



From the Ecumenical Facilitator Revd Anton Müller

We are well into that season of mists and mellow fruitfulness and I have enjoyed being in a number of schools and churches celebrating **Harvest Festivals**. It has been really encouraging to discover that a number of Harvest Festivals have served as opportunities for churches of different traditions to come together in fellowship and in unity to share provisions amongst those in need in our communities.

This connects well to the concept of "**Authentic Ecumenism**" where the driving factor in coming together as different church groups is led by the desire to serve the community and not just managing falling numbers and failing finances; ecumenism in this way is no less valuable when the initiative brings into being a new and fresh expression of Church in and to the community.



On 17 September Churches Together in Lancashire was represented at a **Cinnamon Network event held in Lambeth Palace**. The Cinnamon Network is looking for fifty



"champions" to assist in a nationwide Faith Audit which will demonstrate to the Government the vital work being done by churches to meet the needs of the local community.

Speakers included the Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP, Chief Superintendent Sultan Taylor of Scotland Yard, and Deputy Chief Constable Michael Banks from Durham. All spoke powerfully of the transformational impact of those church groups who are active in their community.



The next day Churches Together in Lancashire was represented at the **Churches Together in England Enabling Group** gathering held at the High Leigh Conference Centre in Hoddesdon. It was a great joy to meet with **Bishop Joe Aldred** who reported on the development of the Online Black and Multicultural Directory.

Chairman of the Enabling Group, Bishop Chris Foster, also expressed appreciation to Bishop Simon Iheanacho, former chair



of 'Minority Ethnic Christians Affairs' (MECA) which is now 'Pentecostal and Multicultural Relations' (PMR). **Bishop Paul Hendricks**, Chair of the Catholic Bishop's Conference, gave an illuminating presentation in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of Unitatis Redintegratio, the Vatican II Decree on Ecumenism. It was heartening to realise how much progress has been made in the

ecumenical journey as we revisited those bold proposals which are now commonplace in so many of our churches. Keep praying for our visible unity.



It has been a joy to share in different experiences of Sunday worship. Sue and I were at the **Longton Community Church** for their special **Serve the Community service** under the leadership of Pastor Ron Farrington

and his team. On the right is Jill with a quick summary board of the range of community projects in which this wonderfully active church is involved.



This month Pastor Ron will be attending a presentation at Lambeth Palace following the nomination of the Longton Community Church for an award in recognition of the transformational work of this church and its service to the community.

Last weekend Sue and I shared in the **Big Welcome at Wheatley Lane Methodist Church** where the children and young people almost outnumbered the adults! It was exciting to see the impact of this small church in the community and such numbers of children excited about the message of Jesus. Meanwhile at **Briercliffe Road Methodist Church** the congregation held their **Harvest Festival Service** in which the Ecumenical Facilitator for Churches Together in Lancashire (yours truly) gave a harvest illustration involving the largest balloon you have ever seen! You will have to ask the church members if you want to know more.

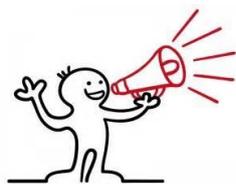


Invitations to share the message of Jesus and explore with you the ecumenical journey in which we all share are most welcome and I have set aside two Sundays a month for this purpose. It is a privilege to be able to visit during the week and learn about the exciting things that the God is doing in Lancashire through you, but it is especially valuable to share God's word and worship with you.

Other news: I reported last month on the meeting with Julie Dobson on the issue of Adoptive Parenting and Fostering. It is planned to hold a promotional event at Lancaster Priory and details will follow. Many thanks to the Revd Chris Newlands for offering this vital support. Visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/fostering or phone 0800 195 1183.



Calling ALL Churches Together Groups in Lancashire: Please get in touch to say that you or a representative will be attending the first gathering of Churches Together Chairs and Reps on Monday 20 October at St Thomas Minster in Preston (10.15-12.30). I have heard from about half of the sixty-five groups. It would be great to have a representative from every Churches Together group in Lancashire.



Light in the Darkness



Remember Remember the 4th of November for an evening of "Strictly" Evangelism at Blackpool Tower with **Dr John Sentamu, the Archbishop of York**.

The Archbishop is visiting the Diocese of Blackburn over 4 and 5 November.

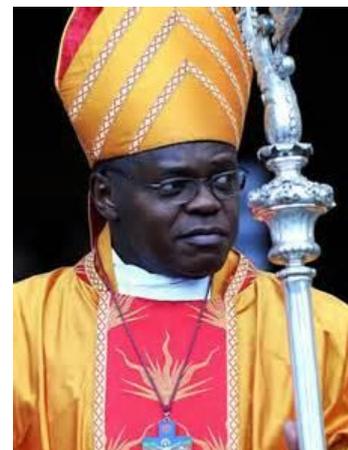
The highlight of his visit will be a mission event with an evangelistic focus on Tuesday 4 November entitled '*Light in Darkness*' which will be held in the marvellous surroundings of **Blackpool Tower Ballroom** beginning at 7.30pm.

Archbishop John Sentamu will challenge us to 'Live the Faith' here in Lancashire, and will speak from his own personal experience growing up in poverty and danger in Idi Amin's Uganda.

We want as many people as possible of all ages to come and fill the spectacular Ballroom from churches, schools and communities across Lancashire - but very importantly we also particularly want you to bring your friends, families and neighbours to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ from Archbishop John Sentamu - our inspiring Archbishop. We want to use his gifts fully!

Please book this date - Tuesday 4 November - in your diary and the church diary - and begin to make local arrangements. As a church community why not come by coach, and see the illuminations too! Keep an eye on the Blackburn Diocesan website for more information about '*Light in Darkness*' and also the rest of the Archbishop's itinerary during those two days.

The Diocese of Blackburn would like to begin to get an idea of numbers coming to '*Light in Darkness*' at Blackpool Tower Ballroom on Tuesday 4 November - so when you know numbers from your church or school please email Christine Ellis at Church House on christine.ellis@blackburn.anglican.org



The Diocese's social media accounts are on Twitter (@cofelancs) and YouTube and Flickr (search both for Blackburn Diocese).

Lancashire Sings Christmas: 18 December



Don't forget to **register your venue** and let us know your **choice for the "12th Carol"** - and why. 95.5 MHz, 103.9 MHz, 104.5 MHz, 855 MW, 1557 MW.

Check it out at the Sing Christmas Facebook page.





From the Social Justice and Inter Faith Development Officer Helen Boothroyd

Thank you to those of you who responded to my request for comments about this section of the newsletter, especially its length! Some of you liked it just as it was and some asked for something shorter. So this month I'm experimenting with shorter items linking to pdfs attached to the newsletter email. Let me know what you think!

Striving for Peace

Weekly Prayers for Peace in Blackburn and Burnley



Blackburn Cathedral continues its weekly Prayers for Peace liturgy on Wednesdays at 10.30am. The same service is also being used by Building Bridges in Burley throughout October on Wednesdays at 11.30am at Burnley with Pendle Faith Centre. Please consider joining in these services or using the same service locally - pdf of liturgy attached.

A selection of fundraising appeals for the Middle East

<http://www.jmecca.org.uk/work-we-support/featured-projects/al-ahli-hospital-appeal-2014>.

<http://cypgulf.org/iraq>

<http://frrme.org>

[Christian Aid](#)

Prayers for the Middle East

www.cte.org.uk/Articles/41110

www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/topical-prayers.aspx

www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/topical-prayers.aspx

[Christian Aid Iraq](#), [Syria](#) and [Gaza](#)



Afternoon of prayer on climate change: 1 November

Lancaster Cathedral 1.30-4.30pm. Including the stunning Yann Arthus-Bertrand film "HOME: Our Planet from the Air". See attached pdf.

Faith in the Community Morecambe: 4 November

9.30am-3.15pm, The Platform. Exploring how to work better together to tackle poverty and showcasing the churches' contribution. See attached pdf.

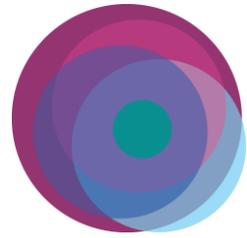
Churches Together in Lancashire Forum: 20 January

7-9pm; St Cuthbert's Church Centre, Preston. Churches Together in Lancashire's celebration for Churches Together Groups, Local Ecumenical Partnerships and all Lancashire churches in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, including a 'market place' of stalls, inspiring worship and CTL's AGM. **Please book it in your diaries now.**

Inter Faith Week: 16-22 November

I am finalising the leaflet of all the events planned for Inter Faith Week 2014 in Lancashire - if you have not yet done so **please send me details of your local events a.s.a.p:** 07503 931196; helenboothroyd@ctlancashire.org.uk.

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

Sun 16 Nov; 1-5pm; St John's Minster: Voices of women in faith - workshop on financial inclusion, homelessness, health and well-being for women from all faiths. Participation is by invitation - to take part email sahara.inpreston@btinternet.com

Mon 17 Nov; 9am-12.30pm: Faith trail - tour of different places of worship starting at Vajravarahi Buddhist temple, East Cliff and including Hindu, Christian and Pagan worship sites. Contact Sumayya: Skovariwala1@uclan.ac.uk

Mon 17 Nov; 7pm; Vernon Building, UCLan: Revelation: The Bible and the Qur'an: Christian Muslim perspectives - presentations from Dr Dwight Swanson and Shaykh Haroon Hanif; Q&A; discussion. Contact: info@light-foundation.co.uk

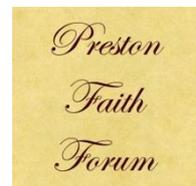
Tues 18 Nov; 10am-6.30pm; Tabor Retreat Centre: The Labyrinth - exploring the symbol and its use in silence, stillness and prayer. Contact donna@carmelite.net

Weds 19 Nov; 9am-2pm; Healthy Planet, Fishergate Shopping Centre (formerly TJ Hughes): Faith and Finance - see attached pdf.

Weds 19 Nov; 5.10pm. Faith trail - tour of Madina mosque, Fishwick and Guru Nanak, Tunbridge. Contact Sumayya: Skovariwala1@uclan.ac.uk

Fri 21 Nov; 7-9pm: Fellowship and food - bring food, share, discuss, cook together, tell stories. Contact: andrewpratt1@btinternet.com

Sat 22 Nov; 6-9pm; Augustine's Sports Hall, Avenham Centre: Young persons event. Contact: andrewpratt1@btinternet.com



An Interfaith Bazaar: Inspirations for Peace: 19 November, Lancaster

An evening event organised by Faith in Lancaster at the Quaker Meeting House in Lancaster. Contact Robbie Smith: robbie.rob.smith1@gmail.com

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

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

Other October and November events

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

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

Building Bridges through Fair Trade: 11 October, 7.30pm, The Fig Tree, Garstang

How Fair Trade has been used to build bridges locally and overcome barriers in conflict areas such as Northern Ireland and Lebanon. Delegation from Lebanon. Registration: <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/building-bridges-through-fair-trade-tickets-13284230491>

For I was hungry and you fed me: 13 October; 10 & 24 November, 7-9pm, St Wilfred's Parish Centre, Preston - See attached pdf.

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

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. See attached pdf.

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 2.00 for 2.30pm; Ecumenical Vespers 5.30pm. Booking essential for seminar places: clivebarrett@wyec.co.uk; 0113 261 8053.

North Korea revisited: 23 November, 6.30pm, Torrisholme Methodist Church, Morecambe - See attached pdf.

Becoming a dementia friendly church: 3 & 10 December; 14 & 21 January, 1-5pm, St Cuthbert's Church Centre, Preston - See attached pdf and booking form.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2015: www.ctbi.org.uk/682

Inspire 2015: Loving your neighbour: 7 March, 9.30am-4pm, Runcorn College, Leyland - See attached pdf.

Christian Aid Resources



Hold a meeting with your local MP, have a prayer walk, focus on climate justice in worship. Order a pack of resources with ideas for your church: 01925 573769.



Good news! The UK Government will match every pound we raise, meaning double the difference for people living in poverty.* Be part of the transformation this Christmas.

Here's just a few of the ways your donation could deliver hope this Christmas:

£2.50 from you, doubled by the government, could provide a **day's training for a community health worker.**

£5 from you, doubled by the government, could buy a **blanket to wrap a newborn in.**

£20 from you, doubled by the government, could **support an education group for 50 mothers** for a month.

£100 from you, doubled by the government, could buy a **hospital bed.**

*Donations made to the Christmas appeal between 07/11/14 and 06/02/15 will be matched up to £5 million.

Matching your donations with
ukaid