Hillesum, a remarkable Jewish woman who died at the age of 29 in Auschwitz. Tabor, Preston: 18 Sept 2.30pm, 19 Sept 6pm, 20 Sept 7pm, 21 Sept 2pm: 01772 717122. The Storey, Lancaster: 23&24

Sept 7pm: 01524 582394. Civic Arts Centre, Oswaldtwistle: 25 Sept 7.30pm: 01254 398319. Arts Centre, Ormskirk: 26 Sept 7.30pm: 01695 584480.

Faith in Britain today: 10 October, 7.30pm, Lancaster Priory

Priory lecture by Baroness Sayeeda Warsi. Admission (including light refreshments) £5

Churches mind! Talk and action on mental health: 10 October, Cheshire

Free event organised by the Dioceses of Chester, Derby, Liverpool and Manchester.

Enquiries: 01332 388685. Bookings: <https://tinyurl.com/lt9yyab>

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.

Information/booking: www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk

Farewell to welfare? 15 October, Liverpool

National Estate Churches Network conference exploring the effect that the cuts are having on the people of our poorer housing estates. Bookings online at www.nationalestatechurches.org/conferences.html or phone 07933 438304 for a form.

Church and the New Housing Agenda: the assets we have and new ways of working: 16 October, 11am-3pm, London

An invitation to join the Churches Group for New Housing Areas to explore new ways of working together in new housing areas. Register at: www.cte.org.uk/newhousingday



One Voice Community Choir: 22 October, 7.30-9.15pm, St Michael's, Preston

To support the work of Christian Aid and CAFOD in Kenya. Egerton Road, PR2 1AJ. Ticket booking: Lancaster@cafod.org.uk or 01772 733310.

The Dove, the Fig Leaf and the Sword - Christian approaches to War and Peace: 22 October, 7.30pm, Lancaster Priory

Priory lecture by Canon Dr Alan Billings. Admission (including light refreshments) £5.

Celebrating 50 years of Catholic ecumenism, 11 November, Leeds Cathedral

Seminar 'Ecumenism: the last 50 years; the next 50 years', 2.00 for 2.30pm, followed by Ecumenical Vespers at 5.30pm. Booking essential for seminar places: clivebarrett@wyec.co.uk; 0113 261 8053.

Resources

Alzheimers Awareness Month - September: www.alz.co.uk/world-alzheimers-month

Creation Time 1 September-4 October: www.ctbi.org.uk/295

Harvest resources from the Church Urban Fund: www.cuf.org.uk/harvest

Bring Home the Harvest, British Food Fortnight: 20 September-5 October:
www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/events/187-20-september-5-october-2014-bring-home-the-harvest-for-british-food-fortnight

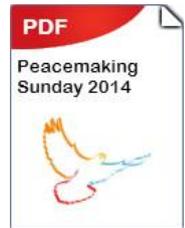
Peacemaking Sunday: 21 September:
www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/408348/Peacemaking_Sunday_2014.aspx

World Week for Peace in Palestine & Israel: 21-27 September:
<http://pief.oikoumene.org/en/world-week-for-peace>

Christian Aid Hunger for Justice weekend: 18-19 October:
www.christianaid.org.uk/ActNow/climate-justice/hunger-for-justice.aspx

One World Week: 19-26 October: www.oneworldweek.org

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2015:
www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/commissions/faith-and-order/xi-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity/2015



Reports on food poverty

[Faith in Foodbanks?](#) - Joint Public Issues Team of the Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches (JPIT).

[Below the Breadline: the relentless rise of food poverty in Britain](#) - Church Action on Poverty, Oxfam and Trussell Trust.



Unveiling Islam workshops for churches and schools

Mohammed Ali Amla, Founder of Global Village & Vice Chair Preston Faith Forum writes: 'These workshops are designed to introduce Islam at churches, schools, businesses and communities. The workshop includes an interactive presentation followed by a Q&A. I can offer a **free workshop to 3 churches from September 2014 to March 2015**; preferences will be given to churches which do not have a Muslim community close to them. If you are interested in hosting a workshop, please email me with possible dates and times, a brief introduction about your church and why you would like to have this workshop: mohammed_ali_79@yahoo.co.uk. I look forward to hearing from you.'

Vacancies at Christian Ecology Link: www.greenchristian.org.uk/archives/7520

National Churches Trust Community Grants Programme

£5,000+ for facilities enabling increased community use of churches:
<http://www.churchandcommunity.org.uk/item.html?i=439&t=1>

'No health sell-off at Morecambe Bay campaign

Set up by an alliance of community and NHS campaign groups to oppose the potential privatisation of NHS pharmacy services at Morecambe Bay NHS Trust. A petition with over 9000 signatures was handed to the University Hospital Morecambe Bay Trust Board in July. Campaigners say they have been confused by mixed



messages from the Hospital Trust Board, as 'some admit wanting to sell off pharmacy services to "free up" resources, whilst others deny any sell-off'. [More information](#).

Tender document: www.publictenders.net/node/2525607.

Churches supporting credit unions: an inspiring story from CT Leyland

I wrote in the last newsletter about credit unions needing the active support of churches. Here is an inspiring story from **Rev Dave Coaker** about how the Church has been instrumental in extending coverage of the local credit union into Leyland:



"Prompted by Archbishop Welby's public declarations about Wonga a year ago I began exploring whether Leyland had a credit union. An email to Citizen's Advice pointed me towards Unify, a credit union based in Wigan but spreading its area of work further north. They had just opened a high street shop in neighbouring Chorley but as yet had no presence in Leyland.

This led to a conversation with Mrs Angela Fishwick, the CEO of Unify Credit Union Ltd- www.unifycu.org - which gave me the confidence to propose it to my elders meeting and Churches Together in Leyland. The elders agreed that Leyland United Reformed Church - <http://leyland.urc.org.uk> - could host the collection point. Churches Together were willing for it to become a project and to advertise for volunteers.

The initial group of volunteers gathered to be trained in October 2013 and we launched on 5 November. We now have 10 volunteers and are open every Tuesday 2-3pm. As a collection point we deal with setting up accounts and receiving deposits. We would receive payments against loans, but the decision to offer loans is made by the credit union centrally. As such our tasks are straightforward. We make sure applications are filled in correctly and the two necessary forms of identification are shown, and issue passbooks. We also update the passbooks when members deposit. The application forms, payment slips, and a summary collection sheet are posted to the credit union as we walk round the corner to the post office to deposit the money received.

Working with an existing credit union has made achieving the result of offering mutual savings and low interest loans to our community straightforward. We now have a solid foundation upon which to build as we seek to advertise and engage more of our community with the benefits this way of saving and borrowing offers."



Could your local churches follow the example of Leyland and do something similar if there is not currently a credit union collection point in your area? Could you encourage members of your local congregations to place some savings with the local credit union? There is lots of useful information on the website of **ABCUL, the Association of British Credit Unions Ltd**: www.abcul.org/home